

AB ANBAR



PRESS PACKAGE | MAY 2024

NIL YALTER

THE STORY BEHIND EACH WORD MUST BE TOLD

30.05 - 10.08

Curated by Övül Ö. Durmuşođlu

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30 May - 10 Aug, 2024 | Tuesday - Friday, 11 am - 6 pm | Saturday 12 - 7 pm

It is a fragile world we live in, made of many intricate processes like an ongoing spider web.

No word stands alone to explain this fragility and intricacy. And the responsibility of being human comes from telling the story behind each word, so that there is no mistake in what is meant. For more than half a century, Nil Yalter's work has been dedicated to uncovering the strength, resilience and hope that makes this fragile, intricate core, through stories of people that keep the world running with a deep critique of intersectional injustice. She has woven these stories with elements she borrowed from the ancient oral and visual traditions of Anatolia and codes of modernism she felt close to. *The Story Behind Each Word Must Be Told* focuses on one of the central threads of Yalter's practice coming from the nomadic lives and their resistance in Aşık tradition in Anatolia for centuries: the word and the utterance, its sound and its music. From *Topak Ev* (1973) to *D'Après Stimmung* (1973), *Shaman* (1979), *Exile is A Hard Job - Estranged Doors* (1983) to *Pixelismus (La Chora)* (1993), *Sound of Painting* (2008) and *Lord Byron Meets Shaman Woman* (2009), she deals with the word and its intricate utterance in visual and oral forms.

The Story Behind Each Word Must Be Told is inspired by the LP vinyl record "le chant des troubadours de turquie: Achik Nesimi" that Nil Yalter produced in collaboration with Bernard Dupaigne for Aşık Nesimi Çimen in 1979, who was at that time in exile in Paris. Born in Adana, Turkey, in 1931, Nesimi was the master of cura as one of the leading bards of his generation that connected the centuries old Aşık tradition with contemporary issues and struggles of his time. The exhibition also involves a performative element, a music and word-based gathering tributing Aşık Nesimi and his special friendship with Yalter as part of London Gallery Weekend.

EVENTS

CURATORIAL TOUR [register here](#)

Thursday, 30th May, 2024, 5 - 6 pm

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, 30th May, 2024, 6 - 8 pm

PERFORMANCE [register here & more info](#)

Sunday, 2nd June, 3 - 4.30 pm,

Turkish and Kurdish community centre, 31 - 33

Dalston Lane, E8 3DF

For further information and image requests, please contact info@ab-anbar.com

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nil Yalter (b.1938, Cairo, Egypt), lives and works in Paris. A pioneer in the French feminist art movement of the 1970s, Yalter was educated at Robert College, the prestigious American secondary educational institution in Istanbul. While she was engaged in dance, theatre and painting during this time, she also practised pantomime and travelled by foot to India as a pantomime artist. Yalter has lived in Paris since 1965. She participated in the French counter culture and revolutionary political movement of the late 1960s, immersing herself in the debates around gender, migrant workers from Turkey, and other issues of the time. These social movements and ethnographic science have influenced the artist's videos, performances and installations from the 1970s in the form of an idiosyncratic, pluralistic aesthetics. The influence of abstract traditions, especially that of Russian constructivism can be observed in her paintings and digital works since her early years. Nil Yalter's works reflect a style that blends together all these influences along with autobiographical elements where the personal and the political intertwine.

