

The *Twister* project explores artistic engagement with political upheavals in the Eastern Mediterranean and takes place at both nGbK locations. It consists of an exhibition and panel discussions at Oranienstraße as well as an installation and workshops at nGbK Hellersdorf, and a catalog. *Twister* explores both political whirlwinds and the absurdity of nationalistic claims to geography and nature. Finally, the project looks at how diasporic communities from different countries can interact and cooperate.

Usually referring to a devastating storm, the term *twister* is applied figuratively here to a recent upswing in nationalist aggression and authoritarian tendencies on and beyond Europe's eastern margins. Protracted disputes over the control of borders, resources, and territories around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea are leading to a resurgence of nationalist discourse and to new alliances in the quest for regional predominance. One side effect of this political regression is the increasingly repressive treatment of domestic critics, leading in turn to an exodus of dissidents to major cities in Western Europe—including Berlin.

One of the themes expressed in the works selected for the exhibition is the arbitrary character of political representations of geography and nature. **Christina Dimitriadis** (\*1967, Thessaloniki/Greece) deals with the connotations of the Aegean Sea in her photographic work. The title of her project *Island Hoping* is a play on words in which a consonant is removed from hopping to become hoping. This title contradicts the common image and narrative of the Aegean as an ideal destination and alludes to the fact that it is a mostly unreachable and deadly destination for migrants trying to reach the European continent. With a similar view of the irrelevance of political borders in the face of a holistic nature, **Ece Gökalp** (\*1988, Istanbul/Turkey) photographic essay *A Mountain As Many* deals with the mythical Mount Ararat. With long-distance shots of the mountain from two adjacent countries (Turkey and Armenia) Gökalp's extensive work maps the cultural differences, commonalities and continuities of the various narrative viewpoints. The official designation of "Ladja", an endemic oak tree of Cyprus, as the national tree of the island sets a starting point for **Eleni Mouzourou**'s (\*1983, Lefkosia/Cyprus) research-based project exploring and problematising the construction of the concept of the "native". *Searching for the "national plant"* questions the ways in which nature is being appropriated by politics of cultural and national identity.

Twisters, in the sense of political whirlwinds and the destruction they leave behind, are another major theme of the show. In **Silvina Der-Meguerditchian**'s (\*1967, Buenos Aires/Argentina) installation, *The Silence of Stones*, long strands of red wool emerging from dark rocks and spilling across the floor of the exhibition space recall the never-ending bloodshed resulting from conflicts based on ethnic and religious hostilities and the destruction of cultural heritage. Last year's tragic war in Nagorno-Karabakh is just one of many examples. The **FUNKE** collective (Selda Asal, Emre Birişmen, Melih Sangöl, Seçil Yersel) concentrates on the "uncontrollability" of the dynamics of current politics.

The ventilator table placed in a fictional control room will refer to the ongoing geopolitical conflicts and present a fragmentary and fluid counter-narrative. **Edona Kryeziu**'s (\*1994, Saarouis/Germany) video work *Greetings from Elsewhere* takes a diasporic approach, addressing physical distance and the ongoing mental and emotional attachment to home. The film features video recordings made and exchanged by the artist's extended family members living in Germany and Kosovo during the trouble-filled years of major political tensions and the war in the 1990s.

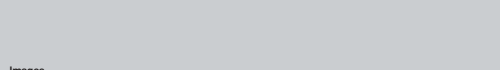
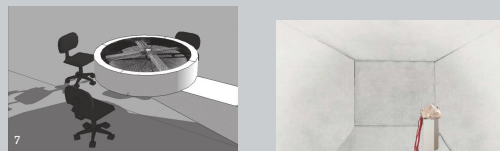
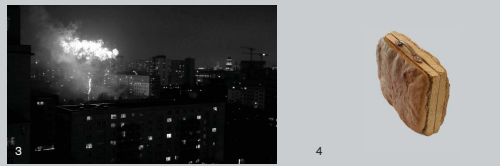
**Mehtap Baydu**'s (\*1972, Bingöl/Turkey) sculptural work *Bread* addresses the economic conditions forcing people to leave their home countries. It's a recurring history of movement stretching from the labor migration to Western European countries with growing economies in the post-war era to the recent waves of, "brain drain", the ongoing flight of human resources from peripheral geographies, as well as the desperate exodus from countries falling apart due to repressive regimes and civil war. **Viron Erol Vert**'s (\*1975, Varel/Germany) wall installation *Ménage à Trois* employs the folding travel mirrors which have been used most typically during long journeys by train or by sea. The three sides of the mirror and the words inscribed on them allude to the psychological split occurring within one's subjectivity while traveling between two distant places, and in most cases moving from one place to another and subsequently continuing to live the in-betweenness as a state of mind.

