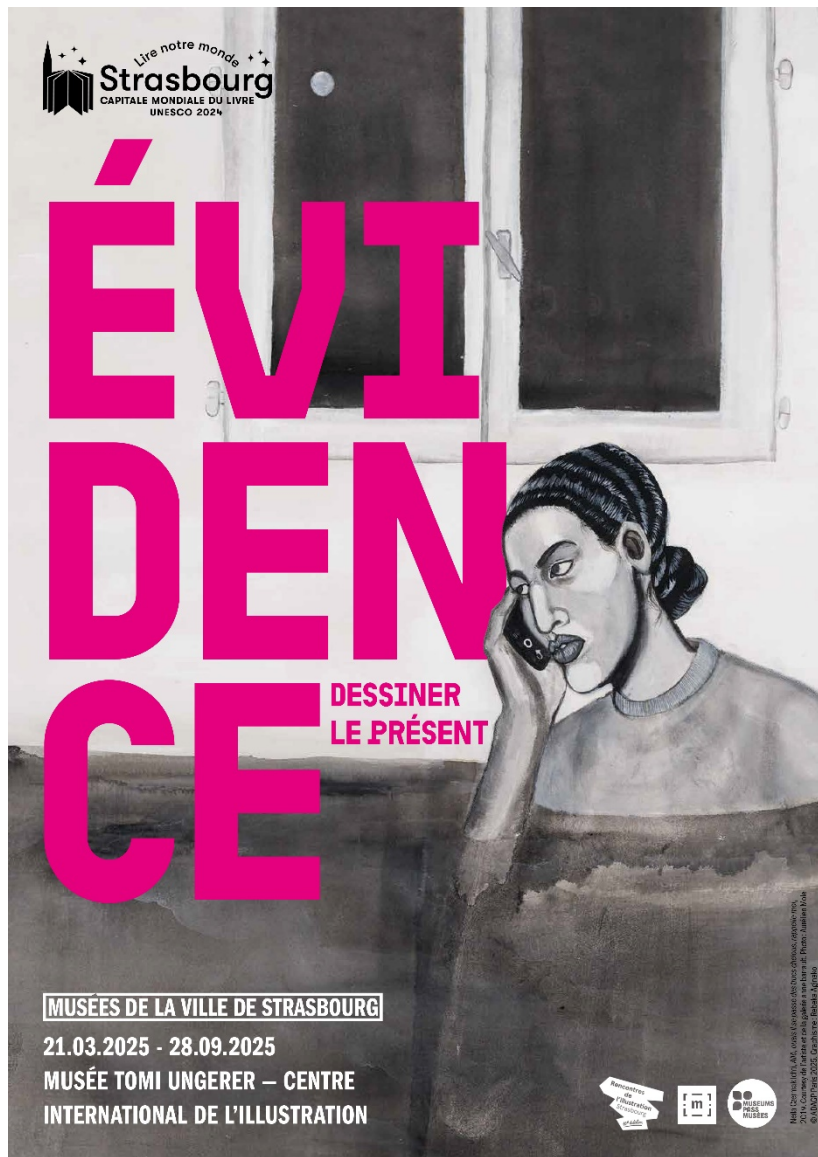



Strasbourg, 20 February 2025

# EVIDENCE

Drawing the Present



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## 1. Note of intention

**How can we capture the present and tell its story in an era where every day is marked by violence, global upheaval and the breakdown of political structures? This question is the point of departure for the exhibition “Evidence”, which brings together four international artists: Mounira Al Solh, Nino Bulling, Neïla Czermak Ihti and Mazen Kerbaj.**

All four artists share a deep concern for history and the subject of time and narration, and have each found unique ways of telling the story of the present. Their work – by turns personal, subjective, informative or militant – reflects the common strategy of weaving connections between inner lives and the political sphere. This thread of the everyday gives shape to a form of evidence. Through their work, which blurs the boundaries between illustration and painting, illustration and embroidery, the artists demonstrate the potential of narrative drawing in transgressing gender categories.

