

EMMANUEL TUSSORE

STUDY FOR A SOAP

© Emmanuel Tussore
Aleppo Soap, Home, 2017



Duration: 13.10.2017 – 23.11.2017

Opening: 12.10.2017 | 6 – 9 pm

Opening hours:

Tuesday – Saturday
12 - 6 pm and by appointment

Benhadj&Djilali

Torstraße 170 | 10115 Berlin
galerie@benhadjdjilali.de

For his first solo exhibition in Germany, **Emmanuel Tussore** will present *Study for a Soap* this October at Benhadj&Djilali in Berlin. The work is part of Tussore's ongoing *Aleppo Soap Project*, which integrates Aleppo Soap, the oldest soap in the world, in a series of sculptures, installations, photographs and films.

In April 2017, a version of *Aleppo Soap* was exhibited at Palazzo Litta in Milan, where it received great public attention and critical acclaim. Another milestone of his oeuvre is the film *Sirens*, which was shown at the Berlinale in 2017. It addresses issues such as migration and loss of identity, thus questioning fundamental notions of community and humanism. The *Aleppo Soap Project* carries on the investigation of these notions, focusing on the historical and cultural context of the product Aleppo Soap.

Study for a Soap was developed specifically for the Benhadj&Djilali Gallery space in Berlin, and will question the function of the material, its production process and its economical value. Through photography and an immersive installation, the visitor will penetrate the rubble of what could be a home. The history and materiality of the medium soap are integral to the understanding of the work. The process of soap making emerged during early antiquity, and Aleppo Soap stands as a symbol of refinement and civilisation that has been established for thousands of years. But when considered as a material, Aleppo Soap is fragile and malleable, allowing Tussore to transform it by carving, photographing or constructing walls out of it. Through this process of manipulation, the

soap's meaning shifts from the refined gesture of the civilized man to the symbol of a destructive brute force.

The proceeds from the sale of Emmanuel Tussore's photographic series will be donated to the non-profit organisation **Zentrum ÜBERLEBEN** which supports since 25 years the rehabilitation and integration of refugees and migrants. www.ueberleben.org

For **Yasmine Benhadj-Djilali**, founder of Benhadj&Djilali Gallery, Tussore's earlier sculptures create "associations to architectural relics and urban ruins", directly addressing the destruction of cultural artefacts that currently take place in and around Aleppo. Her motivation to invite Tussore to Berlin was shaped by his "investigation of the urban consequences of violent conflicts that are in line with the gallery's earlier projects."

Emmanuel Tussore (American/French) was born 1984 in Monaco. He began his career in street photography after graduating from the Institut d'Estudis Fotografics de Catalunya in Barcelona in 2006. His intercultural background inspired him to explore historical and cultural themes in other mediums such as video, sculpture and installation. His work has been shown in various national and international exhibitions including the presentation of *Sirens* at Berlinale Berlin International Film Festival 2017, Dak'Art 2016 Biennale of Contemporary African Art and Nuit Blanche Paris & Brussels 2016.

Partner

Study for a Soap is supported by **Tadé Pays du Levant**, producer of the world's oldest soap, the original "Pain d'Alep" soap, and the leading importer in France since 1994: "The company draws their inspiration from the quality of a renown natural and ecological product, the cultural expertise of their master soap makers, and the warmth and pride of Aleppo's people, sharing their values with Emmanuel Tussore."

Further Information:

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