*Map of Neiter*, the animation film by **Ceren Oykut** (\*1978, Istanbul/Turkey), based on excerpts from her earlier drawing practice, mirrors the ambiguities in the artist's life, as someone from Istanbul's creative classes who ended up living in a foreign county, unsure of being allowed to stay but at the same time who does not identify with any of the official categories or popular definitions that is attached to the people who are displaced. **Mouna Assali**'s (\*1988, Damascus/Syria) film *Mnemonic* traces the physiological, emotional, social and cognitive effects of the ongoing civil conflict in Syria, especially those inflicted on people by the auditory violence of warfare. This also raises the question of how these memories persist in the body, even after one has moved to distant places.

#### An exhibition project at both nGbK locations

The exhibition takes place mainly on Oranienstraße and, on a smaller scale, in Hellersdorf, where two monitors placed on the windows of station urbaner kulturen give glimpses of the exhibition at Oranienstraße. The first video is a composition of images from the exhibited works, while the second video displays excerpts from the contribution of FUNKE collective to the show. Many of the presented works offer poetic and minimalistic comments on nationalistic shortsightedness, displacement and the experience of being in exile, but the problems addressed call for a more in-depth engagement. The latter is provided through the program of accompanying events.

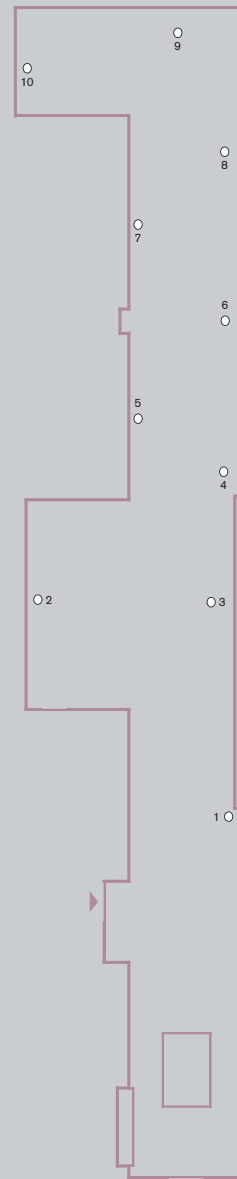
In this way, *Twister* also sees itself as an act of intervention through art: an attempt to highlight controversial issues of our time, and to bring about change.



**Images**  
 1 *Island Hoping* © Christina Dimitriadis  
 2 *A Mountain As Many* © Ece Gökalp  
 3 *Mnemonic* © Mouna Assali  
 4 *Bread* © Unsal İçöz, Mehtap Baydu  
 5 *Map Of Neither* © Ceren Oykut  
 6 *Greetings from Elsewhere* © Edona Kryeziu  
 7 *Control Room* © FUNKE collective  
 8 *Searching for the "national plant"*, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris © Eleni Mouzourou  
 9 *The Silence of Stones* © Silvina Der-Meguerditchian  
 10 *Ménage à Trois* © Viron Erol Vert  
 Cover image © Ece Gökalp

#### Works in the exhibition

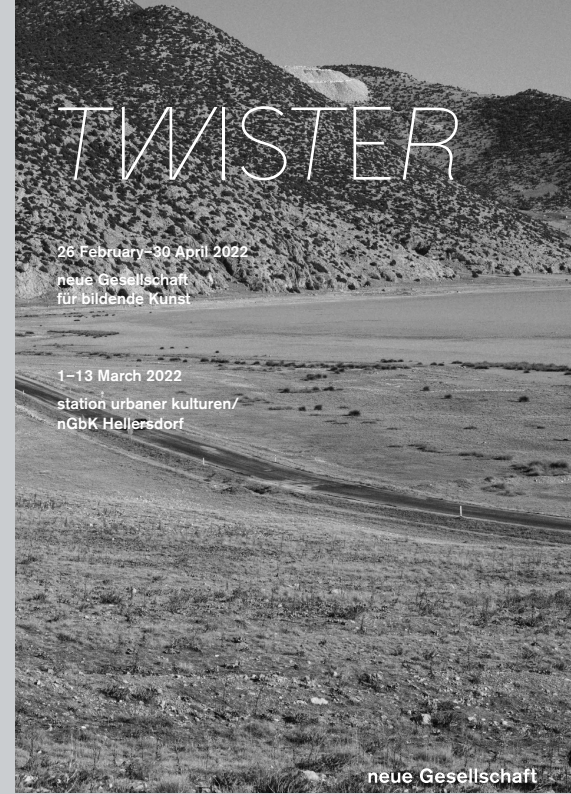
- Silvina Der-Meguerditchian**  
*The Silence of Stones*, 2022
  - FUNKE Kollektiv** (Selda Asal, Emre Birişmen, Melih Sangöl, Seçil Yersel)  
*Control Room*, 2022
  - Christina Dimitriadis**  
*Island Hoping*, 2015–18
  - Mehtap Baydu**  
*Brot*, 2011–15
  - Edona Kryeziu**  
*Greetings from Elsewhere*, 2022
  - Viron Erol Vert**  
*Ménage à Trois*, 2022
  - Ece Gökalp**  
*A Mountain As Many*, 2015–21
  - Eleni Mouzourou**  
*Searching for the „national plant“*, 2022
  - Ceren Oykut**  
*Map Of Neither*, 2022
  - Mouna Assali**  
*Mnemonic*, 2019
- Exhibition Design**  
Berk Asal



