

# Knots of Time

25.4.–23.8.26

With works by: Kemil Bekteši, Rina Krasniqi, Denys Shantar

Curated by: Simon Kurti

Graphic design: Fritzi Bosch

GfZK Altbau

Press preview: Friday, 24. April, 11 am

Opening: Friday, 24 April, 7 pm

The exhibition *Knots of Time* brings together works by three artists from Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ukraine/Switzerland. They turn their attention to the cultural influences that have shaped them—the belief systems into which they were born, the cities in which they grew up, and the professions of their parents. The artists weave moments from the past into new, imaginative narratives that revolve around topics such as queer identity or family relationships. In doing so, they work artistically with a wide range of materials and media such as textiles and installation.

The exhibition is curated by Simon Kurti. He is a curatorial fellow at the GfZK – Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig and the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony (KdFS). Since 2001, the Cultural Foundation has awarded an annual twelve-month fellowship at the GfZK in Leipzig to young international curators. Foundation Director Prof. Manuel Frey gives a positive assessment: “Over the past 25 years, 21 fellows have taken part in shaping the museum’s program, organised their own exhibitions, and contributed their ideas. With input from 19 countries, a vibrant international network has emerged.” The aim of the fellowship was to promote international cultural exchange and to explore transcultural phenomena.

## Artists of the exhibition:

Kemil Bekteši is a Kosovar artist. Drawing on his personal history, defined by borders and migration, he explores themes such as identity, geopolitics and cultural memory. His artistic practice includes installations, sculptures and public interventions. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Sarajevo (BA) and the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Porto (PT). Bekteši has received several awards, including the 2024 ZVONO Art Prize for young visual artists in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He lives and works in Sarajevo.

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Rina Krasniqi is a Kosovar artist and writer. Her drawings have been published in books, magazines, exhibitions, and festivals. She currently runs the Lirindja publishing house, and is artistic editor of the magazine *meDiell*. Her first solo exhibition, *Drawings*, was shown in 2023 at the Ministry of Culture Gallery in Prishtina, Kosovo. She has participated in several group exhibitions, including *Only the Rain Saved Us* (YIHR Kosova, 2023), *Why Haven't We Built a Dyson Sphere* (2022), and *Artists of Grandfest – Graphic Novel Festival* (2025). She lives and works in Prishtina.

Denys Shantar draws on his experiences as a queer Ukrainian immigrant who grew up in an Eastern Orthodox community in Zurich. He works with textile collages and embroidery, using recycled materials to create personal narratives. In these works, he references Byzantine and Catholic iconography as well as monumental works from the Soviet era. Shantar studied at the Zurich University of the Arts (CH) and completed a Master's degree in costume design at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp (BE). He has exhibited at venues including Z33 in Hasselt (BE), Zilberman (DE) and the Helmhaus in Zurich (CH). He lives and works in Antwerp.

Simon Kurti comes from Prishtina in the Republic of Kosovo and explores themes such as belonging, reconciliation, and queer love. He has worked in curatorial and editorial roles across various contexts, as well as in communications for Manifesta 14 in Prishtina and the Kosovo Pavilion at the 18th Architecture Biennale in Venice. He is co-founder of the Diskogrupi collective for new musical and artistic forms of expression.

As part of the curatorial fellowship programme, the following fellows were have realised projects at the GfZK:

2002–2003: Ilina Koralova

2003–2004: Lena Prents

2004–2006: Oana Tanase

2006–2007: Andreja Hribernik

2007–2008: Edina Nagy

2008–2009: Joanna Sokolowska

2009–2010: Nini Palavandishvili

2010–2011: Radmila Krstajic (geb. Joksimović)

2011–2012: Airi Triisberg

2012–2013: Olga Vostretsova

2013–2014: Lenka Kukurová

2014–2015: Zlata Borůvková

2016–2017: Kateryna Mishchenko

2017–2018: Mengting Ying

2018–2019: Yi Gao

2019–2020: Hai Nam Nguyen

2020–2021: Tuan Do Duc

2021–2022: Hyejin Park

2023–2024: Eleni Michaelidi

2024–2025: Naz Kocadere Ulu

You can find a selection of images online at:  
[www.gfzk.de/presse](http://www.gfzk.de/presse)

We are happy to arrange interviews and tours of the exhibition:  
[presse@gfzk.de](mailto:presse@gfzk.de)

### Opening hours and art mediation

Tue–Fri: 2–7 pm  
Sat–Sun, public holidays: 12 am–6 pm

Single ticket: 7€ / 5€  
Combined ticket: 10€ / 6€  
Free admission on Wednesdays

Art mediation  
Wed, Sat, Sun: 2–6 pm

Our art mediation team guides visitors through the exhibitions, answers questions, and engages in conversation.

The exhibition is realized with the kind support of the Dr. Klaus Schaffner Prize. Funded by the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony. This measure is co-financed with tax revenue on the basis of the budget adopted by the Saxon State Parliament. Supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo.



Kosovo Embassy  
Berlin

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Denys Shantar  
St. Stephan  
2024

Textile collage from found fabrics and objects,  
glue, thread, wooden frame, 76 × 66 cm

Courtesy Zilberman; Chrom

Rina Krasniqi  
Untitled (Drawings)  
2023–ongoing  
Digital print on satin 100 × 100 cm

Foto: Rina Statovci



Kemil Bektesi, My Dad Loves Me...,  
2023

Analoge Fotografie, C-Print, dimensions variable