

Yto Barrada



Biography

Yto Barrada (Moroccan, French, b.1971, Paris) is recognized for her multidisciplinary investigations of cultural phenomena and historical narratives. Engaging with the performativity of archival practices and public interventions, Barrada's installations reinterpret social relationships, uncover subaltern histories, and reveal the prevalence of fiction in institutionalized narratives.

Barrada arrived at her artist practice through studies of history and political science, particularly in the negotiation of political and personal experiences. Her first series of photographs, 'A Life Full of Holes,' (1998–2004), used the Strait of Gibraltar as a site of inquiry, examining its status as a border between North Africa and Europe and its impact on the residents of Tangier.

Much of Barrada's work has since focused on borderlands, microhistories, and autonomous agency within a political landscape. Interested in developing a platform for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange, she founded Cinémathèque de Tanger in 2006. North Africa's first and only repertory cinema and archive, the Cinémathèque operates out of a restored 1930s theater known as the Cinema Rif, located in one of the city's main squares.

In keeping with her exploration of identity, economics, and notions of authenticity, Barrada's 'Faux Guide,' presented at Pace London (2015), focused on the fossil and mineral trade as an aspect of cultural production. Using museum collection practices as conceptual strategies, the artist's multifaceted exhibition reflected on acts of subversion within tourist economies. Her first exhibition with Pace in New York, 'How to Do Nothing with Nobody All Alone by Yourself' (2018), included a survey of the artist's practice and included her installation and film essay, *Tree Identification for Beginners*, which revisited her mother's 1966 trip to the United States on a State Department-sponsored travel program.

Informed by postcolonial thought and socio-political concerns, Barrada's interests range from the tensions around borders, immigration, and tourism to the urban landscape, and from children's toys to botany and paleontology. Her practice encompasses photography, film, sculpture, painting, printmaking, and publishing, while her installations often comprise both original work and found objects.

Within the interlinked logic of Barrada's work lie secrets, pleasures, and a celebration of strategies of resistance to domination.

Barrada's work has been exhibited at the Renaissance Society, University of Chicago (2011); Tate Modern, London (2011); Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2013); The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams (2021); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2021); and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2022). In 2007, Barrada was selected to participate in the Venice Biennale. The artist has received multiple awards, including the Deutsche Guggenheim Artist of the Year (2011); the Abraaj Group Art Prize, UAE (2015); the Roy R. Neuberger Prize (2019); Mario Merz Prize (2022); Queen Sonja Print Award (2022), and Soros Arts Fellowship (2023). Works by Barrada are held in public collections worldwide, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; International Center of Photography, New York; Kunsthalle Basel; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, among others.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2022** *She Could a Talk a Flood Tide Down*, Goodman Gallery Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2021** *Artist's Choice: Yto Barrada – A Raft*, Museum of Modern Art MoMA, New York, USA
- 2021** *Yto Barrada: Ways to Baffle the Wind*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, USA
- 2020** *My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nougat*, MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art
- 2020** *Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge*, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Hamburg, Germany
- 2019** *Yto Barrada: The Dye Garden*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase
- 2019** *Yto Barrada with guest artist Bettina: The Power of Two Suns*, LMCC's Arts Center at Governor's Island, New York
- 2019** *Paste Papers*, Pace, New York
- 2019** *Double Skin*, Casa Barragán, Mexico City
- 2019** *Yto Barrada: Moi je suis la langue et vous êtes les dents*, Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon
- 2018** *Klaatu Barrada Nikto*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen
- 2018** *Yto Barrada: The Dye Garden*, American Academy, Rome
- 2018** *How to Do Nothing with Nobody All Alone by Yourself*, Pace Gallery, Pace/MacGill Gallery, and Pace African and Oceanic Art, New York
- 2018** *Yto Barrada: Agadir*, Barbican Centre, The Curve, London
- 2016** *Faux Guide*, The Power Plant
- 2016** *Yto Barrada*, M-Museum Leuven
- 2016** *The Sample book*, Secession, Vienne
- 2016** *Yto Barrada*, Tabakalera, San Sebastian
- 2016** *Faux Guide*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Beirut
- 2015** *Faux Guide*, Carré d'art, Nîmes