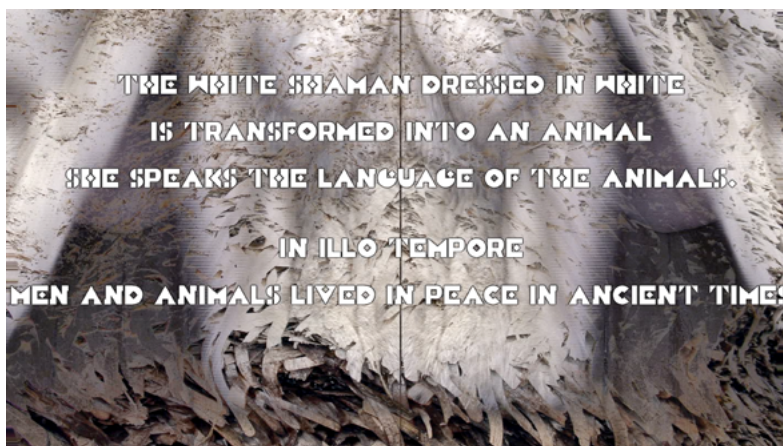
Nil Yalter is the recipient of the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement of the Venice Biennale 2024. Her works are part of institutional collections such as the Tate Modern, the Centre Pompidou, the Ludwig Museum and the Long Beach Museum, among others, as well as private collections such as the Art Collection Telecom, Colección Olor Visual, Reydan Weiss Collection and Fundación Foto Colectania. She has participated in international art fairs such as Art Basel Basel, ARCO Madrid, Art Cologne, FIAC, Frieze Masters, Armory Show, Frieze y Frieze NY, to cite a few, as well as the 10th Gwangju Biennial in 2014, the 15th Sharjah Biennial in 2023, the 13th Istanbul Biennial in 2013 and selected for the 60th Venice Biennale. Among her most recent solo exhibitions stand out examples such the ones at the Museum Ludwig, the MAC-VAL and the Hessel Museum of Art in 2019, the FRAC Lorraine and the ARTER space for art in Istanbul in 2016, and the ones at the Centre Pompidou in 2012 and 2010. Her work has been part of group exhibitions at the MoMa New York in 2023, Palais de Beaux-Arts in Paris in 2018, the WIELS. The Absent Museum in Brussels in 2017, the New Tate Modern in London in 2016, the Centre Georges Pompidou in 2013 and 2009, the Long Beach Museum of Los Angeles in 2011, the PS1 MOMA in 2008 and the CGAC in Santiago de Compostela in 2007, among many others.

