

## Exposition autobiographique de Rajib SHAK MONTEAGLE

This is a very short presentation of the project of exhibition, called « Mona Lisa and I »

Following the biographic evolution of the painter, the first room shows a few paintings of memories from his village childhood, which created a deep love and understanding of nature. Then his painting, « East is east, West is west » shows his shock when arriving in Europe and later in the canadian winter. A naive Eiffel tower standing in the grass, a tropical Saint Tropez...The images show landscapes painted at first value, then symbolic images of a fish and agricultural tools, memories of the countryside transformed with the pochoir technique...

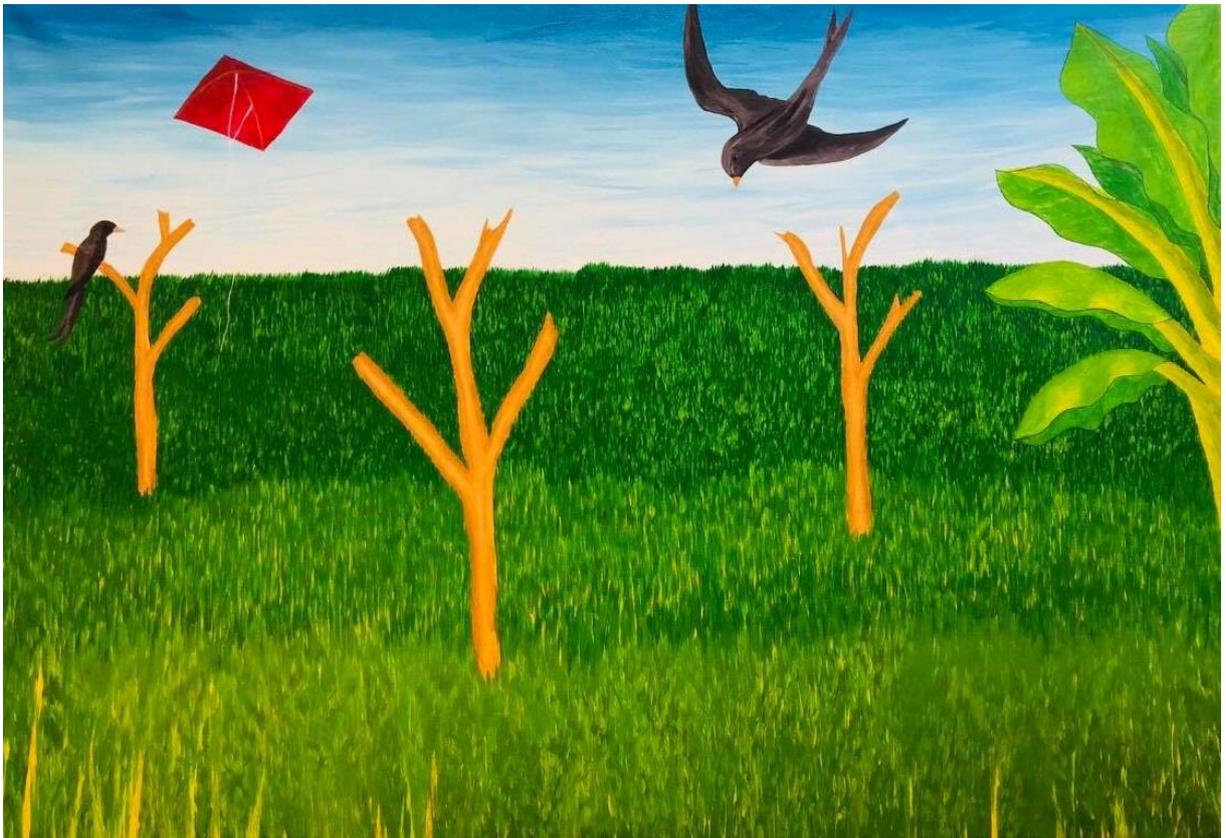
The teaching at Beaux-Arts also led Rajib to a reflexion on portraits, several of which are shown here, a reflexion also used in several city projects, two of them being shown here : the Montreuil mur pignon municipal project, with the image of the child and flowers, and the Rueil Malmaison municipal project, with the portrait of the musician Saint Saens and a character from one of his operas.

Then the subject of Mona Lisa occurs : fascinated by the painting which attracted him already in Bangladesh, Rajib has painted 45 variations on the Gioconda, five of which are shown, and he has created a short film « She leaves » on a Mona Lisa displeased by our world and by our global climate change and storms which Leonardo studied, by the violence of men which he also described . Then Shakespeare,almost a contemporary of Mona Lisa, concludes.