In her work, **Mounira Al Solh**, who divides her time between Beirut and Amsterdam, explores the current political and social realities of Lebanon and Syria, as well as the countries’ history. She represented Lebanon at the Venice Biennale in 2024. For this exhibition, the artist has selected a series of works that echo recent events in the region, in which she highlights the transformative power of women in Arabic culture. The work of **Mazen Kerbaj**, a musician, artist and comics author based in Berlin, takes shape in a direct response to political events, or under formal time constraints. This allows him to explore the limits of narration, between chance and intention, abstraction and figuration. **Nino Bulling**, who also lives in Berlin, began their career with illustrated reports on contemporary political and social subjects, before shifting to a more personal, autofictional approach with *firebugs*. This comic explores fundamental categories such as gender, identity and nature in the context of climate change. The drawings and paintings of Marseille-based **Neïla Czermak Ihti** recreate everyday, family scenes with loved ones. She probes them for all that is unseen and unsaid within them, exploring these dimensions through distortion techniques, borrowing from the genres of horror, science-fiction and comics.

**Curator:** Anna Sailer, curator of the Musée Tomi Ungerer – Centre international de l’Illustration

*Part of Strasbourg 2024 UNESCO World Book Capital and the Rencontres de l’Illustration in Strasbourg.*



## 2. Visitor route

The exhibition *Evidence. Drawing the Present* has been designed in close collaboration with the participating artists.

### ***Nino Bulling (Outside space, entrance hall, room 1, room 2, room 5)***

The exhibition route begins outside, with a triptych by Nino Bulling, specially created to be displayed on the façade of the museum. In the entrance hall, the presentation continues with *A break* (2022), a large-format painting on silk made for documenta 15 in Cassel, featuring a motif from Bulling's cartoon *firebugs*. The genesis of this book, as well as the original drawings, are shown in detail in a display case in room 1.

Early in their career, Bulling made illustrated reports on political and social subjects. However, rather than reflecting a journalistic approach, the works presented in the exhibition are rooted in subjective narration and include autofictional elements. In room 5, *Lichtpause* ("Blueprint", 2017) reveals a 24-hour narrative in which the artist sketches a portrait of Algiers. *firebugs* (2022), meanwhile, tackles the concept of transformation. Against a backdrop of climate crisis, beset by forest fires and drought, this experimental comic explores a relationship in which the fundamental categories of gender and identity are called into question.

In room 2, Bulling presents drawings from a work in progress, begun in 2024, exploring the ways in which the everyday overlaps with historical and political events through short comic strip stories. These works experiment with ways of documenting and understanding the present.

Nino Bulling (\* 1986, Berlin) lives and works in Berlin. Their book *Im Land der Frühaufsteher* ("In the Land of Early Risers", 2012) documents their encounters with refugees in reception centres in northern Germany. *Bruchlinien. Drei Episoden zum NSU* ("Fault Lines. Three Episodes about the National Socialist Underground", 2019, with Anne König) shines a light on the murders committed by the extreme-right group NSU. *Firebugs* was published in France by Cambourakis in 2023, with the title *La Part du feu*, and by Drawn & Quarterly in 2024.

### ***Mazen Kerbaj (Room 1)***

Room 1 is dedicated to the work of Mazen Kerbaj. His story *Mon nuage* ("My Cloud"), displayed in light boxes, was made in 24 hours. By playing with India ink and various solvents, the artist created constantly transforming compositions, segueing between abstraction and figuration. The interplay between intention and chance, narration and materiality lends a reflective dimension to the piece, in relation to time and the limits of painting and narrative drawing.



Kerbaj, who is known for his political drawings, often works with formal constraints when tackling contemporary themes. This is the case with *Beyrouth. Juillet – Août 2006* ("Beirut. July – August 2006), a book about the war in Lebanon, and *Un an* ("One Year", 2012), which documents a whole year. The notebooks he continuously adds to form a key component of his artistic practice and are presented as works in their own right, in large wall-mounted display cases.

