



## PRESS RELEASE

### Leyla Yenirce – SO MUCH ENERGY

15 October – 4 December 2022

#### Opening

14 October 2022, 7 pm

Speakers: Katja Schroeder (Artistic Director, Kunsthaus Hamburg),  
Anna Nowak (Curator, Kunsthaus Hamburg)

Performance by Leyla Yenirce, 8 pm

Concert by Preach (One Mother), 9 pm

#### Press preview

14 October 2022, 11 am

Contact: Elena Weickmann | [presse@kunsthauhamburg.de](mailto:presse@kunsthauhamburg.de) | 040/335803

**Leyla Yenirce** is an emerging and already much-awarded Hamburg-based artist (most recently Ars Viva Prize 2023) who is realizing her first solo exhibition at Kunsthaus Hamburg. Her artistic practice across multiple media is concerned with representation of resistance as well as cultural, media and military structures of dominance.

In her expansive installations, the artist examines representations of martyrs on the conceptual level. Particular importance is attached to portrayals of those who died in the fight against the Islamic State, for instance, by elevating the deceased beyond their earthly existence to the status of heroes. Yenirce exposes the fine line between glorifying ideology and resistant emancipation, sensibly interrelating what is often assumed to be opposites: feminism and war, pop culture and genocide, desire, longing and irony. The artist also picks up on the motif of resilience in sound installations, composed of voices mixed with noise and synthesizers, and further expands it in performances where bodies assume hybrid identities. In 2016, she co-founded the music collective One Mother which explores the intersectional level of pop culture.

In her first solo exhibition SO MUCH ENERGY at Kunsthaus Hamburg, Leyla Yenirce interweaves life stories of different women who have resisted grievances in extreme situations and asks: what circumstances drove the persons to their actions and what moved them in their environment?

The video comprised in the multi-part work NACHT. SCHLAF. DIE STERNE. (NIGHT. SLEEP. THE STARS., 2021), relies on an examination of the last days of the Hamburg painter Anita Rée. After asserting herself in a male-dominated art world and enjoying prestige, the independent women with Jewish roots committed suicide on Sylt in 1933 during the rise of fascism. (In 2017, the Hamburg Kunsthalle dedicated a comprehensive exhibition to this fascinating artist.) Violence, destruction and extinction are reflected in the projection of blowing hair, but also in the impelling noise and aggressive dynamics of industrial propellers.

The forceful sound, consisting of tank noises, digital effects, synthesizers and found footage, merges with the voices of British freedom fighter Anna Campbell, who fell fighting the Turkish military in the Kurdish city of Afrin in Rojava in 2018, and the Iraqi-Yezidis human rights activist Lamiya Aji Bashar.



The survivor of the genocide against the Yazidis managed to escape from IS. (In 2016, she was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Human Rights.) The relationship between power and helplessness is investigated from multiple angles in the installation. Through the driving force of movement of the rotating propellers in the space as well as on a visual and acoustic level, the exhibition becomes a physical experience.

Curated by Anna Nowak

**Leyla Yenirce** (\*1992 in Qubîn, Kurdistan) finished her Fine Arts studies at the Hamburg University of Fine Arts in 2022. She has been also awarded for the Ars Viva Prize (2023), Bundespreis für Kunststudierende, Bonn (2021) and Hamburger Musikpreis (2019). Yenirce has been part of Kein Schlußstrich Festival, Kampnagel, Hamburg (2021), Paradise, Kurdish Film Festival, Berlin (2020) and Hi Ventilation, Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg (2019).

---

#### ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

##### **Guided Tours**

Wednesday, 19/10/22, 6 pm

Friday, 25/11/22, 6 pm

Sunday, 4/12/22, 3 pm

##### **Short lecture & artist talk**

Wednesday, 19/10/22, 7 pm

Leyla Yenirce & Anna Nowak with Dastan Jasim

(Doctoral fellow, GIGA – German Institute for Global and Area Studies)

With a prior curator's guided tour, 6 pm

##### **Book Launch**

Thursday, 17/11/22, 6 pm

Reading with the authors Enis Maci & Mazlum Nergiz

Followed by DJ-Set €uro€y€z (One Mother)

##### **Finissage**

Sunday, 4/12/2022, 4 pm

Artist Talk, Leyla Yenirce & Anna Nowak with Dr. Karin Schick

(Head of Collection Modern Art, Hamburger Kunsthalle)

Kindly supported by



Alfried Krupp von Bohlen  
und Halbach-Stiftung

hamburgische

**kulturstiftung**

Kunsthau Hamburg, Klosterwall 15, 20095 Hamburg  
+49 40 3358 03 info@kunsthauhamburg.de  
www.kunsthauhamburg.de