

ÉCART

Samir Laghouati-Rashwan (Marseille)

Quinquina diaspora

Exhibition 16—19.10.24

Écart's Saloon

In his video *Quinquina diaspora*, Samir Laghouati-Rashwan gives plants a voice to tell their story. In a silent conversation, two cinchona trees reveal their respective memories. Native to South America, this plant is widely used in medicine and the beverage industry. Quinine, the natural alkaloid found in cinchona bark, is a powerful antimalarial and is also the main component of tonic water, giving it its characteristic bitter taste. Blurring the boundaries between official sources and personal accounts, Samir Laghouati-Rashwan proposes a re-reading of history from the perspective of plants, challenging the dominant anthropocentrism in the representation of plant life. Uprooted and placed on a stage, the quinquinas recount, in their conversation, the history of their migration, colonization and economic exploitation, as well as the history of the respect and care that humans can offer.