CURATOR BIOGRAPHY

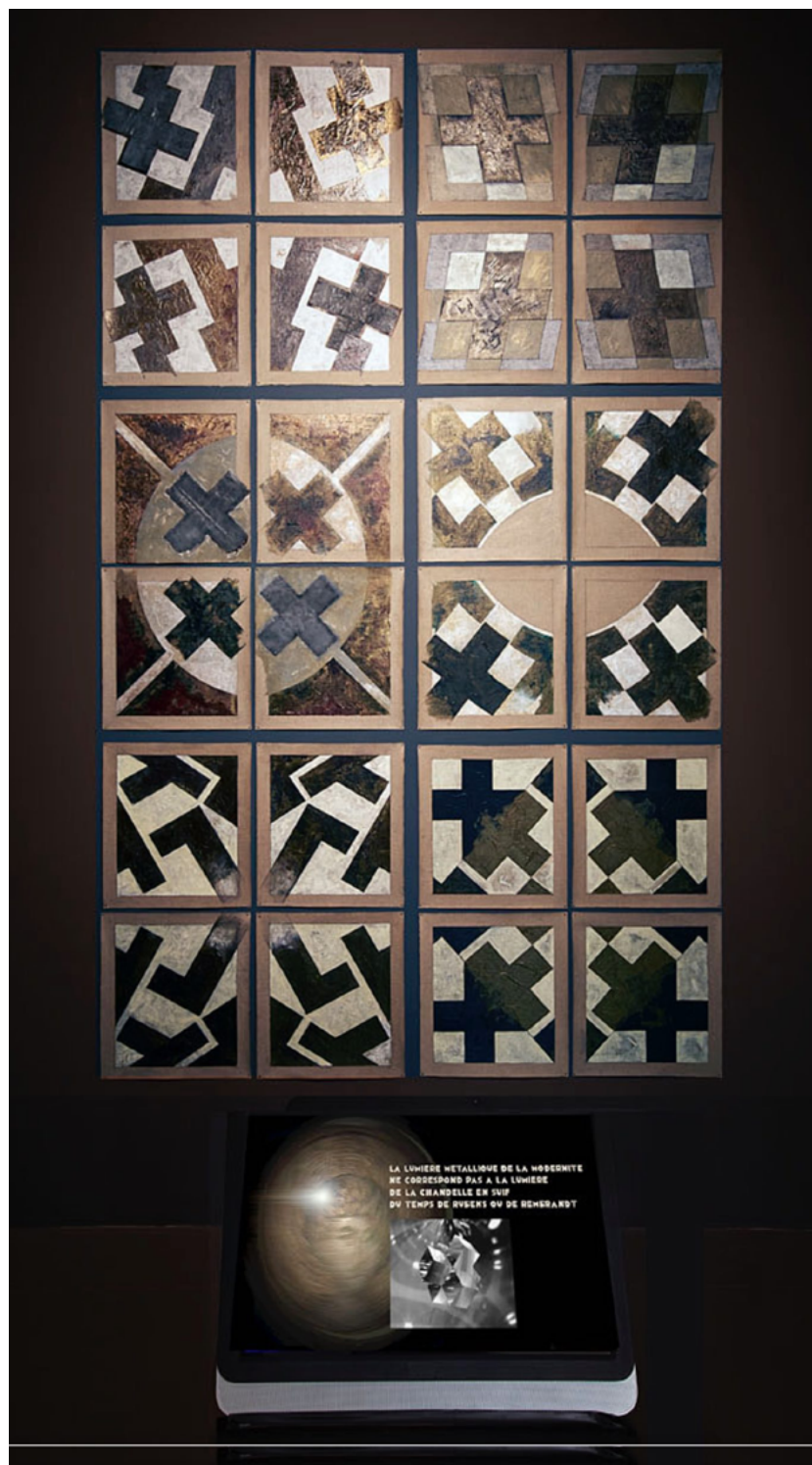
Övül Ö. Durmuşoğlu is a curator, writer, and educator working on constructive critiques of civilization, sustainability of intersectional futures, and practices of togetherness. She co-leads Art in Discourse at Braunschweig University of Art along with Ana Teixeira Pinto. Durmuşoğlu recently curated two major monographic exhibitions: Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz's 'Portrait of a Movement' at CA2M, Madrid, and Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm (2022–23), and Katrina Daschner's 'Burn & Gloom, Glow & Moon: Thousand Years of Troubled Genders' at Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2022), also editing their publications. Between 2021 and 2023 she co-curated the 3rd and the 4th editions of Autostrada Biennale in Kosovo with Joanna Warsza. Earlier, she taught as a guest professor at Universität der Künste Berlin Graduate School; curated programs for the 10th, 13th, and 14th Istanbul Biennials; worked as curatorial advisor for Gülsün Karamustafa's 'Chronographia' in Hamburger Bahnhof in 2016; worked as a curator for steirischer herbst 2018; and coordinated and organized different programs and events at Maybe Education and Public Programs for dOCUMENTA (13). She lives and works in Berlin.



Exile is a Hard Job (Estranged Doors), 1983, Photographs, oil, bronze pigment, pencil, and rubber-stamped ink on cardboard, 150 x 150 cm

