**3.** | Witnesses with badges








Started in 1999, photographs, silver print, various size.
Exhibition view from 10 familles, 10 artistes +si affinité, 2000, Fiac.
Courtesy of the artist.
Ed. of 5 + 2 A.P.

This work was part of 4ème Biennale de Dakar - Biennale de l'Art Africain Contemporain, Dakar, 2000.

La série *Témoins avec badge* commence en 1999. Pendant une résidence à la cité internationale des arts à Paris, l'artiste écrit sur une grande quantité de badges, son nom et prénom et proposent à des passants dans la rue un échange d'identité.

De leur tour, les personnes ayant accepté ce symbolique échange, inscrivent les leurs sur de nouvelles insignes. L'échange consiste à coller le badge avec le non de l'artiste sur la poitrine. Ainsi commence la série de photographie et de voyage où les badges récoltés dans un pays sont échanges dans un autre.

Mounir Fatmi déplace ces identités devenues moins anonymes pour les distribuer à de nouveaux porteurs d'identité. A chaque voyage, l'objet badge amovible à identifiant électif s'introduit alors sur un nouveau corps pour une période de validité extensible. Tandis que certains mentionnent leur adresse email, d'autre ajoutent leur numéro de téléphone et leur adresse postale. Le projet offrirait-il l'espoir de changer de vie avec un autre, devenir lui tout en restant en soi ?

Le badge dessine donc les contours d'une identité alter ego et crée au sein de ce projet le feedback nécessaire pour que les porteurs d'autrui activent un réseau et génèrent du lien. Finalement, dans ce club tout public, le dessous de l'œuvre c'est l'homme.

The Witnesses with Badges series started in 1999. During a residency at the Cité Internationale des arts in Paris, the artist wrote his name on a large number of badges and offered passers-by to exchange identities with him.

The people who accepted this symbolic exchange wrote their name on badges of their own. The exchange consisted in sticking the badge with the artist's name on their chest. This is how the series of photographs and journeys begins, in which the badges collected in one country and exchanged in another.

Mounir Fatmi displaces these identities that have become less anonymous and distributes them to new bearers. With each voyage, the badge, a detachable object with an elective identification, is placed on a new body for an extensible period of validity. Some people write down their email, others add their phone number and street address. Does this project offer people the hope of exchanging their lives with another person's, of becoming them while staying themselves at the same time?

The badge draws the outline of an alter ego identity and creates with this project the necessary feedback so that the bearers of someone else's name can activate a network and generate connections. In the end, in this club open to all, what's underlies the artistic project is mankind.

Studio Fatmi, Septembre 2000.

Studio Fatmi, September 2000.

" Does this project offer people the hope of exchanging their lives with another person’s, of becoming them while staying themselves at the same time? "

Studio Fatmi, September 2000

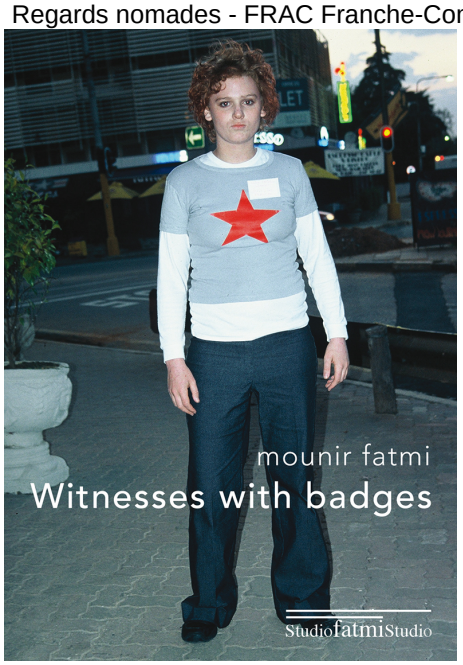
**exhibitions:**

2000

10 familles, 10 artistes +si affinité - FIAC - Expo collective

1999

Regards nomades - FRAC Franche-Comté - Musée des Beaux-Arts - Expo collective




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