



**Rachid Khimoune**

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FRIEDMAN & VALLOIS  
November 8 - December 21, 2012

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**"TORTOISES"**  
Omaha Beach, France, June 2011  
installation of resin tortoises

**FRIEDMAN & VALLOIS** will present for the first time and in exclusivity the work of French artist Rachid Khimoune from November 8 to December 21, 2012. The last time he was exhibited in New York City was in 1986, when New York City harbor celebrated a selection of French artists on the occasion of the centennial of the Statue of Liberty.

In 2001, Khimoune's work is internationally acclaimed on the occasion of his "*Children of the World*" installation in Paris' famed Bercy Park. Khimoune created twenty-one figures of children whose role as universal ambassadors of peace and tolerance among peoples symbolized the entry into the twenty-first century. To give them life, Rachid Khimoune traveled to many large cities collecting literally from the ground what he calls the "the flesh of the streets": asphalt, cobblestones, manhole covers, tree grates, etc. Each child is rooted in their home country: they have their double. More recently, his work was presented at the Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris) in 2008, the Shanghai Expo in 2010, and the square of the Trocadero (Paris) in 2011.

He declares himself an "assembler", using materials he qualifies as being miscegenation, a melding. With the use of a manhole, he reminds us of the poetic license of a human expression, similarly the discarded wall outlet, or other salvage material are offered a new life from their insignificance.

Berber in origin, he grew up in Paris suburbs, in a housing project. All his work is imbued with

this dual cultural heritage, which finds itself in his choices of mixed and found materials and objects.

On the occasion of this exhibition, Rachid Khimoune will be presenting a recent series of totems, masks, and tortoises.

Totems and masks, made during the past five years, evoke Africa and its traditions with humor, assembling disparate scraps of modern life and fusing them into a new identity playing with their initial definitions. Thus, the "*Conversation Tree*" and "*Burkina*", totems combine bronze and iron with a literal gas jet (see page no 13). The Totem "*Queen of the Night*" combines bronze, iron, wood and container for a head (see page no 12). Through his works, he evokes the universality of the expert bronze worker, whether of African or Chinese origin.

Furthermore, tortoises, drawn or sculpted and symbols of longevity, occupy a prominent place in his work. Khimoune states "The tortoise chases bad luck and evil spirits. It is the image of wisdom", which is a philosophy his mother taught him. Helmets of soldiers replace the shells, an approach for him to denounce his abhorrence of war (see page no 8 & 9).

He expresses this dramatically (see page 5) when Khimoune installed a thousand tortoises on Omaha Beach on June 6, 2011, commemorating the landing of Allies in France marking the beginning of the conclusion World War II.



**"TORTOISES"** 1994  
mixed media on paper, signed lower right  
59 x 47<sup>1/2</sup> inches

**"TORTOISES"** 1991  
installation of resin tortoises







**"THE WINGED BULL "** 1993  
iron and bronze, signed and numbered 4/4  
H: 13<sup>3/4</sup> x W: 11<sup>3/4</sup>, base diameter: 7 inches



"CHESKA" MASK 2012  
iron and bronze  
H: 27<sup>1/2</sup> x W: 9<sup>1/2</sup> x D: 6<sup>5/8</sup> inches





*Previous pages:*

**“GAULOIS” TOTEM** 2007

wood, iron and bronze

H:  $76\frac{3}{4}$  x W:  $11\frac{3}{4}$  x D:  $17\frac{3}{4}$  inches

**“QUEEN OF THE NIGHT” TOTEM** 2009

wood, iron and bronze

H:  $81\frac{1}{2}$  x W:  $15\frac{5}{6}$  x D:  $22\frac{3}{4}$  inches

**“CONVERSATION TREE” TOTEM** 2007

iron and bronze

H:  $60\frac{1}{7}$  x W:  $9\frac{3}{4}$  x D:  $7\frac{7}{8}$  inches

**“THE WISE MAN” TOTEM** 2011

iron and bronze

H:  $68\frac{7}{8}$  x D:  $17\frac{3}{4}$  inches

*Right page:*

**“CAR JACK AND BALL” MASK** 1997

iron and bronze

H:  $25\frac{1}{4}$  x W:  $11\frac{3}{4}$  x D:  $3\frac{15}{16}$  inches





**"SMALL BULL" 2011**  
bronze  
H: 22 x W: 23<sup>2/3</sup> x D: 15<sup>1/2</sup> inches





**"THE COUPLE" MASKS** 2012  
iron and bronze  
Female: H:  $16\frac{7}{8}$  x W:  $5\frac{1}{2}$  x D  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
Male: H:  $17\frac{3}{4}$  x W:  $5\frac{1}{2}$  x D:  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches



**"BURKINA" MASK** 1997  
iron and bronze  
H: 24<sup>7/8</sup> x W: 7<sup>7/8</sup> x D: 7<sup>7/8</sup> inches



**"WEDDING GROOM" MASK** 2002  
bronze, iron and patina numbered 2/4  
H: 23<sup>3/4</sup> x W: 9<sup>1/2</sup> x D: 9<sup>1/2</sup> inches



**"TWO-SIDED", TOTEM** 1995  
iron and glass  
H: 37<sup>3/8</sup> x W: 15<sup>3/4</sup> x D: 4<sup>3/4</sup> inches



**"WALL OUTLET FACE", SMALL TOTEM** 2001  
iron and bronze  
H: 16<sup>1/8</sup> x W: 7<sup>7/8</sup> x D: 3<sup>15/16</sup> inches



**"AFRICAN WOMAN"** 2010  
iron and bronze  
H: 29<sup>1/8</sup> x W: 5<sup>1/2</sup> x D: 5<sup>1/2</sup> inches



**"BULL" TOTEM** 2009  
wood, iron and bronze  
H: 74 x W: 24<sup>3/4</sup> x D: 20<sup>5/8</sup> inches



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November 8 - December 21, 2012  
Opening 8 november 2012, 4 pm - 8 pm

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Cover :  
"SMALL CANISTER" TOTEM 1995  
Iron, copper and cast iron,  
H: 21<sup>1/4</sup> x W: 8<sup>5/6</sup> inches

Opposite :  
"SHOWER HEAD" TOTEM 1995  
Bronze, iron and copper,  
H: 30<sup>3/8</sup> x D: 6<sup>6/8</sup> inches