Hemontto 195x130

Bangladesh



Printemps (Hemontto) 2

114x130

Bangladesh



L'enfant au Lotus 73x54

Bnagladesh



East is east, West is west et Moi

80x80 Du Monde



Tour Eiffel



Saint-Tropez 81x60

France



Vénice Italie



Jardin de Giverny

France



Le restaurant d'UCAM

Canada



La rue Atateken

Canada



Parc du Mont -Royal

Canada

On lattaque

16x20

France



Sans main

L'objet nul

16x20

France



Dans ma tete  
Trop de  
Travail  
16x20  
France



L'hiver et l'ète  
16x20  
France





Qu'est-ce que vous voulez 1 ou 2

300x200

Canada



Elle travaille Beaucoup 45x38

France



Il a les couleurs de plusieurs mondes 73x60



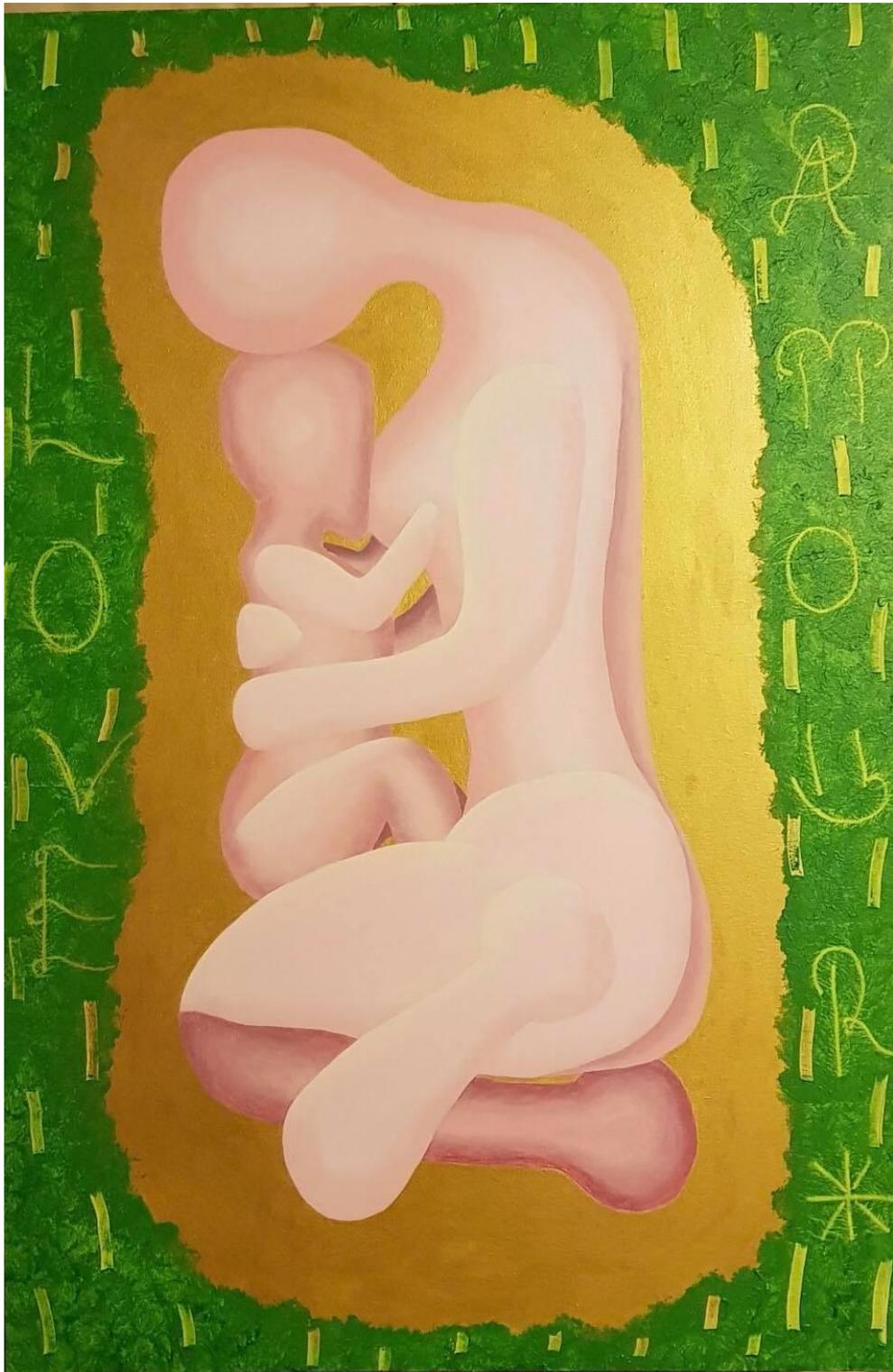
Premier Amour 54x72

France



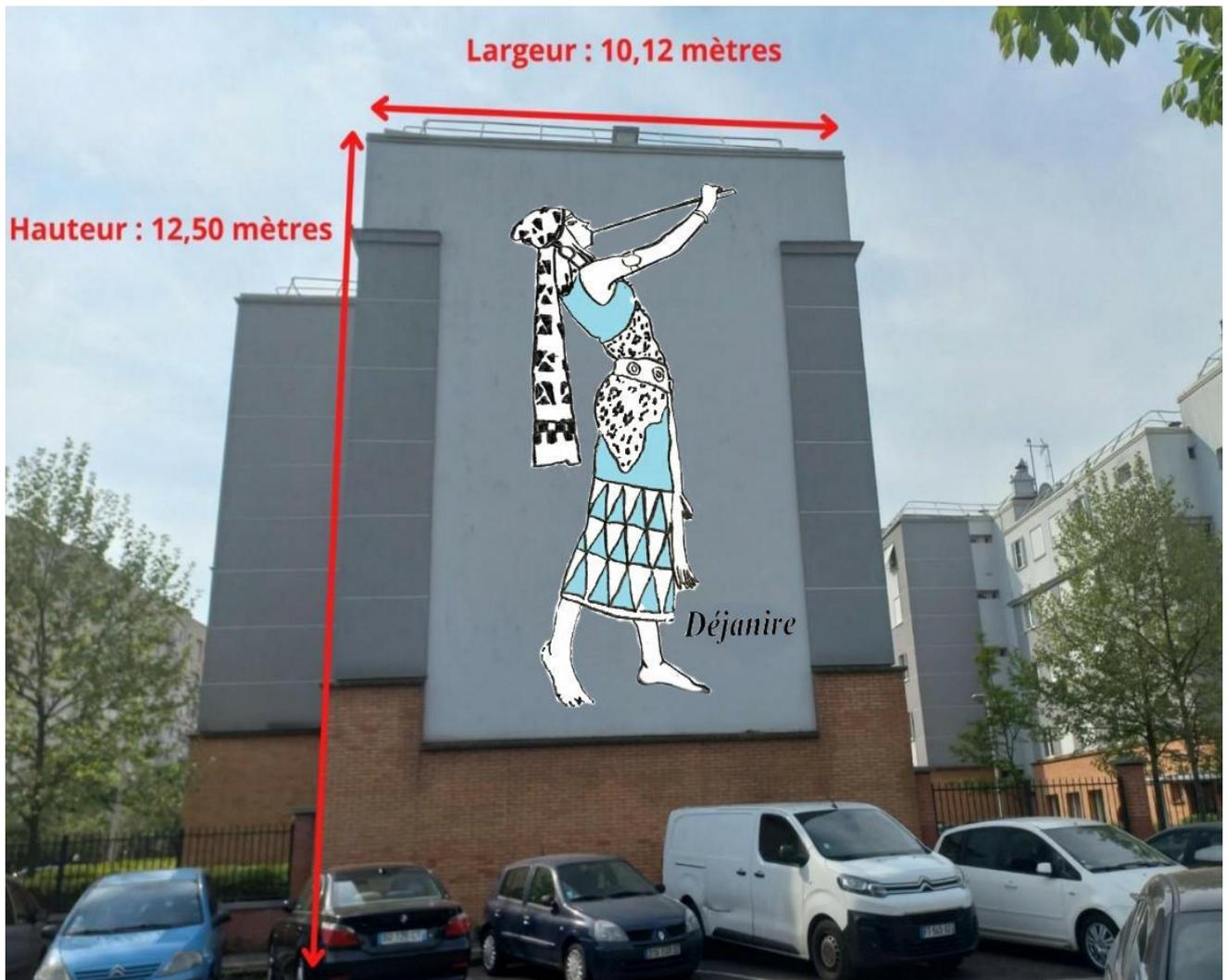
La famille 65x92

France









Largeur : 10,12 mètres

Hauteur : 12,50 mètres

*Déjanire*













## A biography of Rajib Shak-Monteagle

Rajib Shak-Monteagle was born in Aharanda in the Sylhet province on the 20th november 1996 in a family of modest means. While studying at his village school, he drew a lot, his first art school was the Bangladesh countryside, he says. After working at a young age, he arrived in Paris in 2011. Today he possesses double nationality, bengla and french.

