

a voyage
of memories
across landscapes
of Algeria
in the 1960s



Abdeslam Khelil - Moi, fils du sable ... I, son of the sand ... Photographs

Abdeslam Khelil, a lover of the desert, is the author of known black and white portraits and landscapes of the Algerian Sahara of the 1960s, who paved the way for Algerian photographic art.

He is an Algerian photographer with roots in Sahara, born in 1942 in the Saharan town of Ouargla in the south of Algeria. A philosopher at heart, he is a self-proclaimed desert traveller, proud of his origins. Most of his photographs have been taken in the vast Sahara. He spent many years traversing Algeria, especially the South – Tassili, Djanet – to the borders of Mali, Mauritania and Libya. In Abdeslam Khelil's words: "In Sahara, people don't have to prove anything, they know who they are."

In the year of 1962, Khelil opened his famous art photographic gallery in the heart of Algiers, where he exhibited and worked. It was an original space into which the photographer brought a part of his native desert, where people loved to go and where countless photographs were produced, including my father's.