

Media Art Fellow Aylime Aslı Demir

From December 9 to 12, 2023 and from January 27 to February 3, 2024, the Turkish author, curator and activist Aylime Aslı Demir will be a guest at our institute as a media art fellow as part of the project "Ambiguity and Unpredictability: On Forms of Resistance and the Archiving of Queer Narratives".

Her stay is integrated into the art studies sub-project of the DFG research group "Ambiguity and Distinction. Historical-Cultural Dynamics" under the direction of Prof. Dr. Gabriele Genge and with the collaboration of Eva Liedtjens, which is focusing on queer perspectives and ambiguous concepts of temporality in contemporary art in Turkey in the current funding phase.

Aylime Aslı Demir will use the time of her stay in December 2023 and January 2024 for curatorial research on queer practices of archiving and resistance. In addition to the exchange with the research group "Ambiguity and Distinction", Aylime Aslı Demir will establish contact with local initiatives and institutionalized archives and develop new forms of networking with actors of queer (media) artistic and curatorial projects between the Ruhr area and Ankara.

Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia as a media art fellow.

About our Fellow:

Aylime Aslı Demir is a writer, curator, and activist. Demir studied Public Administration, Political Science and Women's Studies. Since 2010, she has been working on editorial and curatorial projects dealing with the politics and aesthetics of bringing together diverse knowledge and practices in exhibitions and publications. From 2013, she is the Academic and Cultural Studies Programme coordinator and the editor-in-chief of Kaos GL the main Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Association in Turkey. She lectured at Ankara University on Gender and Women's studies and has been the coordinator of Feminist Forum which gathers together prominent feminists and LGBTI+ activists around the world in Ankara. Additionally, Demir is a jury member of Women to Women Story Contest organized since 2006 in order to encourage women writers to write about their lesbian–bisexual stories.

Apart from her editor career, Aylime Aslı Demir has been active in the framework of exhibitions, conferences, and community work. Some of her recent activities include curating the group show "Betwixt and Between" in 2023 at Sanatorium in Istanbul. In 2022 she was a participant at Slavs and Tatars residency that was supported by SAHA. Aylime Aslı Demir curated "Unpredictable Times: Queering Politics in Turkey" at MUCEM in Marseille in 2019. She attended the Young Curators Academy at Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin in 2019. Furthermore "At least three fingers;" still life lessons from a queer feminist activist, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe 2019, Dislocations in Queer Art, Kara Art Studio, Kocaeli, 2019; Read My World Literature Festival, Amsterdam, 2018; Vanishing Mediator, Evliyagil Museum, Ankara, 2018; Colony, Queering the Posthuman, Schwules Museum, Berlin, 2018; Colony, Queering the Posthuman, Abud Efendi Mansion, Istanbul.

Aylime Aslı Demir established international Ankara Queer Art Residency in Ankara in 2019. The program hosts visual artists from Turkey and abroad and provides artists with 8 weeks of both living and working space while supporting and promoting production and research processes. During this time, artists have the opportunity to work with artists, activists, researchers, and curators from Turkey.