2015 *Faux Guide*, Pace Gallery, London
2015 *Salon Marocain*, Fondation Serralves, Porto
2014 *Study #7. Wallpaper – Tangier*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London
2014 *Before Our Eyes: Other Cartographies of the Rif*, MACBA, Barcelone
2013 *How architects experts, politicians, international agencies and citizens negotiate modern planning*, Casablanca Chandigrah, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal
2013 *An Album: Cinémathèque Tangier – A project by Yto Barrada*, Walker ART Centre, Minneapolis
2013 *La courte échelle (ou l'échelle des voleurs)*, Studio Fotokino, Marseille
2013 *La courte échelle*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler
2012 *Riffs*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Zurich
2012 *Riffs*, MACRO, Roma*2012* *Mobilier Urbain*, Pace Gallery
2012 *Riffs*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham*2012* *Riffs*, The Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago
2011 *Riffs*, Wiels, Brussels*2011* *Riffs*, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin
2010 *Yto Barrada*, Centre de la Photographie, Geneva
2010 *Play*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Beirut*2010* *A Modest Proposal*, L'Appartement 22, Rabat
2009 *Yto Barrada and Hala Elkoussy*, Göteborgs Konsthall, Göteborg
2007 *Iris Tingitana, la botanique du pouvoir*, Galerieofmarseille, Marseille
2007 *Iris Tingitana, la botanique du pouvoir*, Galerie Polaris, Paris
2006 *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, The Kitchen, New York,*2006* *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, Jeu de Paume, Paris, Hôtel de Sully
2005 *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre
2005 *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool,
2004 *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam
2003 *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, Galerie Polaris, Paris*2001* *A Life Full of Holes, The Strait Project*, Galerie Delacroix

Group Exhibitions

2021 *Moroccan Trilogy*, Museo Nacional Centro de ARte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain
2021 *Enjoy – die mumok Sammlung im Wandel*, mumok, Wien, Austria
2020 *Global(e) Resistance*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
2020 *Faces: a Look at the Other*, Carré d'Art, Nîmes, France
2020 *Mappa mundi*, Fondation Boghossian, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
2020 *Among the Trees*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
2020 *Fragmenter le monde / Our world is burning*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
2020 *Botanicals, Bombas Gens Centre D'Art*, Valencia, Spain
2020 *between the sun and the moon*, Lahore Biennale 02, Pakistan
2019 *Narcisse ou la floraison des mondes*, FRAC Nouvelle-Aquitaine Méca, Bordeaux
2019 *Soft Architectures*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town
2019 *When Home Won't Let You Stay: Migration through Contemporary Art*, ICA Boston
2019 *Words are Very Unnecessary*, The Arter Collection, Istanbul
2019 *The Warmth of Other Suns*, The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C.
2018 *Platforms: Collections and Commissions*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
2018 *12th Gwangju Biennale*, Gwangju
2018 *La Salon Géologique*, Villa Sauber, Monaco
2017 *Performa 17*, New York
2017 *NOW*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh,
2017 *I am you, you are too*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
2017 *A Thousand Roaring Beasts: Display Devices for a Critical Modernity*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville
2017 *La Vie simple – Simplement la vie / Songs of Alienation*, Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles
2017 *Bilingual Document*, Mucem Marseille
2017 *The Restless Earth*, Triennale di Milano, Milan
2017 *Le Jardin des métamorphoses*, Centre Pompidou Metz
2017 *_Antarctic Biennale*, Antarctica
2017 *Sharjah Biennial 13*, Sharjah
2017 *The Thickness of Time*, Locus, Athens
2016 *House of Commons*, Portikus
2016 *Ovni*, Objectif Video, Nice
2016 *In the carpet*, IFA Gallery, Stuttgart
2016 *Objets indociles (supplément à la vie de Thérèse Rivière)*, Prix Marcel Duchamp 2016, Centre Pompidou
2016 *Unravelled*, Beirut Art Center, Beirut
2016 *Manifesta 11*, European Biennial of Contemporary Art, Zurich
2016 *Playground*, São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP), São Paulo
2016 *Not New Now*, 6e Biennale de Marrakech, Marrakech
2015 *Histoires Parallèles*, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain
2015 *La Vie Moderne*, 13e Biennale de Lyon
2015 *When There is Hope*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg
2015 *Atopolis*, Wiels, Mons
2015 *Crossovers – A Filmic Exploration Of History, Stories And Human Remains*, Art Hub, Shanghai
2015 *Poetics of Relation*, Perez Art Museum, Miami
2015 *Playing future*, Kunsthalle zu Kiel
2015 *Gallery 3010*, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut
2015 *Scenes for a New Heritage*, Museum of Modern Art, New York
2014 *Propos D'Europe 13: Le Musée D'une Nuit (Script for Leaving Traces)*, Fondation Hippocrene and David Roberts Art Foundation, Paris
2014 *Here and Elsewhere*, New Museum, New York
2014 *Une histoire, art, architecture et design, des années 80 à aujourd'hui*, Centre Pompidou, Paris
2014 *El Teatro del Mundo*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City
2014 *Parle pour toi*, Galerie Marian Goodman, Paris
2014 *Universo Video. La Magia de las Imágenes*, Laboral, Centro de Arte y Creacion Industrial, Gijón
2013 *Mom Am I a Barbarian?*, 13th Istanbul Biennial
2013 *Le noir et le bleu*, Mucem
2013 *New Acquisitions in Photography*, XL : 19, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York

