

ARTIST STATEMENT

HOUDA TERJUMAN



“THE TRANSIENT NATURE OF MY EVOLUTION AS A PERSON AND AS AN ARTIST OPENED UP FASCINATING WAYS OF PLAYING WITH REPRESENTATION IN ART.”

The history of my practice is overwhelmingly informed by my status as a hybrid migrant, a condition associated to second generation migrants. My father is Syrian, my mother Swiss and I was born in Morocco. I am therefore African. The transient nature of my evolution as a person and as an artist opened up fascinating ways of playing with representation in art.

Even though I will eternally feel foreign and possibly always displaced, I have earned through my experience an incredible strength which comes from the power of mobility, and the sense of freedom brought to me through the multitude of roots, languages and cultures I have grown up with.

It is precisely in this fine space between the ideal that a new life in a new place can offer, mixed with the regret of loss and nostalgia that is carried through the process of migration, that I have chosen to situate my practice and through which I work to represent feelings of floating freedom, but also of fear and insecurity.

My sculptures and paintings are little familiar objects that weave stories. These small objects act as bearers of hope and bridges making the link between cultures. An empty chair symbolises what we left behind and keeps us connected to our roots. A lonely boat, is a bearer of hope. A floating bridge invites us to build connections and empathy towards the unknown. – **Houda Terjuman**