

Video Transcript - Tarek Lakhrissi: My Immortal at MOSTYN, Wales UK.
(Tarek Lakhrissi talks about My Immortal. Exhibition on view at MOSTYN, Wales, UK until 19th September 2021)

Language: English

Subtitles : English, Welsh

To open this show, we start with this video 'The Art of Losing' and that's basically an extract presenting Jahid, who's the main character of my upcoming movie, and he's basically fusing with a monster that represents basically a go-go dancer with a dinosaur head. And to quote Theo Gordon it's a kind of immortalisation of a transitory queer embrace. And I'm really glad that it opens the show because there is also this basically only representation of a queer embrace, and the sound that has been produced by a Fatma Pneumonia, a kind of nostalgia... also presence of some electronic music.

When you continue you can see a room with metallic plates with poems. These poems have been written during the first lockdown and it kind of represents my relationship to poetry. Something very emotional again but also very quite straightforward, sometimes cold, sometimes warm, sometimes met to create a connection with the visitor. Basically, this is why the metallic plates are present, it kind of also gives a reflection of yourself when you read the poem, and that's why it's very powerful for me poetry, in that sense, because poetry can create communities, can create connections, can just create a very important way to see yourself through words.

To continue, in the third room you can see two big angel, again metallic angel wings, one it's called 'Gay Angel' and the second one is called 'Gay Angel II'. They are also representing another tribute to a fallen death, again in relation to queer communities, because for me the space of the queer communities, obviously immortal, but also full of love, full of kinships, full of violence also. And that's why it's so important, and that's why these spaces are what makes me alive today, what makes me what I am. And obviously if you think about family, I also think about my first family, and how also my parents, my sisters are everything to me and that they are... I will never be what I am today without them. These angel wings are so kind of like wink to the X-men culture, because it's also two angel wings that are coming from an X-men called also Angel. And it was also for me a way to think about these mutants also as queer metaphors, like how to survive in a world that's not match for yourself, how to fit in society when society just basically marginalise yourself, how to be weird but also powerful.

And to finish there is 'Unfinished Sentence', which is a piece that I have been commissioned by Palais de Tokyo actually last year in 2020, and that I first basically did in 2019, CRAC Alsace. And it's a piece that has been pretty strongly inspired by Monique Wittig and their

book 'Les Guérillères'. It represents basically constellations of 30 metal spears that are the outputs in the space, to basically point at many different directions, with the soundtrack that has been composed by Ndayé Kouagou, inspired by 'Buffy the Slayer'. And I like also mixing, as I was also mentioning before, X-men. I like creating fusions and connections with what we call high culture and pop culture, lower culture, but also how to make connections obviously with the visitors without being physically there, but also trusting the sculptures, the movies, the soundtracks, the presences that have been created throughout the show, to really create a kind of like an immortal moment. And I wish that it's happening, I wish that when you enter that space you feel connected but also disconnected from the outside world, and that you can have a moment with yourself.