Financed by



The exhibition and events are free of charge. The current social distancing rules and hygiene regulations apply. For the latest information on program and access to our space, please visit the website: [www.ngbk.de](http://www.ngbk.de)



26 February – 30 April 2022

neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst

1–13 March 2022  
station urbaner kulturen/  
nGbK Hellersdorf

neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst

**Artists**  
 Mouna Assali  
 Mehtap Baydu  
 Christina Dimitriadis  
 Ece Gökalp  
 Edona Kryeziu  
 Silvina Der-Meguerditchian  
 Eleni Mouzourou  
 Ceren Oykut  
 Viron Erol Vert  
 FUNKE Kollektiv  
 (Selda Asal, Emre Birişmen  
 Melih Sangöl, Seçil Yersel)

**Event Program**  
 A.G.A Trio  
 Marwa Arsanios  
 Tekla Aslanishvili  
 Birgit Auf der Lauer & Caspar Pauli  
 BoB  
 Eliane Esther Bots  
 Aylin Kuryel  
 Pejvak  
 Nadin Reschke & Seçil Yersel  
 Adnan Sotić  
 Florian Wüst  
 Zacharias Zitouni

neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst

Oranienstraße 25  
10999 Berlin

daily  
12:00–18:00

Friday  
12:00–20:00

station urbaner kulturen/  
nGbK Hellersdorf

Auerbacher Ring 41  
12619 Berlin

24/7  
(window installation)

[www.ngbk.de](http://www.ngbk.de)

ngbk

**nGbK project group**  
 Berk Asal, Emre Birişmen,  
 Erden Kosova, Melih Sangöl,  
 Selda Asal

# TWISTER

## Program

**Friday, 25 February 2022, from 14:00**  
nGbK exhibition space

Soft opening of the exhibition & hourly guided tours with the project group (ger/eng)

**Guided Tours**  
nGbK exhibition space

**Saturday, 5 March 2022, 18:00**  
with Selda Asal (eng)

**Saturday, 12 March 2022, 18:00**  
with Erden Kosova (ger)

**Saturday, 19 March 2022, 18:00**  
with Berk Asal (eng)

**Saturday, 26 March 2022, 18:00**  
with Emre Birışmen (eng)

**Saturday, 16 April 2022, 18:00**  
with Erden Kosova (ger)

**Saturday, 23 April 2022, 18:00**  
with Melih Sargöl (eng)

## Film Screenings

Curated by Florian Wüst  
Event space 1st floor + livestream

The two short film programs reflect multiple trajectories that traverse and connect Europe, Turkey, and the South Caucasus—from the history of political violence and forced migration to the future of new global infrastructures vs. local ecological knowledge.

All films in original version with English subtitles.



**Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 19:00**  
"Memories of Displacement"

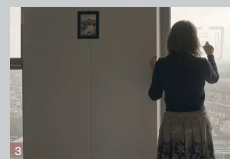
*Schiffe mit Waren und Stoffen aus aller Welt stoßen mit ihren Wellen die Bibby Challenge an*, Adnan Softić, DE 2020, 12'

*In Flow of Words*, Eliane Esther Bots, NL 2021, 22'

*first in first out*, Zacharias Zitouni, DE/DZ 2019, 26'

*A Defense*, Aylin Kuryel, TR/NL 2021, 16'

Followed by a talk with Adnan Softić (eng)



**Tuesday, 22 March 2022, 19:00**  
"Deep Landscape"

*A Passage*, Pejvak, CA/AM 2019, 17'

*Scenes from Trial and Error*, Tekla Aslanishvili, DE/GE 2020, 30'

*Who is afraid of ideology?* Part I, Marwa Arsanios, LB 2017, 18'

Followed by a talk with Tekla Aslanishvili (eng)



**Friday, 1 April 2022, 19:00**  
nGbK exhibition space + livestream  
Concert

A.G.A Trio is made up of Deniz Mahir Kartal, Mikail Yakut, Arsen Petrosyan, who are from Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia respectively. Masterfully playing the three kindred instruments—kaval, duduk and accordion—A.G.A Trio creates a harmony that uncovers the melodic amplitude and the vast array of timbres echoing between the passages that bridge the three neighbors. The virtuosos assemble folk tales, love songs of bards, laments for the fallen, respect for nature, and ultimately, the meeting of people, and their co-existence.

