

00:20

In the souk, we can learn all about people living in the countryside. Some people come to do their little business, some to sell their cattle... People come for a lot of things ... There are those who marry their daughter .. there are some who come just to walk around, because they like the souk's atmosphere and have no family, they have nobody... So, they simply come to spend their whole day, and then, they leave ... Those people have a great day when they come to the souk. They drink tea, meet people and all that ...

1:40

Belaid Belhaoui was born in Casablanca in 1948. At the age of 20, he left Morocco to learn Fine Arts in Paris. 30 years later, he returned to his homeland and settled in Essaouira ...

1:59

My heart's road. The road to my heart.(La route qui emmène a mon coeur...)

3:25

I chose scenes when I feel them in touch with myself. Whenever I see a character who is dressed the way I want, who makes one gesture that I enjoy...If a scene makes me feel like that, I want to seize it immediately, as soon as possible, because it must not change, that right time is like a flash...That particular scene I love, I must have now and straight away on paper.

4:18

I owe everything to my mother if I am a draughtsperson today. One day .. I can not remember anymore how old I was.. I know I was very young, maybe six or six and a half. So, I copied a drawing that I had and liked a lot, I cannot remember indeed if it was a cow or a mare.. When, I showed my copied drawing to my mother, she kissed it, and she said, "oh that is nice!". Then, she put a bit of saliva on it and stuck it to the wall. And I stayed surprised like that, I did enjoy it, and after that, I never stopped drawing.

5:22

One day, I was in front of a Fine Arts school... I was young, around eight or nine years old.. And then, there was this low wall of the school, which was probably 1 meter high. I could barely cling to the wall and watch the painters on the other side, in a garden, wearing white coats with colorful stains, putting their easels inside. All that made me want to go to the other side of the wall and stay with them. So, progressively I kept the idea of becoming a painter, an artist ..

6:41

After obtaining my studies certificate, I started high school and went to live in France. In my head, I was going to study visual arts and have lessons of drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, .. I was fascinated by that path...

7:28

From the beginning, when I went to France, I had the idea of returning to Morocco. I used to be very happy about coming back and draw what I could feel about my native country. When I was in Paris, I missed Morocco's typical scenes, those images were very rooted in me. It is true that I missed that, but as I used to go every year to Morocco and would fill my mind up with all those images.

10:02

These are typical scenes, with fraternal gestures, we can feel from them no nastiness or aggressivity, but brotherhood and mutual love. I feel close to them. I do not know if the word "close" means like if I was both away and close to them, as if I was not from the same country, no .. but in fact, I feel like I live with them what they say amongst themselves.

10:56

At that particular time, I want to seize it and see it on my sketchbook. I feel immediately happy and joyful as if something really comes out of me. That is what I call satisfaction.

12:17

All day, every moment, I feed myself with these actions there, their way of doing things, their way of living, and I'm afraid that one day they could disappear. Well, that's why I invest a lot of time and work hard to keep this tradition, these gestures, these ways of living, because they may disappear more and more...

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