

28.05.2025, 12.30H

YOANN GOURMEL —
(CURATOR, PALAIS DE TOKYO, PARIS)
@ AKADEMIE DER BILDENDEN KÜNSTE MÜNCHEN

Oh happy audience, it is said that in a world gripped by multiple crises, artists write fictions inspired by the realities in which they live. These fictions are seen as critical tools for emancipation in the face of systems of oppression and exploitation.

In an age of state-sponsored lies, post-truth, and narrative control, artists turn to counter-narratives that challenge dominant stories. Viewing history as a contested space, they use fiction politically—to disrupt inherited systems of knowledge and propose realities where myth, analysis, and imagination coexist.

“How can a film of social intervention be made when one wishes to film wonderful stories? And how to film timeless fables when you are committed to the present?” These are questions asked by filmmaker Miguel Gomes in the prologue to his contemporary adaptation of *The Arabian Nights* (2015) that this talk will seek to address.



Portrait of Yoann Gourmel
as a bad news



Ulla von Brandenburg, Exhibition view, *Le milieu est bleu*, 2020, Palais de Tokyo (c) Aurélien Mole

Yoann Gourmel has been a curator at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, since 2016, where he has organized several solo exhibitions among others: Laura Lamiel (2023), Ulla von Brandenburg (2020), Julien Creuzet (2019) and Anita Molinero (2018). He also curated group exhibitions including *Shéhérazade, la nuit* (2022), *Encore un jour banane pour le poisson-rêve* (2018), and *Sous le regard de machines pleines d'amour et de grâce* (2017). In 2019, he coordinated the curatorial team of the Palais de Tokyo for the 15th Lyon Biennale, *Where Water Comes Together with Other Water*. Prior to his role at the Palais, he taught art and exhibition history in art schools and curated numerous independent exhibitions in France and internationally. Since 2023, he has served as the Director of Public and Cultural Programming at the Palais de Tokyo.