

## ANNOUNCEMENT

April 2, 2025



### Myriam Ben Salah to Curate Yto Barrada's French Pavilion at Venice Biennale

We're happy to share that artist—and Renaissance Society board director—Yto Barrada has been selected to represent France at the 2026 Venice Biennale. Known for her incisive, multidisciplinary practice, Yto brings a powerful voice to one of contemporary art's most significant stages. Her project for the French Pavilion will be curated by Myriam Ben Salah, the director and chief curator of the Renaissance Society, whose bold and visionary approach makes this an especially exciting collaboration. We're proud to see two members of the Renaissance community honored in this way and look forward to their work in Venice. Read more in [The Art Newspaper](#).

#### Myriam Ben Salah on Yto Barrada

*"It is a privilege to work with Yto," says Myriam Ben Salah. "Her poetic and incisive vision challenges everything we too often take for granted in terms of geography, artistic canons and historical perspectives. She is an inexhaustible source of micro-histories, which he approaches with disarming precision. Our paths are extraordinarily similar: we both come from families shaped by political history, labor struggles and exile, between North Africa, France and, later, the United States. It is this common point of view that fuels the convergence of our visions today."*

#### Yto Barrada on Myriam Ben Salah

*"I am delighted that Myriam Ben Salah has accepted the role of curator of my exhibition at the 2026 Venice Biennale. Myriam is a singular voice that has long inspired me, and I can't imagine a better primary collaborator for this occasion. From her early work at Palais de Tokyo and Kaleidoscope; her co-direction of the Made in L.A. Biennial and her leadership at the Renaissance Society, she has consistently championed both emerging and established artists, grounding ambitious and experimental ideas in real-world contexts. Artists recognize her as an ally; institutions trust her to deliver influential, and boundary-pushing exhibitions."*

*Her curating, writing, and public voice reflect an artist-centered vision, grounded in deep learning, rigorous inquiry, and unwavering integrity.”*

The 61<sup>st</sup> International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia will take place from Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

###

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY  
at the University of Chicago 5811 South  
Ellis Avenue Cobb Hall, 4th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60637

773 702 8670  
info@renaissancesociety.org  
renaissancesociety.org

Media contact: Margaret Crowley  
Communications Manager  
macrowley@uchicago.edu