The work *Remember me when I am not here anymore (2020-present)*, which is also on display, is made up of Post-it notes written on a daily basis, brought together in a story that evokes the traces our lives leave behind. These fleeting moments, or seemingly insignificant notes, explore the simultaneity of existence, creation and archiving.

Mazen Kerbaj (\* 1975, Beirut) lives and works in Berlin as a musician, author and artist. His publications include *Lettre à la mère* ("Letter to the Mother", 2013), *Politique* ("Politics", 2019) and *Gaza* (2025). He plays all around the world as an experimental musician.

### ***Neïla Czermak Icti (Room 2)***

The drawings by Neïla Czermak Icti, on display in room 2, feature those close to her – often family members or friends – in everyday settings. Using subtle distortions, the artist accentuates the impact of certain acts, adding a narrative layer that evokes all that is unseen and unsaid.

A central work in the exhibition is the portrait *Allo, ouais il se passe des trucs chelous, rappelle-moi* ("Hello, yeah, shady things are happening, call me back", 2019). It features a clothed woman, in profile, standing in a room, holding a telephone to her ear, while dark water rises up to her chest. This surrealist, troubling scene offers up a multifaceted reflection on the present – a present manifested here by the impossibility of representing it. The painting illustrates the central question of the exhibition: how, in our time, can the simultaneity of political disasters and day-to-day life be captured artistically?

Czermak Icti has brought a new approach to her recent works. Her paintings are more heavily suffused with the codes of alternative comics, a heavy metal aesthetic and horror films, accentuating the fictional dimension and strangeness of the pieces. This is especially clear in *Interviewed Monster wearing some fancy Japanese brand* (2023), which challenges social attributions and power dynamics.

Neïla Czermak Icti (\* 1990, Bondy) lives in Marseille. She has taken part in many exhibitions, including at the Nîmes Triennial (2024), the Institut du monde arabe (2024) and the MO.CO Montpellier (2023).

### **Mounira Al Solh (Rooms 3 and 4)**

Mounira Al Solh began her project *I strongly believe in our right to be frivolous* at the start of the revolution and civil war in Syria, documenting encounters with Syrian and Palestinian refugees who, having been forced to flee the war in Syria, had arrived in Lebanon. She tried to rediscover her Syria through these encounters and to preserve the stories of those who had dared to speak out against the regime. Portraits and fragments of text trace how the revolution turned into a humanitarian catastrophe. But above all, these are narratives of individual destinies, small shared jokes that enrich the conversations. This approach is expressed in a more fictional, abstract form in the textile series *My specialty was to make a peasants' haircut but they obliged me to work till midnight often*.

To resonate with the new present in Syria, she has chosen a film and textile pieces for this exhibition that respond to the current political situation. The film *À la santé des alliés* ("To the health of allies", 2015) recounts the political engagement of her grandparents and its impact on subsequent generations. In room 5, the textile series *She, they, we all had it with the 99 names of the flowers* pays tribute to feminist militants from the Arabic world. These include the Iraqi political figure Naziha Al Douwayli (1923–2007), Egyptian author Nabawiyya Musa (1886–1951), Palestinian-Lebanese poet and author May Ziadeh (1886–1941), Egyptian feminist activist Huda Sha'arawi (1879–1947), Egyptian lawyer Azza Soliman (\* 1968) and Moroccan sociologist Fatima Mernissi (1940–2015). Their portraits, reminiscent of flags, represent another form of activism, calling on us to pass on the legacy of these women and to take an active role in shaping the future.

Mounira Al Solh (\* 1978, Lebanon) lives between Beirut and Amsterdam. She has represented Lebanon at the Venice Biennale (2024) and exhibits around the world. Her work often features testimony and memories gathered from local communities and particularly from women.

