

# LE DAFTAR

2023



**STUDIO VIR ANDRES HERA**

VIRANDRESHERA.COM

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2023

Production

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Le Daftar is a five-chapter video and sound installation developed over three years through gatherings initiated by Vir Andres Hera with invited artists. The project emerged from shared experiences of migration, exile, gender identity, and diasporic belonging within Europe.

The work unfolds from a consciousness shaped across three continents: Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Europe is not treated as a stable center but as a charged terrain where colonial architectures, Atlantic histories, and contemporary diasporic bodies intersect. The installation stages encounters between mestizo and Afro-diasporic presences within European space, not to equate distinct genealogies but to explore resonances produced by entangled colonial pasts. Both inhabit structures built before them. Both negotiate visibility and erasure. Both carry layered temporalities in their bodies.

The title “Daftar” comes from the Armenian mystic poet Sayat Nova and evokes a notebook composed of multiple scripts, visible or invisible depending on light and position. This shifting manuscript becomes the conceptual matrix of the installation: languages, technologies, gestures, and temporalities overlap like palimpsests.

Filmed across modernist arenas, buried monastic ruins, coastal landscapes, nightclubs, and former port sites in Portugal, Le Daftar brings together four collaborators who inhabit these spaces through improvisation, ritualized movement, and suspended states of presence activating the memory of architecture.

The project investigates the tension between archaeology and cinema. Archaeology is conventionally associated with excavation and the past; cinema, since its origins, with movement and the present. Le Daftar moves between 16mm film, DV, and digital formats, foregrounding the technological strata of image-making itself. The voice of poet Belinda Zhawi traverses the work in extended present-tense narration, her speech embody an oracular temporality where events remain unresolved, suspended in a “not-yet” or “in-the-future”.

Le Daftar questions singular authorship by allowing each collaborator’s practice to shape the work’s structure. The bodies moving through displace and recompose. Le Daftar is a composition within ruins, a living manuscript that shifts according to who is looking, when, and from where.

The installation unfolds through six chapters:

Unx vuelve siempre

Bulldog. Non. MacDo. Non. Hamburger. Non.

Kété-Kété

There is an image in front of me of a colonial house

And the category is: face!

A fire burns under a pavement. In an alley.

Le Daftar later revealed itself as the first part of a film trilogy, continued with Amoxтли (2024) and Incwadi (2027). At the time of its making, it was not conceived as a trilogy. Only in retrospect did its structure become legible as an opening movement within a larger constellation of works exploring diasporic memory, transtemporal embodiment, and the reactivation of archives across geographies.



AND THE CATEGORY IS: FACE! VIR ANDRES HERA. 2023. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.











