

MENNOUR

THE ARMORY SHOW

DHEWADI HADJAB
ACT III, EXTEND

JAVITS CENTER - BOOTH 106
24 - 27 SEPTEMBRE 2026
24 - 27 SEPTEMBER, 2026



DHEWADI HADJAB

Born in 1992 in M'Sila, Algeria

Lives and works in Paris, France

Striking and disconcerting, Dhewadi Hadjab's paintings possess an intriguing beauty. Photography and painting are intrinsically intertwined in the heart of his artistic practice. Each canvas begins with photographs of models placed in positions of extreme discomfort, constraint, or danger. Through meticulous execution and powerful realism, the artist heightens every detail of these bodies in motion, endowing them with intense sculptural presence. His vibrant, powerful, and singular painting — poised between heaviness and grace — invites us to transcend the sensory and embrace the fragility of uncertainty.

A graduate of the École supérieure des beaux-arts of Algiers, the École nationale supérieure d'art of Bourges, and the Beaux-Arts de Paris, he has received several international awards, including the Friends of the Beaux-Arts Portrait Prize "Prix du portrait Bertrand de Demandolx-Dedons" in 2020. In 2021, he was awarded the Rubis Mécénat production grant. His works have been shown in group exhibitions at the Musée d'Orsay, FRAC Franche-Comté in Besançon, France; at Poush Manifesto in Clichy, France; and at the Beaux-Arts de Paris. In 2024, he participated in the event "Le Jour des Peintres" at the Musée d'Orsay. In 2025, he took part in the exhibitions "Copistes" at the Centre Pompidou-Metz, "Par quatre chemins" at Château La Coste, and "LES APPARITIONS", organized by the Reiffers Art Initiatives endowment fund, in France. Invited by the Church of Saint-Eustache, Dhewadi Hadjab created two monumental paintings in 2024 that are permanently installed in the church, as a contemporary tribute to a historical landmark in the heart of Paris.



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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH67)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes



M E N N O U R

"I have always been an observer, driven by a curiosity to study the body."

—Dhewadi Hadjab

Though his paintings convey an uncanny sense of realism and stillness, Dhewadi Hadjab is a painter of movement. Arching over, bending backwards, battling with a piece of fabric or extending limbs an inch further: the sequence captures a body wrestling with its own limits and navigating the struggle to maintain a posture on the verge of collapse. Interested in the failed gesture, Dhewadi Hadjab paints bodies in a state of inner turmoil, resisting the urge to conform to the perfect execution of a conscious physical gesture. By depicting the moment of tension that anticipates the muscles' long-awaited release, he immortalizes the uneasy, fleeting beauty of effort, when the strain exceeds one's capacity to handle it.

For his first solo presentation in North America, Dhewadi Hadjab reveals at The Armory Show the third act of a corpus conceived as an ongoing theatrical performance or ballet. As in both previous acts, this exhibition presents a new series of oil paintings that represent an anonymous, androgynous non-professional dancer in their attempt to move freely and conduct an improvised choreography, beyond control. From sequences of photographs he carefully orchestrates, Dhewadi Hadjab selects the most enigmatic posture to realistically translate in oil paint. Having mastered the chiaroscuro technique by attentively studying the great masters—the Baroque period with Caravaggio, Neoclassicism with Jacques-Louis David, Romanticism with Eugène Delacroix—he undertakes a study of drapery, an element he is particularly drawn to as it dictates its own form and carries the unretrievable trace of its own memory. With "Act III, Extend", Dhewadi Hadjab invites us to extend our bodies beyond the limits of the familiar, and explores the variation of one composition through the fragmentation of a series, building suspense to reveal the acts that are yet to come.

—Megan Macnaughton

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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH72)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes





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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH69)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes





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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH70)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes





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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH71)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes





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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH68)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes



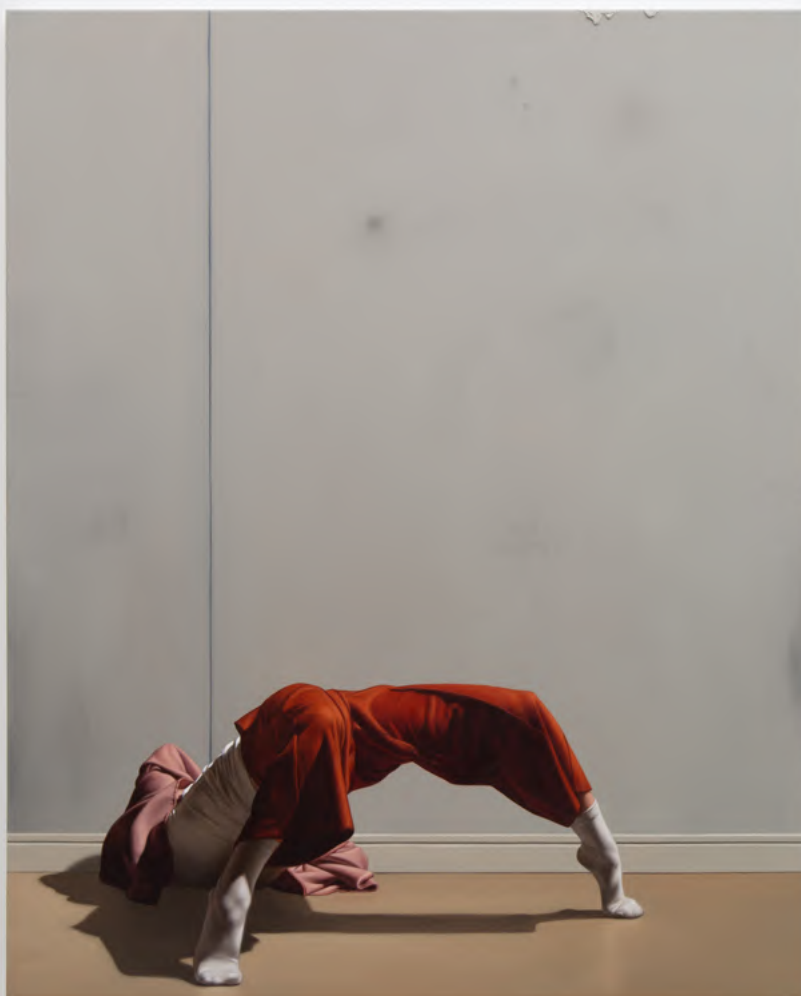


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“Fluid, silky, light or heavy, the fabrics provide an opportunity for a meticulous work on the drape. Twisted, in suspension, arched, the bodies are similarly the figures that the artist elected to tirelessly explore the representation of the movement, gravity, downward force and elevation. It is the same with the constant tension between the archetypical dimension of the bodies and their all specific presence in the frame, with the recurrent plays on the abstraction of the backgrounds - geometrical compositions reminiscent of the American color field - with the work in oil, its greasy aspect, its warmth and its own technique, as with his experimentations on formats, reflections and framing. All that composes a virtuoso play of pictorial relations.”

— Jill Gasparina

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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH73)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes





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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH74)

€ 95,000.00 excl. taxes





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“Dhewadi Hadjab’s figures tremble in suspension. They are human bodies that have succumbed to their own context – contorted on a sofa or lapsarian on a floor. In this sense he is invested not in the virtuosic body, but the labored body as the site for the genesis of gesture. For Pina Bausch and Dhewadi Hadjab, no strong movement or pose is done without equal attention paid to the minor doubts it evokes or its inevitable failure. Repetition is a motif used to call attention to the erosion taking place in time on the performer or subject in the work of both artists. Theirs is a shared interest, while using different mediums, in the ontological implications of the body in motion. Bodies in communion and disjunction.”

– John Arthur Peetz

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DHEWADI HADJAB

Sans titre

2026

Huile sur toile

Oil on canvas

180 x 145 x 4,7 cm

(70 7/8 x 57 1/8 x 1 7/8 in.)

(Inv n° DWH75)

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*« I want to keep a spontaneous relation with dance in that way we have as a child
or even as an adult: to like something without knowing exactly the reason why.
As soon as we know the reason why, magic seems to disappear. »*

— Dhewadi Hadjab

PAST EXHIBITIONS



Acte I : Vaciller, Mennour, Paris, 2022







Copistes, Centre Pompidou Metz, France, 2025



Le jour des peintres, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, 2024



Commande sur Saint-Paul pour l'Église Saint-Eustache, Paris, 2024



Carte Blanche à Dhewadi Hadjab, Église Saint-Eustache, Paris, 2021



Expositions des diplômés, Beaux-Arts de Paris, 2022

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