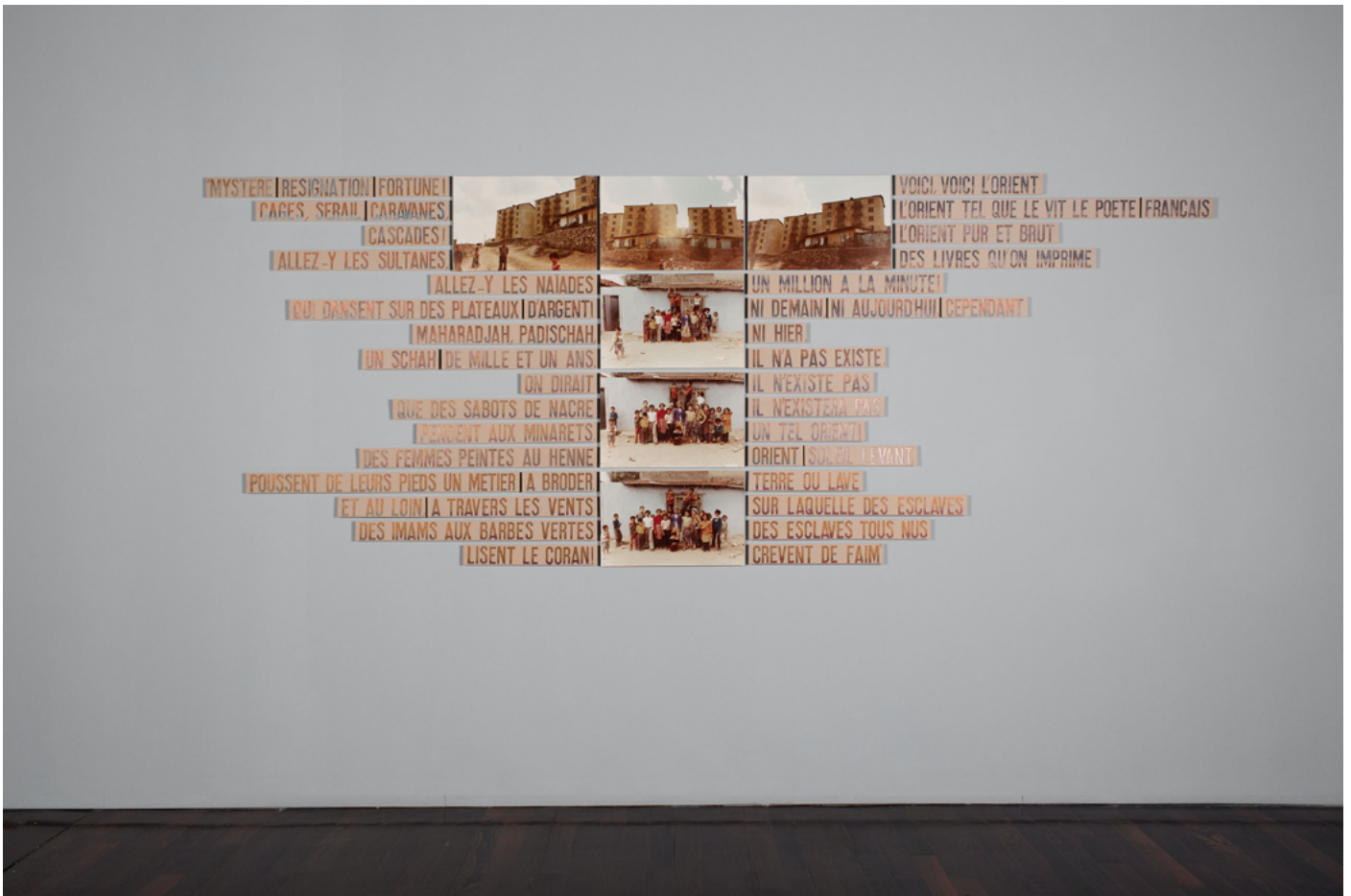


Stills from *Lord Byron Meets the Shaman Woman*, 2009, Video, 15 minutes



La Chora, 1993, Oil, gold paint, and acrylic on canvas, Interactive CD-ROM, sound, each painting 47 x 42 cm

AB ANBAR



Exile is a Hard Job - Orient, 1983, Diasec C Print Installation, 350 x 150 cm



ABOUT AB-ANBAR

Ab-Anbar is a contemporary art gallery that engages with the non-linear intersections of histories of Art and History. Often diasporic, Ab-Anbar represents artists from multiple latitudes and identities, who traverse the aesthetic and political, as well as social and psychological borders.

Ab-Anbar initially opened in 2014 in Tehran, Iran. The gallery is a conceptual representation of its name which means a water reservoir in Farsi. The word is made of two parts: 'ab' meaning water and 'anbar' meaning a reservoir. Thus, Ab-Anbar as a gallery is the architectural expression of a physical space that shapes malleable content, nurturing life and growth. The space, through its solidity and form, brings to sight the fluidity of art.

Since its inception, the gallery has presented exhibitions as well as hosted and collaborated with a variety of cultural tenants, not-for-profits, independent publishers, musicians, and performers, fashioning a year-long programme of wide-reaching cultural engagement.

2020 marked the beginning of Ab-Anbar's program in London, UK. With its new permanent and sole space, open in September 2023 in London's historical Fitzrovia, the gallery intends to expand the dialogue between artists, collectors, museums and curators towards an inclusion and understanding of marginalised realities.