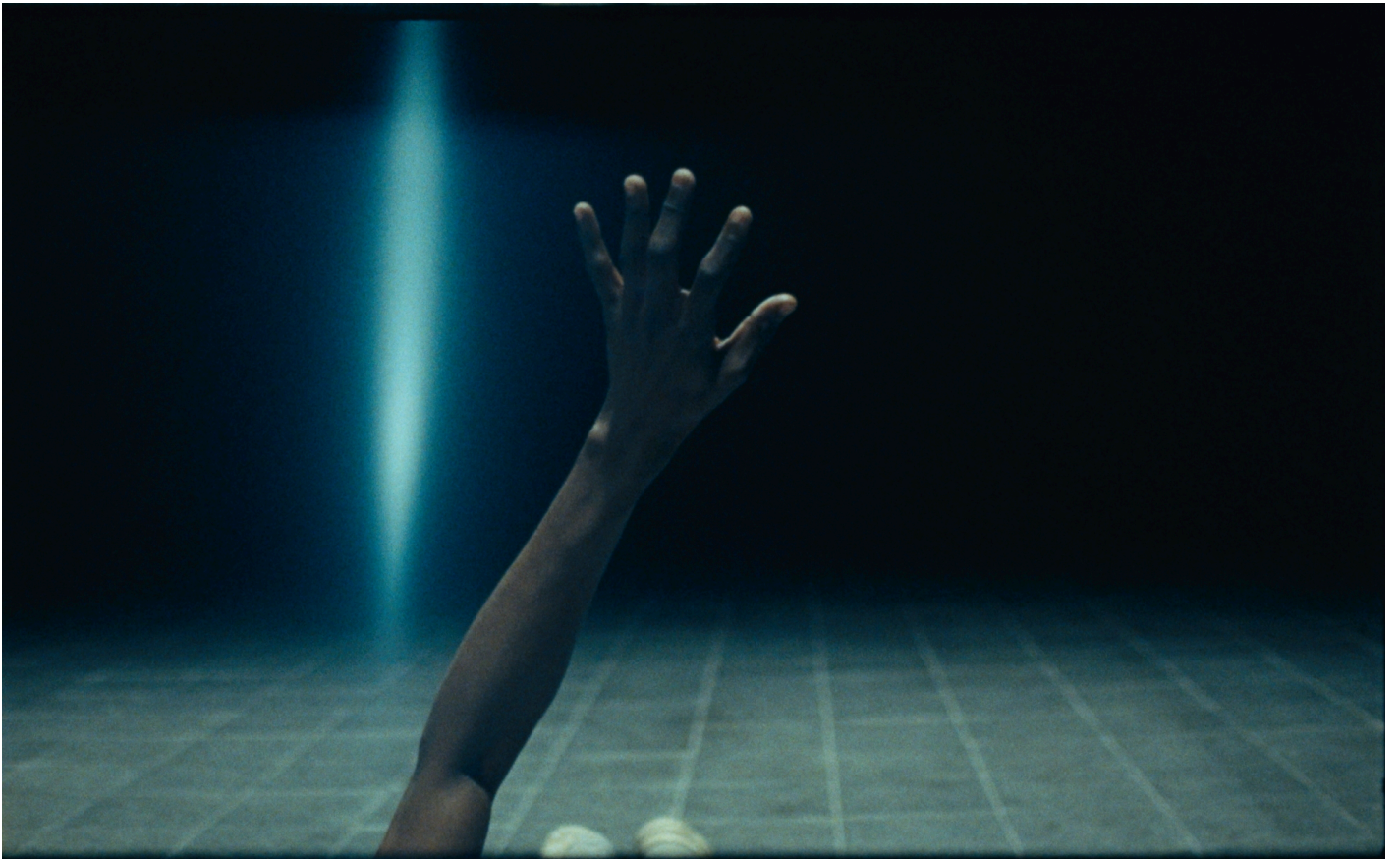


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A FIRE BURNS UNDER A PAVEMENT. IN AN ALLEY. VIR ANDRES HERA. 2023. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.







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PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.













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KÉTÉ-KÉTÉ. VIR ANDRES HERA. 2023. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.