### 3. Educational and Cultural Programming

#### VISITES COMMENTÉES

##### **Le temps d'une rencontre**

Samedi 22 mars à 11h

Durée: 1h / Tarif : entrée du musée

Avec Anna Sailer, conservatrice du musée et commissaire de l'exposition.

##### **Découvrir l'exposition**

Dimanche 30 mars, 13 et 27 avril, 25 mai et 29 juin à 15h

Durée : 1h / Tarif : entrée du musée

##### **Découvrir l'exposition en français et en arabe**

Dimanche 6 avril, 4 mai et 1 juin à 15h

Durée : 1h / Tarif : gratuit

La langue arabe sous la forme de calligraphies ou de récits de vie prend toute sa place dans l'œuvre de Mounira Al Solh. Visite de l'exposition en compagnie d'une interprète de l'association Migrations Santé Alsace.

##### **Entdeckung der Ausstellung und der Sammlung**

Samstags 5. April, 3. Mai und 7. Juni um 15.00 Uhr

Durée : 1h / Tarif : entrée du musée

#### ATELIERS TOUT PUBLICS

##### **L'Art des Mots**

Samedi 29 mars de 15h à 17h

Durée : 2h / Tarif : gratuit

Inscription : [www.mediatheques.strasbourg.eu](http://www.mediatheques.strasbourg.eu)

Un atelier d'écriture vous est proposé au musée, laissez-vous guider par les mots qui révèlent les multiples facettes du dessin, et de la peinture : témoin de vérités enfouies, miroir des luttes, rappel des leçons du passé pour éclairer le quotidien. Chaque œuvre exposée devient ainsi une exploration du rapport à l'évidence, offrant de nouvelles perspectives sur ce qui semble aller de soi.

Atelier organisé dans le cadre d'une collaboration entre le Service des Médiathèques et le Musée Tomi Ungerer.

À partir de 15 ans. Nombre de places limitées à 15 personnes

### **Brodessin**

Dimanche 4 mai de 16h à 17h30, en continu

Durée : libre / Tarif : gratuit

Un atelier de pratique, de partage, de rassemblement autour d'un support textile commun que chacun.e est invité.e.s à investir par des dessins et ou de la broderie. Une proposition de Cécile Tonizzo, artiste plasticienne.

De 0 à 99 ans.

### **Journal de soi-même pour explorer le monde**

Dimanche 11 mai de 14h30 à 16h30, en continu

Durée : libre / Tarif : entrée du musée

Un atelier portrait en mots ou en images où chacun.e est invité.e à expérimenter des façons différentes pour se représenter dans son espace personnel ou celui de l'autre.

À partir de 6 ans.

### **Suivez le crayon !**

Dimanche 15 juin à 14h30

Durée : 1h30 / Tarif : entrée du musée

Crayon à la main, à l'aide de consignes ludiques et décalées, découvrir et dessiner les œuvres de l'exposition sous un autre angle.

À partir de 6 ans, dans la limite des places disponibles.

### **SPECTACLE et +**

#### **Ciné Familles**

Dimanche 23 mars à 15h30

Durée : 1h / Tarif : entrée du musée

Programme de films expérimentaux et de vidéos d'artistes pour le jeune public et leurs familles. Programme proposé et présenté par l'artiste et curatrice Marie-Pierre Bonniol.

À partir de 3 ans.

### **TABLE RONDES**

#### **Portrait : Rencontre avec Neïla Czermak Ichi**

Jeudi 15 mai à 18h

Durée : 1h / Tarif : gratuit

Rencontre avec l'artiste exposée pour parler de ses sources, de son rapport à l'illustration et à la culture populaire.



## 4. Partners

- As part of Strasbourg's role as UNESCO World Book Capital 2024



- and the Rencontres de l'Illustration in Strasbourg.