2013 *If You Were to Live Here*, 5th Auckland Triennial
2013 *The Child, the City and the Artist*, Schmela Haus, Düsseldorf
2013 *The Spirit of Utopia*, The Whitechapel Gallery, London
2013 *Les voyages parallèles*, Mairie de Neuilly-sur-Marne
2013 *Every Day Matters*, Faurshou Foundation, Copenhagen
2013 *Roll over, Reflections on Documentary, after Richard Leacock*, Temporary Gallery, Köln
2013 *Ici, ailleurs*, La Belle de Mai, Marseille
2012 *Light from The Middle East*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
2012 *Préfiguration de l'exposition Le Noir et le Bleu*, Mucem, Marseille
2012 *FIAC Hors Les Murs*, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
2012 *Fruits de la Passion*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
2012 *Six Lines of Flight*, Shifting Geographies in Contemporary Art, SF MOMA, San Francisco
2012 *Catch Phrases and the Powers of Language*, Kunsthau Baselland
2012 *When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco
2012 *Conditions of a Moment*, Hordaland Art Center, Bergen, Norway, Aug. 31 – Oct. 21, 2012
2012 *Unfinished Journeys*, Copenhagen Art Festival, Kunstforeningen GLSTRAND, Copenhagen
2012 *Mind the System, Find the Gap*, Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Hasselt
2012 *Intense Proximité*, Triennale Palais de Tokyo, Paris
2012 *Survival Techniques: Narratives of Resistance*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago
2012 *Curator's Series #5. Bouvard and Pécuchet's Compendious Quest for Beauty*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London
2012 *I Decided Not to Save the World*, SALT Beyoglu, Istanbul, in collaboration with Tate Modern Gallery
2012 *Enduring Value? Cooperation > Springerin*, Kunsthau, Bregenz
2012 *Abstract Possible: The Stockholm Synergies*, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm
2011 *You Have Been There*, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York
2011 *I Decided Not to Save the World, Tate Modern*, London, in collaboration with Salt Istanbul
2011 *Living Document/ Naked Reality*, Towards an Archival Cinema, ICA, Philadelphia
2011 *Until it Makes Sense*, Kadist Art Foundation, Paris
2011 *Mapping Subjectivity: Experimentation in Arab Cinema from the 1960s to Now, Part II*, MoMA, New York
2011 *ILLUMInations*, 54th Venice Biennale, Arsenale, Venezia
2010 *Dress Codes: The Third ICP Triennial of Photography and Video*, International Center of Photography, New York
2010 *The Future of Tradition – the Tradition of Future*, Haus der Kunst, Munich
2010 *Marrakech à Palerme, Une proposition pour l'articulation d'oeuvres et de lieux*, Riso Museum of Contemporary Art, Palermo
2010 *Uneven Geographies, Art and Globalisation*, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham
2010 *VidéoStudio, New Work from France*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
2010 *Project Europa: Imagining the (Im)Possible*, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida
2009 *DisOrientation II, The Rise and Fall of Arab Cities*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi
2009 *Une proposition pour l'Articulation d'oeuvres et de lieux*, 3e édition, Biennale Internationale, AIM Festival, Marrakech, Nov. 19, 2009 – Jan. 19, 2010
2009 *elles@centrepompidou*, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris
2009 *Transmission Interrupted*, Modern Art Oxford
2009 *stand BIDOUN, Art Dubai*, Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai
2009 *Continental Rifts: Contemporary Time-Based Works of Africa*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles
2009 *Face of our Time*, SF MOMA
2008 *Of Peoples and Places, University Museum of Contemporary Art*, Amherst
2008 *Snap Judgments, New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
2008 Memphis Brooks Art Museum, Memphis
2008 *All-Inclusive, A Tourist World*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt
2008 *Think with the Senses – Feel with the Mind*, 52th Venice Biennale, Venezia
2007 *Port City: On Exchange and Mobility*, Arnolfini, Bristol
2007 *Africa Remix, Johannesburg Art Gallery*, Johannesburg
2007 *Brave New Worlds*, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis
2007 *The Maghreb Connection, Movements of Life Across North Africa*, TownHouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo
2007 *Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
2007 *Juicios instantáneos. Nuevas posiciones en la fotografía contemporánea*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico
2006 *The Unhomely*, Sevilla Photographers' Gallery, BIACS 2 Seville Biennial
2006 *Africa Remix, Contemporary Art of a Continent*, Mori Art Museum, Japan
2006 *Africa Remix*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm
2006 *59°54'49"N – 10°43'44"E Meeting Point*, Stenersen Museum, Oslo
2006 *Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography*, ICP, New York
2006 *Cinémathèque de Tanger, Explorations in Film & Video*, The Photographer's Gallery, London
2005 *Premieres*, MoMA, New York
2005 *Africa Remix, Contemporary Art of a Continent*
2005 *Africa Remix*, Centre Pompidou, Paris
2004 *Africa Remix*, Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf
2004 *Fabriques de l'Image*, Villa Médicis, Rome
2004 *Tour-isms, The Defeat of Dissent*, Fundacio Antoni Tapiès, Barcelona
2003 *Travelling*, CPIF, Pontault Combault
2003 *Strangers: First Triennial Exhibition of Photography and Video*, ICP, New York
2003 *Art Köln, Stand Polaris*, Oct. 29, 2003- Nov. 2, 2003
2003 *Yto Barrada, Andrea Blum*, Galerie Polaris, Paris
2003 *Global Detail*, Noorderlicht Foto Festival, JB Groningen
2003 *Un Quintet pour Demain*, Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris
2002 *in capital letters*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel
2002 *Biennale de Turin*, BIG, Fondation Pistoletto, Torino
2002 *Casa Camouflage*, Observatorio #1, Brussels
2002 Centre Régional de la Photographie, Douchy-les-Mines
2001 *Des Territoires*, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris