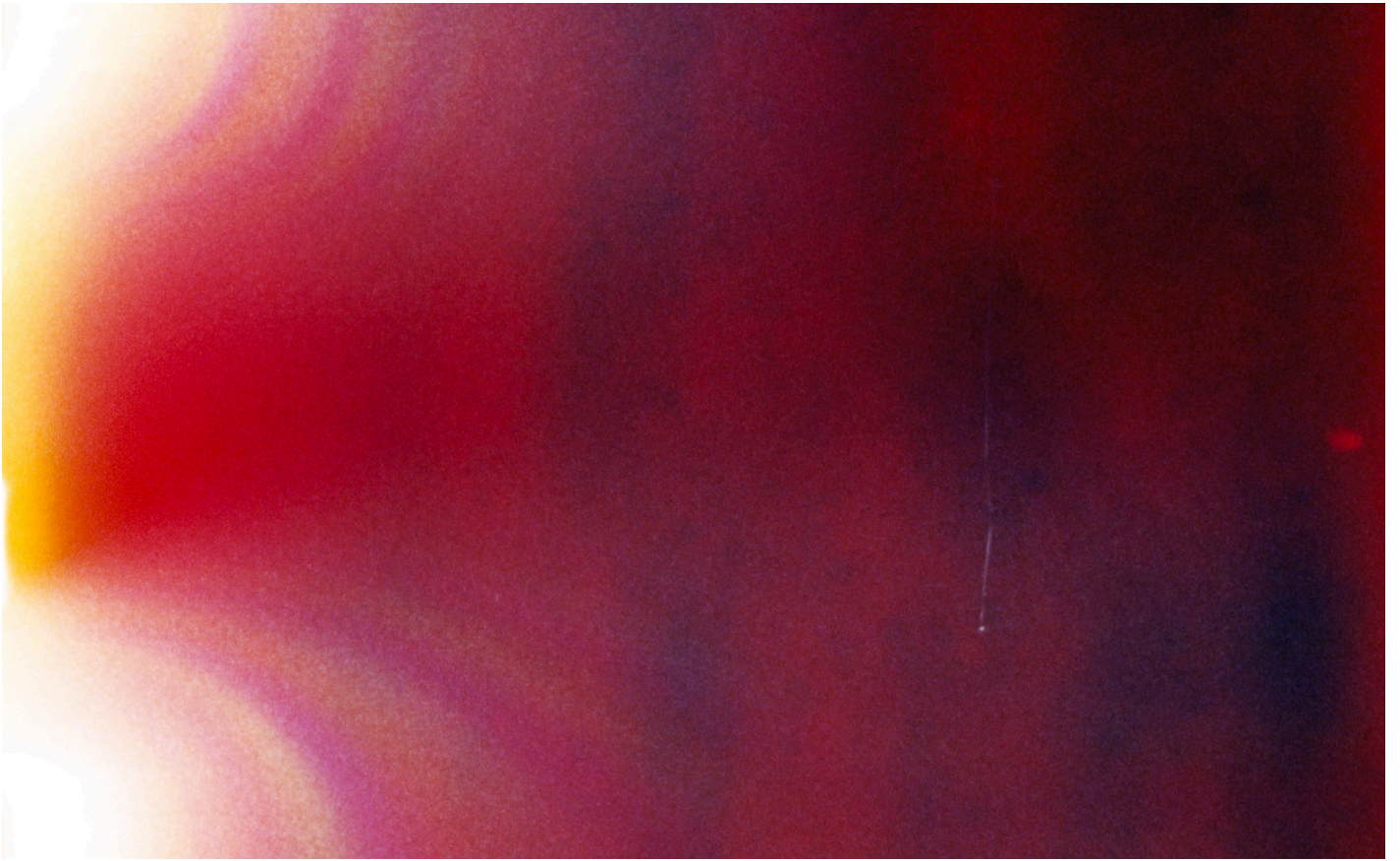


KÉTÉ-KÉTÉ. VIR ANDRES HERA. 2023. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.



THERE IS AN IMAGE IN FRONT OF ME OF A COLONIAL HOUSE. VIR ANDRES HERA. 2023. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.

















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UNX VUELVE SIEMPRE. VIR ANDRES HERA. 2022. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.









UNIX VUELVE SIEMPRE. VIR ANDRES HERA. 2022. FROM THE INSTALLATION LE DAFTAR, 2023. PRODUCTION: MÉCÈNES DU SUD MONTPELLIER-SÈTE-BÉZIERS & CHINAMPA. COURTESY OF CHINAMPA.

LE DAFTAR A FILM BY

Vir Andres Hera

WITH THE COLLABORATION AND PERFORMANCES OF

Ife Day

Daniel Galicia

Fabienne Guilbert Burgoa

Leonce Konan Noah

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CAMERA ASSISTANT

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Reda Senhaji (Cheb Runner)

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Leonce Konan Noah

Daniel Galicia

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Vir Andres Hera

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MIX

Mahesh Batsou

Vir Andres Hera

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CURATORIAL TEXTS

Ziphozenkosi Dayile

Eva Barois de Caevel

EDITION

Aurelien Potier

A PRODUCTION OF

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Mécènes du Sud Montpellier-Sète-Béziers

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