

DRITON SELMANI
01 | 11 – 28 | 12 | 2025
On Top Residency

NOBODY
SAW
THIS
COMING



Epifani
Institute for Art and Culture

Press Release

28 October 2025

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Epifani Institute invites you to the opening of the exhibition *Nobody Saw This Coming* by artist Driton Selmani at On Top Residency on 1st of November, 2025, Opening 13:00

Driton Selmani: *Nobody Saw This Coming*

Curated by: Fatmir Mustafa Karlo

Driton Selmani's "*Nobody Saw This Coming*" exhibition brings an unexpected intervention, a solitary, unwavering palm tree appears as a surprise manifestation on the land of On Top Residency, while its shadow moves slowly, like a cloud that follows the clock, but simultaneously generates a "black circle", a recreation of suprematism on the ground, not as a form that emerges from reality but remains as evidence, which moves with time.

This is not just a cloud/shadow, but a symbolic act: an intervention that places a pure, almost metaphysical form over a tense terrain. Here Selmani creates the symbolism that challenges the place where it stands and the definitions that that place holds.

According to Selmani, "this work stands as an alien body in a land that does not love it". This tension between the alien and the present is the very substance of the work, an object that does not belong there, but that insists on staying, a space without place, but that takes place. Palm is not just a tree; it's an act that raises straightforward questions: How difficult is it to survive in a place that lacks an infrastructure that understands and appreciates the transformative power of art? How can you grow something that is not nourished by understanding, but by lack of appreciation?

In places where the most innovative part of society remains often discouraged, where ideas that fall outside the scheme are seen as "excess", Selmani's work emerges as a form of resistance, but also as a persistence that is sown by all means.

Through this work, On Top Residency raises a clear vision: Can we imagine a sculpture park in this country? A space where works do not disappear with the closing of an exhibition, but remain, as permanent forms of dialogue with the land, with the community and with the future.

Biography:

Driton Selmani

Born in Ferizaj, Kosovo 1987. He currently works and lives between Prishtina and Doganaj. He completed his MA studies at The Arts University Bournemouth UK

Selmani approaches the idea of perceived reality by deconstructing formations of social, political, and cultural topics that have been embodied around him. At a young age, he was told to worship a country that no longer existed, which caused him to form a basis of skepticism towards any supposedly given reality. He later used this as a beneficial tool to reconstruct his beliefs into visual artefacts. In 1999, old simulacra were replaced by new simulacra; the ornaments of a previous space have been refurbished in order to unfold with new meanings but also new uncertainties. Selmani confronts himself as a spectator of this “on-going event”, and positions himself as an actor, enacting his performances based on his personal histories, beliefs, and doubts.

He has exhibited at solo and group exhibitions in Stacion Center For Contemporary Art Prishtina, Ludwig Múzeum in Budapest, Kunstraum Niederosterreich Vienna, Casa São Paulo, Mediterranea Biennial 16 Ancona, U10 Belgrade, 5th Marrakesh Biennial, Amsterdam Light Festival, , Fabbrica del Vapore Milan, Bregenz Biennale, Exchiesetta Polignano a Mare, National Art Gallery Tirana, Thessaloniki Center of Contemporary Art, Eugster || Belgrade, Norrköping Light Festival, La Maison des Arts Brussels, MMSU Rijeka, Škuc Gallery, MAXXI Museum, Kunstmuseum Basel, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje & 14th Manifesta in Prishtina 2022, Eva Káhan Foundation, Museet for Samtidskunst, Kunsthaus Graz, Beaufort Triennale MuseumsQuartier Vienna, Museum Of Contemporary Art of Montenegro, Podgorica among others...

Biography:

Fatmir Mustafa Karlo

Fatmir Mustafa Karlo (born 1984) lives and works in Prishtina, Kosovo. Two years after finishing high school, he completed his art studies in Prishtina in 2004. In 2007, he received the Artists of Tomorrow Award from the National Gallery of Kosovo, which included a several-week residency in New York. In 2010, Karlo moved to Finland, where he worked as a freelance artist and later earned his Master's degree from the University of Fine Arts Helsinki in 2018 with the thesis Refusals. Since returning to Prishtina the same year, his performances, installations, and visual works have been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Prishtina, Helsinki, Brussels, Milan, Zagreb, Skopje, and New York. Karlo first gained wide recognition in Kosovo in 2007 with his performance Lemon Tea—during violent protests against the UN and the Kosovo government, he walked the streets of Prishtina serving hot tea amidst tear gas and armed forces “to calm the spirits.”

Since 2019, he has been a lecturer at UBT College in Prishtina. In 2020, he founded On Top Residency, a “gallery without walls” situated on a panoramic hill near the village of Butoc, overlooking the city of Prishtina. In 2022, he established the Epifani Institute for Art and Culture, further expanding his engagement in fostering independent artistic practice and dialogue in Kosovo.



Driton Selmani – *Nobody Saw This Coming*, 2025
Planted *Trachycarpus fortunei*, 600 × 100 × 50 cm
Installation view: On Top Residency, Prishtina
Courtesy of the artist © Images: Ferdi Limani

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Special thanks to: Tintin Cocktail Bar & PAPANAPARA®

The exhibition is organized by Institute for Art and Culture Epifani
The exhibition is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

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