

## Moufida Fedhila, *In You We Trust*, Berlin 2012

By Aurélie Machghoul

Moufida Fedhila's career as an artist is characterized by her interdisciplinary work. Her works reflect a clear-sighted analysis of the society in which we function, and are based – among other things – on philosophy, sociology, history and politics. The main principles of her art are intense investigation and subsequent alienation of symbols and their use, along with a grasp of reality by means of its limitations, later expressed in a sculptural language that aims to make the viewer curious and reveal to him the complexity of reality.

With *In You We Trust*, Moufida Fedhila takes up the tricky question of identity, which is materialized, in the Tunisian flag. Since the revolution on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011, when it could be seen everywhere in the streets as a sign of protest against those in power, the flag has been omnipresent, having advanced to a fetish of collective memory. It concretizes the hopes and problems of a nation needing reconstruction.

Without its typical features – the half moon and the star, symbols of Islam –, which are lying on the ground, the flag represents an encounter with the nation's potentials: a nation that needs to reinvent itself, rediscovering itself with some astonishment. This nation is searching for itself between the illusory myth of a monolithic, Arab-Muslim people, the utopia of pluralist identity and a lack of knowledge about its own history: its supposed unity is being undermined.

Is this the metaphorical self-destruction of the nation, as we might suppose from the sign « Material of self-destruction, do not open »? Moufida Fedhila employs her art to raise questions about the development of each individual's identity, but also about the identity of a people. Already, she shows us the blurred, dangerous limitations of this concept in advance.