

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Çanakkale Art Walk 2017: Homeland

June 6<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

Exhibition Venues: Kunsthalle Osnabrück, Felix-Nussbaum-Haus /  
Kulturgeschichtliches Museum (Villa Schlicker), Kunstquartier des BBK,  
Gesellschaft für Zeitgenössische Kunst Osnabrück e.V. – Hase 29

Curator: Christian Oxenius, Osnabrück



Halil Altindere: Köfte Airlines, 2016. Courtesy Halil Altindere und Pilot Gallery, Istanbul.

Foto: Halil Altindere

Osnabrück and the Turkish city of Çanakkale have established a partnership in 2004 to foster cooperation and dialogue. This resulted in 2015, through the invitation of the BBK-Osnabrück lead by Jens Raddatz, to the event “Fragments. Çanakkale Art Walk”, displaying a selection of works from the 4<sup>th</sup> Çanakkale Biennale. In the summer of 2016, Kunsthalle Osnabrück, BBK-Osnabrück, and Gesellschaft für Zeitgenössische Kunst Osnabrück – Hase 29, formed a partnership to extend the Turkish-German cooperation in the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Çanakkale Art Walk.

Curator Christian Oxenius, in close contact with the Çanakkale Biennale, was selected to guide this project. However, the planning of the exhibition was disrupted by the political developments of July

2016 in Turkey. Beral Madra, curator of the 5<sup>th</sup> Çanakkale Biennale, also titled "Homeland", stepped down for political reasons two weeks before the planned opening of the exhibition. A decision that led to the cancellation of the whole event, scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> 2016. The organisers of the Çanakkale Biennale and their colleagues and artists in Osnabrück, however, decided to stand by each other and renewed their readiness to stage the second edition of Çanakkale Art Walk regardless of these events.

## **The Concept (Christian Oxenius)**

*"Yesterday, after playing chess, Brecht said: "You know, when Korsch comes, we really ought to work out a new game with him. A game in which the moves do not always stay the same; where the function of a piece changes after it has stood on the same square for a while: it should either become stronger or weaker. As it is the game doesn't develop, it stays the same for too long." (Walter Benjamin, 12 July 1934 in "Conversations with Brecht")*

"Born out of the initiative of the BBK-Osnabrück in 2015, Çanakkale Art Walk 2017 has seen the extraordinary coming together of all major art institutions in the city of Osnabrück with the essential collaboration of Mahal and the municipality of Çanakkale. This exhibition therefore is, in its name and content, the outcome of this dialogue as much as it is respectful of the differences in the cultural and institutional context in which it ultimately takes place. I have sought to address the theme of homeland with the uncertainty the questions raised by Brecht transmit. The process that led me to compose the list of artists borrows this will be to experiment on a previously acknowledged game by including part of the artists invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> Çanakkale Biennial, others who had previously exhibited their works in the context of Çanakkale and others who are entirely new to both Çanakkale and Osnabrück.

I invite the visitors to join us in the walk through the exhibition setting aside these differences, confident that its new identity, much like our own personality when experiencing a change, is enriched by the experience." (Christian Oxenius, April, 4<sup>th</sup> 2017)

**List of Artists:** Halil Altindere, Zehra Arslan, Cana Bilir-Meier, Burçak Bingöl, Hera Buyuktasciyan, Aissa Deebi, Ahmet Elhan, Köken Ergun, Jakob Gautel, Aikaterini Gegisian, Ghazel, Jun'ichiro Ishi, Pravdoliub Ivano, Birgit Johnsen and Hanna Nielsen, JR, Reysi Kamhi, Kalliopi Lemos, Boris Mikhailov, Eleni Mylonas, Felix Nussbaum, Julie Roch-Currier, Soheila Sokhanvari, Panos Tsagaris, Stefanos Tsviopoulos and Viron Erol Vert.

The works will be exhibited in the Kunsthalle Osnabrück, Villa Schlikker, BBK's Kunst-Quartier, Kunstraum Hase29 as well as various other sites in the city. The project is supported among others by Osnabrück's Städtepartnerschaftsbüro, by the Municipality of Çanakkale, and SAHA.

## **Further Information:**

[www.kunsthalle.osnabrueck.de](http://www.kunsthalle.osnabrueck.de)

<http://caw.bbk-osnabrueck.de/>

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