<https://agatrio.com/>

**Wednesday, 13 April 2022, 19:00**  
Event space 1st floor + livestream  
Panel Discussion (eng)

Moderated by Şirin Erensoy & Erden Kosova

The first of the two panels will focus on the structures of solidarity built by artists in exile. The panelists will talk about the practical challenges of exhibiting art and joining local networks in a newly arrived country and share their own experience in establishing collective platforms.

The second panel will host LGBTQI+ artists living in Berlin, who have previously experienced the oppression and censorship of authoritarian regimes targeting non-normative genders and sexualities.

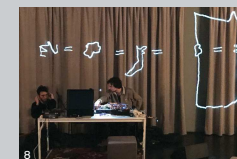
The artists will share with the audience how they use artistic expression to move beyond normative discourses and how creativity can serve as a form of survival providing hope for real and lasting change.



**Saturday, 30 April 2022, 20:00**  
nGbK exhibition space + livestream  
"Black on Black"  
Finissage and performance with Ceren Oyukut & FezayaFırar

"Black on Black" is an audiovisual performance series consisting of live drawing accompanied by live electronic music. The surprising archaic, tameless lines of Ceren Oyukut, which tell stories of urban transformation, language and living beings, are accompanied by FezayaFırar's live synthesised Sci-Fi acoustic waves.

<https://blackonblack.black>



**station urbaner kulturen**  
1–13 March 2022

A considerable number of residents of the Hellersdorf district in Berlin, where station urbaner kulturen is located, have made an experience of migration. Most of them have left their home countries due to political and economic distress in the past and therefore, their experience presents a valuable insight for the thematic framework of the *Twister* exhibition.

Two separate workshops that are created by the artists **Birgit Auf der Lauer & Caspar Pauli** and **Nadine Reschke & Seçil Yersel** will reference the main exhibition with the participation of neighbors of the station urbaner kulturen and the nGbK audience.

## Workshops

**Saturday, 5 March & Sunday, 6 March 2022, 14:00–17:00**  
"Freude—eine Untersuchung"  
["Investigating Joy"] with Birgit Auf der Lauer & Caspar Pauli (ger/eng)

What are our inner resources when going through tough times?

Maybe we lose touch of them but without them we probably wouldn't survive. In this regard joy plays a major role. Over the course of a weekend this workshop invites people to do remembrance work and delve into joyful memories. The participants work with their attention, senses, and body to carefully retrieve and explore different memories of joy and focus on how this feels in the very moment.



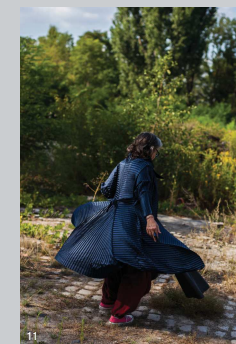
A second part of the workshop revolves around the question of how to make this elusive experience more tangible. With pigment ink and paper, the participants will create color studies which correlate with the different nuances of joy from their memories. The studies will be reproduced, combined, and exchanged to form the pages of a collective book. The fleeting moment of being joyful will become more concrete, instantly retrievable, and touchable.

Registration:  
Limited seats with registration at: [anmeldung@ngbk.de](mailto:anmeldung@ngbk.de)

**Saturday, 12 March & Sunday, 13 March 2022, 13:00–16:00**  
"Come As You Are" with Nadin Reschke & Seçil Yersel (ger/eng)

How does what I wear change what I see and experience? Using fabrics and specially designed clothes and props for the workshop, artists Nadin Reschke and Seçil Yersel invite Hellersdorf women\* to discover their district differently and to stage themselves in its environment.

Registration:  
Limited seats, registration with indication of the name at: [info@nadinreschke.de](mailto:info@nadinreschke.de)



## Images

1 © Emre Birışmen  
2 *Schiffe mit Waren* © Adnan Softić  
3 *In Flow of Words* © Eliane Esther Bots

4 *Who is afraid of ideology?* © Marwa Arsanios  
5 *Scenes from Trial and Error* © Tekla Aslanishvili  
6 © A.G.A Trio

7 © BoB  
8 © BoB  
9 © Seçil Yersel

10 © Birgit Auf der Lauer & Caspar Pauli  
11 © Victoria Tomaschko