

Fès, Tuesday 10th January 2017

Dear friends,

We hope the exhibition is going well, and that you're happy.
It was lovely to spend this last week in Fès.
We've never been to Morocco, actually we've never been to Africa.
This week was our first time.

I don't remember the first time I cried, I was too young.
I remember the first time I had sex.
I remember the first time I received money for my work.
I remember my algebra, and when my parents taught me what it means to be a man.
We don't remember the first time someone said to us "now you will have to deal with an economic crisis".
We spent six days here.
All the images and sounds have been recorded during the five first days.
On the sixth we edited them.

When we arrived, Omar told us "people who are living in Fès are not originally from here. The historic families left this city, to go to Casablanca, or Rabbat. And people from the countryside came to the medina. The people you see inside the medina, are living inside these walls, but they don't understand them, they're not interested in preserving them. They are not dealing with it."
I love this expression: "to deal with".
I think that the best way to communicate is through food.
I had some of the most interesting discussions of my life around a meal.
Everyone understands food. And everyone has a special way of dealing with food.
One day, during a beautiful dinner in a riad, Omar said "religion without culture is extremism and culture without art is dogma".
Some days after Ali said that actually for him the food in that riad was not the best.

It's funny, everyone here is always saying "bienvenu": in the streets, in the restaurants, in the shops.
"I want to welcome people but, at the same time, I want to keep the privilege of being the first here in Europe." I remember the first time I heard this.
Maybe we can have dinner together at my place in Brussels to talk about it. I just bought a charming 19th century master's house. And I'm a really good cook. I love to create new dishes.
Today is Tuesday, the 10th of January. We are leaving in a couple of hours.
Tomorrow people here will commemorate Morocco's proclamation of independence. "As a country where the historical heritage is rich enough, and the degree of civilisation is high enough to be considered an honourable and independent country." (9th article of the Manifesto)

Have a good celebration.
Sorry we left the party early.

Gabriel Da Costa and Luca Carboni