Awards and Merits

2019 *Roy R. Neuberger Prize*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase

2016 Best Short Film Tiger Award for *Faux Départ*, Rotterdam Film Festival

2016 Abraaj Group Art Prize

2013 Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography, Peabody Museum

2011 Artist of the year 2011, Deutsche Bank

Collections

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Fondation Walther

International Center of Photography

Pérez Art Museum

Tate Modern

Victoria and Albert Museum

Kunsthalle Basel

Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou

Fond National d'Art Contemporain

Fondation Louis Vuitton

Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien (MUMOK)

Fondation François Pinault

Musée de la Photographie Charleroi

Cinémathèque de Tanger

Canadian Centre for Architecture

Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo Internacional

Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves

Publications

2019 *Yto Barrada: Moi je suis la langue et vous êtes les dents*, Calouste Gulbenkian

2019 *Vitamin T: Threads and Textiles in Contemporary Art*, Phaidon

2018 *Yto Barrada: Tree Identification For Beginners*, Pace

2018 *Yto Barrada: Agadir*, The Barbican

2018 *Destination Art: 500 Artworks Worth the Trip*, Phaidon

2017 *A Thousand Roaring Beasts: Display Devices for a Critical Modernity*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo

2016 *A Guide to Trees: For Governors and Gardeners / A Guide to Fossils: For Forgers and Foreigners*, Walther König

2016 *A Guide to Fossils: For Forgers and Foreigners*, Walther König

2016 *The Sample Book*, Secession

2016 *The Animal Spring*, card game, Wiels

2013 *Yto Barrada*, Monograph, JRP|Ringier

2012 *Album, Cinémathèque de Tanger*, ed. Ajuntament de Barcelona; La Virreina; La librairie des colonnes

2011 *A Guide To Trees for Governors and Gardeners*, Deutsche Guggenheim

2011 *Riffs*, Exhibition Catalogue, Walther Koenig

2005 *A Life Full of Holes/ The Strait Project*, published by Autograph ABP, London

2004 *Fais un fils et jette-le à la mer*, with Anaïs Masson and Maxence Rifflet, published by Sujet/ Objet