### The Strasbourg Illustration Meetings

The Strasbourg *Rencontres de l'Illustration* defend a broad, outward-looking concept of illustration. They cover every aspect of ancient and contemporary drawing from scripted drawings with or without texts (comics, fanzines, etc.), to out-of-format drawing, including animated films and more scenic events like concert drawings, comic strips staged as performances, events in the public space (poster exhibitions, parades, etc.).

In this instalment of the event you will find exhibitions, workshops, meetings and autograph sessions, as well as less conventional activities like the *Central Vapeur* "Micronations Parade" or shows for young audiences.

In a unifying approach, the *Rencontres de l'Illustration* highlight Strasbourg's exceptional illustration resources, both in terms of heritage and state-of-the-art contemporary creation. Its ambition is to establish national and international influence, with a cross-border reach.

On a permanent basis, the *Rencontres de l'Illustration* bring together:

- The Media Libraries of the City and the Eurometropolis, in particular its three collections devoted to the visual arts: the Illustration Centre, the Heritage Fund and the Art Library, as well as the collections made directly available to the public;
- The Museums of the City of Strasbourg, with the participation of the Tomi Ungerer Museum - International Illustration Centre, the MAMCS Graphic Arts Room, the Museums Library;

- *Le 5e Lieu*, an interpretation centre for architecture and heritage and a gateway to culture in Strasbourg;
- *Central Vapeur*, an association whose young creation festival is part of the RIS
- The *Haute École des Arts du Rhin*, with the Illustration Workshop created by Claude Lapointe in 1972, the first of its kind in an art school in France.
- And on this occasion, an independent publishing house for comic books, *Éditions 2042*.

The full programme is available at [strasbourg.eu/rencontres-illustration](https://strasbourg.eu/rencontres-illustration).

### **Strasbourg, UNESCO World Book Capital 2024**

The “UNESCO World Book Capital” label is awarded each year to a city which is committed to promoting books and reading in all its forms and for all ages, to fight against illiteracy and inequalities in a radically changing world.

On July 20, 2022, UNESCO designated Strasbourg as World Book Capital 2024, succeeding Accra (Ghana). It thus becomes the first French city to be awarded this label, created in 2001, and will remain the only one for at least ten years.

In accordance with UNESCO's commitment in the face of climate change, social inequalities and faltering democratic values, Strasbourg is upholding between the city's residents' and stakeholders' exchanges with writers, intellectuals and artists on the issues of social and ecological transition. Through this approach, Strasbourg has set out to reaffirm the place of the book and of reading as vectors of knowledge – knowledge of oneself and of others, knowledge of world construction.

*“As they explained when awarding the label, UNESCO and the World Book Capital Advisory Committee were impressed by Strasbourg's emphasis on books as a response to the challenges of social cohesion and climate change. The city emphasises the role of books in sharing environmental concerns and scientific awareness, while prioritizing young people as agents of change.*

*Strasbourg has also been praised for its literary heritage and its projects designed to hybridize literature with other artistic disciplines such as musical composition, playwriting and illustration. Furthermore, the city has solid experience in organizing large-scale, outward-looking events.”*

## 5. Informations pratiques

### **Musée Tomi Ungerer**

2, avenue de la Marseillaise, Strasbourg

Opening times: weekdays from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm. Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 6 pm. Closed on Mondays

tel. +33 (0)3 68 98 50 00

### **Group Visits:** information at

[www.musees.strasbourg.eu/groupe-tarifs-reservations](http://www.musees.strasbourg.eu/groupe-tarifs-reservations)

**Tickets:** €7,5 (reduced: €3,5)

### **Admission free:**

- visitors under age 18
- Carte Culture card holders
- Atout Voir card holders
- Museums Pass Musées card holders
- Educ'Pass card holders
- disabled visitors
- students in art history, archaeology and architecture
- employment seekers
- social assistance beneficiaries
- Strasbourg Eurometropolis badge-holding employees

### **Admission free, all visitors:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month.

1 day Pass: €16, reduced: €8 (access to all of Strasbourg's Museums and their temporary exhibitions)