Adopted by a french family, he followed several years french classes at Alliance française, while going on with his drawing ;he also took art classes with the City of Paris in Ivry.

For three years he took part with Anne Sophie Vigot as head of the site, in the summer archaeological excavations of the chapter house at the abbey at St Evroult in the Orne ,and another year in the excavation at Lazaretto nuovo in Venice.

He was accepted at Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts de paris in 2018, now in the 4th year in the studio of Nathalie Talec. He explored the possibilities of acrylic and oil painting, and used larger and larger picture frames. He learned pastel at villa Tamaris in La Seyne.

His work-painting, drawing, sculpture, metal, engraving-often witness a rural world threatened by urbanization. Floods, rise of the sea level due to the climate change, pollution, all threaten a traditional world. He wrote and illustrated tales of village mythology which shall be published.

In Montreuil Rajib followed the advices of the painter Noel Perrier. He also played in a film by Nat Lazreg and another by Lauriane Escaffre, and in a play at theatre Nanterre Amandiers. He made a short film « she is leaving » about Mona Lisa.

He participated in two city projects of wall decorations by the municipalities of Montreuil and Rueil Malmaison, and during the term he passed during an international exchange between the Paris Beaux Arts and the Montréal University he produced projects and models for sculptures in public places . This term in the winter of 2021-2022 he also worked on ceramics and researches in painting with painter Julie Trudel, professor at the UQAM.

Rajib has shown successful exhibitions in Montreuil and in the Beaux Arts, with good press coverage.

Besides his artistic activities, Rajib has community activities in Montreuil : he volunteered to bring daily meals to refugees and homeless people who were confined in a hotel and organize a drawing studio for them.

### Art critic on Shak-Monteagle's work

Rajib Shak's work is characterized by the depth of time, well hidden under the paintings surface ; the time of migrations which changed the world ; the time of juxtaposition of cultures, the time of the far away past he has discovered and consequently created when manipulating VIIth century bones in the Orne. He who knows that under the ground one finds swimming fishes you have to put back in the river .

Rajib 's vision of the world is that of a continuous movement, towards destruction, as the destroying of Mona Lisa, unavoidable , but

the destruction will leave marks of beauty, as beautiful as those of the old world. An optimistic vision.

## SHE IS LEAVING

Mona Lisa Gerardini, the Gioconda. We think of her as a quiet, ever smiling image of harmony. But she might actually be anxious. Historians tell us she expected a baby, which represented a risk in the XVIth century.

And our time, our world, what would she have thought about it ? Her painter, Leonardo de Vinci, was fascinated by nature. He was preoccupied with typhoons, big storms, floods.

Every day Mona Lisa sees huge crowds of tourists with their selfies. But today she has had enough of them. She washes her hands of this world, she leaves.

## SHE LEAVES by Rajib Shak

Rajib :« I came to France to see her, she was all the beauty of the world, and all the intelligence of the world. In Bangladesh a teacher had told me about her. She opened every gate. »

Mona Lisa hears the crowd, wipes her hands, and tells the sonnet 65 by Shakespeare

« Since brass not stone nor earth nor boundless sea

But sad mortality o'er sways their power,

How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea

Whose action is not stronger than a flower ? »

She stands up. Noise of a storm. She watches » the hurricane », a drawing by Leonardo, and says in italian sentences from Leonardo's « On the cruelty of men »

« To kill, to starve, to go at war, to push for fury, this will feed their desire. Nothing will remain, on earth and under the water, unruined, unprosecuted and unrotten. »

Rajib then says extract from Shakespeare's the Tempest

« The solemn temples, the great globe itself

/yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve...

/We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep. »

He adds : « A cosmologist said that in a hundred million years there will remain nothing of all our artifacts, cathedrals or nuclear plants, but I think the spirit of Mona Lisa will still be present. »

***Rajib SHAK-MONTEAGLOE***

***4<sup>e</sup> Année Beaux-arts de paris***

***Atelier Nathalie Talec***

**[Shakrajib27@yahoo.com](mailto:Shakrajib27@yahoo.com)**

**[Rajib.shak@beauxartsparis.fr](mailto:Rajib.shak@beauxartsparis.fr)**

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