

Press Release, October 17, 2024

Outspoken. Voices beyond the Archive

October 26, 2024 to March 23, 2025

GfZK Villa

Press preview: Friday, October 25, 12 noon

Opening: Friday, October 25, 7 pm

Aykan Safoğlu, Chupan Atashi, Hamza Halloubi, İz Öztat & Zişan & BAÇOY KOOP,

Larissa Araz, Maarit Bau Mustonen

Curated by Naz Kocadere Ulu

The exhibition is an attempt to challenge, rewrite and ultimately to outwit the hegemonic canon. It focuses on individuals, animals, objects and historical figures that find a way to assert their presence, despite being deliberately excluded from the (universal) archives. Perhaps the way to outsmart such an unjust setting of single-sided narratives is to object to the usual road taken. Instead, we could opt for a path that guides us through the background, hinterlands and streets that have been neglected. The framework issues an invitation to leave the confines of the dusty old library with its dark ghosts (authoritarian regimes, the Orientalist gaze and other structures of control, including those imposed by the State and the archives). It urges us to reclaim the right to re-inscribe everything that has been left out. The artists gathered here provide a glimpse into various methods that reveal the fragmented narratives of appropriation, manipulation and masking. The group exhibition features photographs, sculptures, installations and videos by artists from different regions of the world.

The curator of the exhibition, Naz Kocadere Ulu, is the 2024 curatorial fellow of the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony. This international scholarship program promotes outstanding artistic projects and cultural exchange in Saxony. The aim of the scholarship is to promote international cultural exchange and explore transcultural phenomena.

The exhibition is realized with the kind support of the Dr. Klaus Schaffner Prize and the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony. It is partly financed through public funds on the basis of the budget approved by the Landtag of the Free State of Saxony. SAHA provided support for Aykan Safoğlu, İz Öztat and Larissa Araz. Maarit Bau Mustonen's presentation is supported by Frame Contemporary Art Finland.

Naz Kocadere Ulu (b. Izmir, TR) lives in Istanbul, TR. After receiving her MA in cultural management she attended the Curatorial Program at de Appel Amsterdam and realized projects in Türkiye and the Netherlands. In her recent research, she has been exploring the notions of cultural belonging and language via international encounters.

Aykan Safoğlu (b. Istanbul, TR) is a visual artist based in Vienna, AT. He stages interdisciplinary narrations where he engages with subjects such as migration, familial lineage, and historical time. His hybrid artistic forms fragment, document, reproduce and reorient ontological questions in film, photography, and performance.

Chupan Atashi (b. Tehran, IR) is a visual artist based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Washington, DC, the USA. Their practice encompasses sculpture, drawing, animation, photography, writing, sound, performance, and installation.

Hamza Halloubi (b. Tangier, MA) is a multi-disciplinary artist with a focus on video and painting. He currently lives and works in Brussels (BE), Tangier (MA), and Amsterdam (NL).

Iz Öztat (b. Istanbul, TR) is a visual artist based in Istanbul and Berlin, DE. In her collective and individual artistic practice spanning diverse media defined by her research, she explores the persistence of violent histories through forms, materials, space and language.

Larissa Araz is a visual artist based in Istanbul. In her practice, she focuses on alternative histories, non-human witnesses, and the construction of dominant ideologies through institutional knowledge production.

Maarit Bau Mustonen (b. Vantaa, FI) is a visual artist based in Helsinki, Finland. She works in various media: text, image, installation, publication, sound and performance.

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