

PRESS INFORMATION

Hera Büyüktaşçıyan: *Neither on the Ground nor in the Sky* An exhibition at ifa-Galerie Berlin 29 March to 30 June 2019

Opening: 28 March 2019, 19:00 h

Artist talk: 29 March 2019, 16:00 to 17:00 h, with Hera Büyüktaşçıyan and Nat Muller, Curator

ifa-Galerie Berlin
Linienstraße 139/140
10115 Berlin
Germany

Open Tue to Sun
14:00 to 18:00 h



Sculpture *Panta Rhei*, 2019, image ©the artist.

Berlin, 21 March 2019 – Hera Büyüktaşçıyan's solo exhibition *Neither on the Ground, nor in the Sky*, curated by Nat Muller and opening on 28 March 2019 at ifa-Galerie Berlin, is a response to the gallery's one-year programme *Untie to Tie - Movement.Bewegung*.

The exhibition comprises newly commissioned works that poetically explore what migration, cultural heritage, belonging and displacement mean. The project is inspired by a floor mosaic in Berlin's Pergamon Museum known as the *Alexandrine Parakeet Mosaic* (160–150 BC) that was taken from the ancient Palace of Pergamon (now Bergama in Turkey). While the provenance and ownership of antiquities and colonial artefacts is currently debated extensively in academia and museum circles – this forms the political backdrop to the project – Büyüktaşçıyan broadens these notions and takes us on a journey that traverses time and place by touching on universal sensibilities such as loss, identity, and history.

The exhibition title alludes to the neighbourhood adjacent to the Pergamon excavation site, where some of the houses are built on a bridge, thus appearing to be suspended between earth and sky, like a bird perched on a tree. The figure of the Alexandrine parakeet is a motif that resonates

throughout the works. It bears witness to change and the way in which this once powerful and glorious city has now been transformed into a populous urban centre, which still retains traces of its past. In this respect, the bird occupies a time and space that is liminal space, neither on the ground, nor in the sky, neither in the past nor in the present.

Through video, sculptures and mixed media installations Büyüктаşçıyan offers us in *Neither on the Ground, nor in the Sky* a temporality that is non-linear, a place that is liminal, and allows us to travel through history while turning us to our unruly present.

Neither on the Ground, nor in the Sky is part of ifa Gallery Berlin's research and exhibition programme *Untie to Tie* (2017–2020) that reflects on the mental and territorial colonial legacies in contemporary societies and their impact on movement, migration and environment. www.untietotie.org

Hera Büyüктаşçıyan lives and works in Istanbul and Athens. Her practice explores issues of identity, memory, history, time and space. She often draws on metaphors from local myths and on historic and iconographic elements of various geographies to tell the untold. Water is a recurring theme in her oeuvre.

Nat Muller is an independent curator and writer based between Birmingham and Amsterdam. She has written extensively on art from the Middle East. Nat Muller has been appointed curator of the Danish Pavilion for the 58th Venice Biennale. She is an AHRC-funded PhD researcher at Birmingham City University.

Information on the exhibition and requests for interviews with artist and curator:

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About ifa

ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) is Germany's oldest intermediary organisation for international cultural relations, having celebrated its centenary in 2017. It promotes a peaceful and enriching coexistence between people and cultures worldwide. Its programmes pursue five core themes: Cultural Exchange, Dialogue of Civil Societies, Migration & Culture, Culture & Conflict,

and Europe. ifa supports artistic and cultural exchange in exhibition, dialogue and conference programmes, and it acts as a centre of excellence for international cultural relations. It is part of a global network and relies on sustainable, long-term partnerships.

It is supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the state of Baden-Württemberg and its capital Stuttgart. www.ifa.de/en