3 day Pass: €20, reduced: €12 (access to all of Strasbourg's Museums and their temporary exhibitions)

Museums-PASS-Musées: 1 year - 350 museums, parks and residences in France, Germany and Switzerland: more at [www.museumspass.com](http://www.museumspass.com)

Press kit and visuals downloadable at: [www.musees.strasbourg.eu](http://www.musees.strasbourg.eu)

# Évidence.

## Dessiner le présent

Musée Tomi Ungerer – Centre international de l'illustration  
21 mars au 28 septembre 2025  
LISTE DES VISUELS TÉLÉCHARGEABLES SUR LE SITE  
WWW.MUSEES.STRASBOURG.EU

Demande à adresser :  
Service communication  
Musées de la Ville de Strasbourg  
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Tél. + 33 (0)3 68 98 74 78



**1.** Neïla Czermak Icti, *Allô, ouais il se passe des trucs chelous, rappelle-moi*, 2019.  
Acrylique sur papier, 68,5 x 59,2 cm.  
Courtesy de l'artiste et de la galerie anne barrault.  
Photo : Aurélien Mole © ADAGP Paris 2025

**2.** Neïla Czermak Icti, *Xénomorphe*, 2018.  
Stylo bille bic sur papier, 70,5 x 26,5 cm.  
Courtesy de l'artiste et de la galerie anne barrault.  
Photo : Aurélien Mole © ADAGP Paris 2025



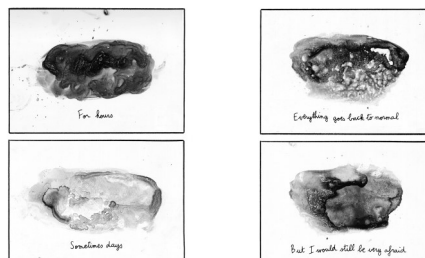
**3.** Nino Bulling, *sans titre*, 2024.  
Encre sur papier, 21 x 16,5 cm. Courtesy de l'artiste.

**4.** Nino Bulling, *dessin de La Part du feu*, 2022.  
Encre sur papier, 29,7 x 21 cm. Courtesy de l'artiste.



**5.** Neïla Czermak Icti, *sans titre*, 2019.  
Stylo bille bic sur papier, 50 x 40 cm.  
Courtesy de l'artiste et de la galerie anne barrault.  
Photo : Aurélien Mole © ADAGP Paris 2025

**6.** Mounira Al Solh, *Paper Speakers*, 2021-2022.  
Broderie, 140 x 100 cm, Gateshaed, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.  
Courtesy de l'artiste et de la galerie Sfeir-Semler Beyrouth/Hambourg.  
Photo: Barry Pells © 2022 BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.



**7. et 8.** Mazen Kerbaj, *Mon nuage*, 2012 / 2025.  
Installation rétroéclairée des fac-similé sur Mylar,  
6 carrés de 57 x 57cm chacun. Courtesy de l'artiste.



**9.** Mazen Kerbaj, *Carnets no. 5.16 à 5.18*, 2021-2022.  
Carnets. Courtesy de l'artiste.



**10.** Mounira Al Solh, *She, they, we all had it with the 99 names of the flower (Nabawiyya Musa)*, 2021-2022,  
broderie, 143 x 107 cm, Gateshaed, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.  
Courtesy de l'artiste et de la galerie Sfeir-Semler Beyrouth/Hambourg.  
Photo: Barry Pells © 2022 BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.

**11.** Mounira Al Solh, *She, they, we all had it with the 99 names of the flower*, vue de l'exposition "Mounira Al Solh. A day is as long as a year" 9 avril-2 octobre 2022,  
Gateshaed, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.  
Courtesy de l'artiste et de la galerie Sfeir-Semler Beyrouth/Hambourg.  
Photo: Barry Pells © 2022 BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art.