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# The Best Booths at Marrakech's 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair

BY SARAH BELMONT February 9, 2024 2:18pm

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The scene at the 1-54 Contemporary Art Fair in Marrakech.  
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The 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair's Morocco edition is back. As usual, the fair is being held at the prestigious Marrakech's Mamounia hotel, but for the first time, it is also taking place at DADA, a multidisciplinary art space that is currently mid-renovation. The hope, with this new location in the heart of the historical Medina quarter, is to draw a younger crowd. "We may attract even more people," said founding director Touria El Glaoui.

The fair's fifth iteration launched yesterday and will close on February 11. Some 27 exhibitors are participating. Fourteen are from the African continent, and eight are based in Morocco—twice as many as last year. Many have brought not one, not two, but three artists, as if it were this year's lucky number. Among those artists, many work produce textiles, adding to a centuries-long tradition in Morocco.

Below, a look at seven of the best offerings at 1-54.

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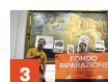
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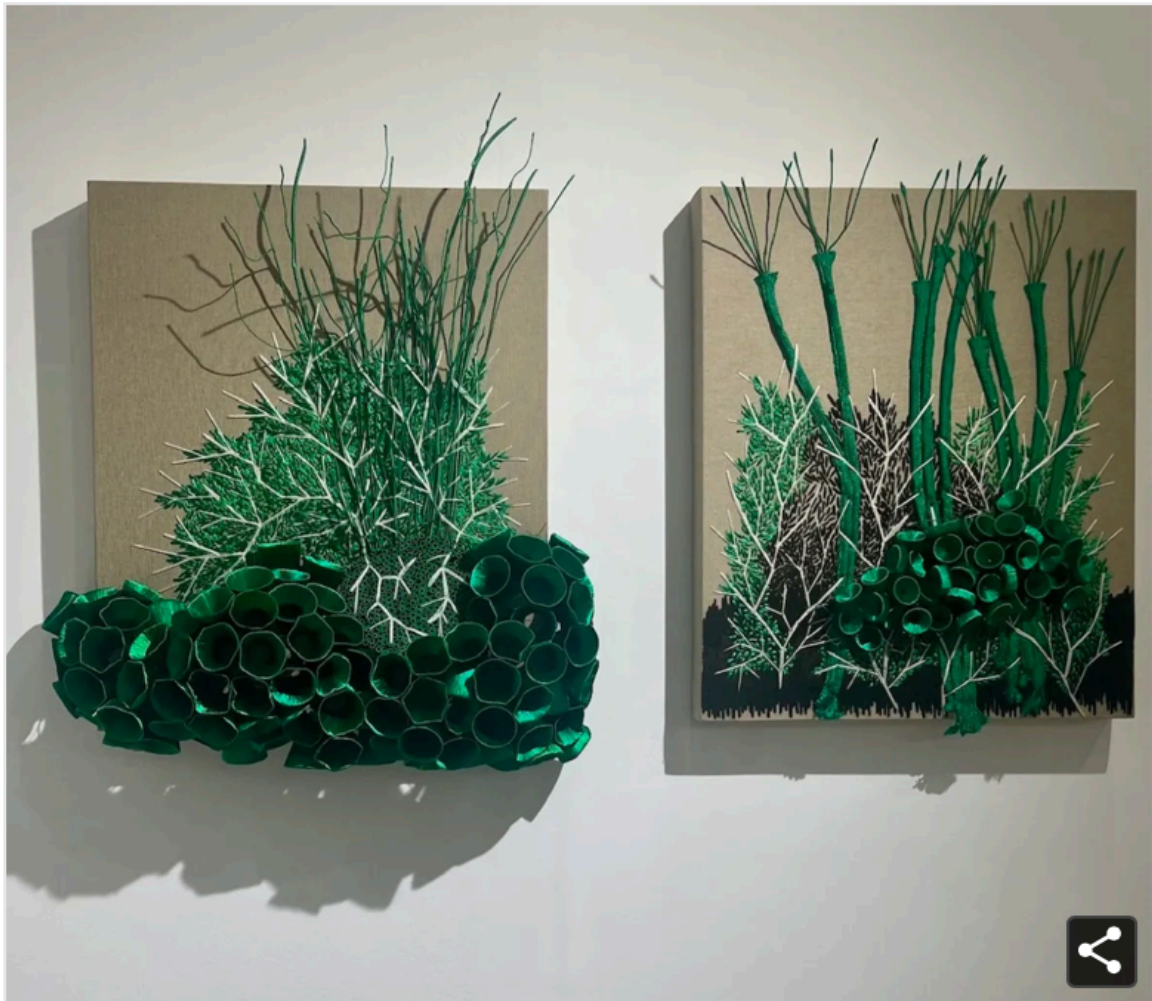
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## Ghizlane Sahli at Galerie Christophe Person



Work by Ghizlane Sahli at Galerie Christophe Person's booth.

Photo : Sarah Belmont for ARTnews

Paris's Galerie Christophe Person, another first-time participant in 1-54's Marrakech fair, has devoted a solo presentation to Ghizlane Sahli, an artist based in the Moroccan city whose work typically explores the female body and mind. The works here, created especially for the fair, are part of her ongoing series "And There Was Sap...", whose pieces are mostly green, a color meant to symbolize hope. Sahli's embroideries on rough linen canvas depict bits and pieces of landscapes. She has made roots and stems out of pieces of pipes and iron threads wrapped in wool or silk. Some were stitched to the canvas; others stick out of the frame. "By shifting from women's sap to nature's, I am not even sure if I have zoomed out or zoomed into my primary subject," she said. "They are part of a whole. What is intimate can be universal."