

Entre deux battements | Between Heartbeats

Rafaëlle Labourgade



Venue: Magazzino Gallery, Palazzo Contarini Polignac, Dorsoduro 875, 30123 Venice, Italy

Dates: 9 May - 30 June 2026

Opening hours: 10 am - 6 pm (closed on Mondays)

Pre-opening (by [appointment](#)): 4 - 8 May 2026

Opening reception: 8 May 2026, 5-7pm

Artist in attendance: 4 - 14 May; 2 - 7 June; 26 - 30 June

THE EXHIBITION

Presented in Venice during the 2026 Art Biennale, *Entre deux battements | Between Heartbeats* by French artist Rafaëlle Labourgade is an independent exhibition composed of two monumental triptychs facing each other, spanning approximately 12 meters in length and 3 meters in height. While not part of the Biennale's official program, the work resonates with its theme, *In Minor Keys*. It unfolds within the Magazzino Gallery of Palazzo Contarini Polignac as a field of tension, perception, and embodied experience.

THE ARTIST

Rafaëlle Labourgade's work is rooted in the human figure as a site of presence, vulnerability, and relation. Working with oil, charcoal, pastel, black stone, and coloured pigments, she engages all scales—including monumental ones—to develop a distinctive pictorial language in which figures emerge, dissolve, and reconfigure at the threshold between visibility and disappearance. Her practice resists fixed narratives, instead exploring states of tension, suspension, and fragile connection.

TWO TRIPTYCHS



[View details](#)

On one side, *Nos ombres*, executed in charcoal and black stone, unfolds an inexorable procession of bodies accumulating and traversing the surface, forming a stratified continuum in which individuality and collectivity remain suspended. Light intermittently isolates fragments—a face, a hand—before

allowing them to recede into darkness. What appears is not representation, but condition: a suspended state of exposure, where presence reveals itself as both fragile and precarious.

Opposite, a second triptych, *À l'aube*, currently in progress for this exhibition, introduces a chromatic shift. Colour reconfigures the dynamics of relation: figures open up, tracing lines of movement toward one another. A fragile choreography emerges—a circulation of bodies evoking a farandole, not as image but as structure: a chain, a rhythm, a collective impulse that both connects and destabilizes. A hand extends—not to save, but to acknowledge. Here, light produces intervals and thresholds, suggesting the possibility of encounter.

IN BETWEEN

Between these two pictorial ensembles, the viewer occupies a decisive position. The space between the works is not empty, but an active interval—a place where tensions persist without resolution. Rejection and connection, exile and shared movement, fear and the necessity of love are not presented as themes, but as forces that traverse bodies, space, and perception.

In resonance with the Biennale's theme, *In Minor Keys*, the installation unfolds as a double score attentive to what is subtle, unstable, and often relegated to the margins of attention.

The words of Toni Morrison—"You have to have the love and you have to have the magic, that's also life."—run through the project like an underlying frequency, introducing a counterpoint to the tension at work: not a resolution, but a persistence.

THE VENUE

Presented within the Magazzino Gallery of Palazzo Contarini Polignac, the work enters into dialogue with a site marked by a history of artistic and intellectual exchange. Former Venetian residence of Winnaretta Singer, a major patron whose commitment also extended to supporting the most vulnerable, the palace offers a context where artistic creation and human attention converge.

CODA

In a world marked by uncertainty and fragmentation, *Entre deux battements* | *Between Heartbeats* does not offer answers. Instead, it sustains a space in which something persists: a fragile, unresolved yet irreducible possibility of being together.

With the support of the Institut français d'Italie and of the Alliance française of Venice.



Website: labourgade-peintre.com

Exhibition page: entre-deux-battements-venice

Instagram: [@labourgadepeintre](https://www.instagram.com/labourgadepeintre)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/rafaelle-labourgade](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rafaelle-labourgade)

YouTube: [@EntreDeuxBattementsVenise](https://www.youtube.com/@EntreDeuxBattementsVenise)

Venue: palazzocontarinipolignac.com/magazzino-gallery

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