

Critical Shifts exhibition @barin han 3.10 — 30.11.2024



BARIN HAN



**UNIVERSITY OF
GREENWICH**

*Centre for Spatial
and Digital Ecologies*



SANATORIUM

VERSUS ART PROJECT

GALERIST



OCD
MUSEUM
WORKS



BARIN HAN

TUE-SAT 10:00-18:00

Binbirdirek, Boyacı Ahmet

Sk. No:4, 34122

Fatih/İstanbul, Türkiye

Critical Shifts

moving

re-placing

mistaking displacing

spacing exhibiting

repositioning

the existent

making

space

for

the

possible

Maria

Korolkova

Margarita

Osepyan

Kate

Umnova

Curators

Everything shifts, everything is being shifted.

Alongside larger geosocial and geopolitical migration of peoples and matter come daily shifts that remain unnoticed, yet often become agents of critical transformations, openness and new beginnings.

By following these smaller movements of matter, form and meaning, the exhibition showcases works of contemporary artists who embrace such shifts — whether through a material, metaphorical or invisible form — as a method of their diverse practices and consider them integral to any knowledge production.

Fish are being caught in Spanish waters; women move silently through a deserted landscape in Uzbekistan; a word from a nineteenth century poem is inserted into a Google Ad and becomes a commodity; a water fountain outside a mosque in Istanbul turns into a drinking point for pigeons... To shift is to remove something from the usual or proper place, and Critical Shifts are interested in the ways this simple action functions in the contemporary paradigm where there is no proper place and no usual. The prefixes de-, dis-, un-, re-, ex- become too familiar in the vocabulary of our common condition, as well as the processes they denote — replacing, mistaking, displacing, extracting, dissolving, dislocating.

The artists in Critical Shifts try to look at these actions not as disturbing or destabilising, but as a productive, positive, and generative force. These shifts are necessary for creating space and possibilities for re-making, re-assembling, re-building and re-emerging into new shapes — first unstable but gradually solid and powerful. Shifting is then considered a condition of being — and by extension — of becoming.

It is essential to recognise such modalities which go beyond the fractures and dislocations into the possibilities of the new — when the shifted and the displaced is celebrated and acknowledged as the (only) new constant.

Artists

^ **Greta**

Alfaro (ES)

^ **Rong**

Bao (CN)

) **Kerem Ozan**

Bayraktar (TR)

^ **Burçak**

Bingöl (TR)

^ **Gülizar**

Çepoğlu (TR/UK)

^ Marjolijn
Dijkman (NL/BE)

) Sinem
Dişli (TR)

^ FRAUD
(CA/ES/UK/BE)

^ Jim
Hobbs (UK)

^ Merve
İşeri (TR/UK)

^ Saodat
Ismailova (UZ/FR)

^ Ege
Kanar (TR)

) Jiabao
Li (CN/US)

^ Marie-Luce
Nadal (FR)

) Yağız
Özgen (TR)

) Julien
Prévieux (FR)

^ Sümer
Sayin (TR/DE)

^ Pip
Thornton (UK)

^ Dimitri
Venkov (RU)

^ Emma

Waltraud

Howes (CA/DE)

) Cansu

Yıldırım (TR)

Public Program

- **30.11 } 14:00**
ARTIST TALK
GÜLİZAR ÇEPOĞLU
WITH MARGARITA OSEPYAN

We are pleased to invite you to a talk on Gülizar Çepoğlu's installation "Life is Like a Tooth," created in homage to the French polymath Boris Vian.

In conversation with curator Margarita Osepyan, the artist will explore her practices and research in letterpress, post-digital printing, and 2D and 3D writing spaces. She will also discuss how new technologies can challenge old technologies and traditional ways of thinking. In doing so, together, they inspire critical shifts in how we construct meaning, communicate, and reshape our reading and writing systems.

- **3.10 } 18:00 — 22:00**
OPENING
< CRITICAL SHIFTS >

-
- **3.10 } 19:00 — 20:00**
PERFORMANCE
< THE WORD EXCHANGE >
PIP THORNTON

How much does poetry cost? Is quality measured on literary value of language, or its exchange value in the digital economy, where words have become commodities - bought and sold as data rather than poetry? The Word Exchange is a performative intervention that shows you exactly how much value Google can extract from your favourite poem, in real time. Bring along a poem, and you'll walk away with a receipt for its "value".

- **4.10 } 18:30 — 20:30**
ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION
< TRIPLE BILL >
PIP THORNTON, JIM HOBBS, KEREM OZAN BAYRAKTAR
-

4.10 } 18:30
"What Are Words Worth
In a Digital Age?"
Pip Thornton with Kate Umnova

In an age of digital technology, language has become far more than a means of human communication, creativity or expression. Artist and researcher Pip Thornton (UK) introduces her artistic critique of the cultural and political implications of the monetisation of language by big tech companies.

4.10 } 19:30
"On Crises, Control and (In-)stability"
Jim Hobbs and Kerem Ozan Bayraktar with Maria Korolkova

Artists Jim Hobbs (UK) and Kerem Ozan Bayraktar (TR) reflect on common themes of their Critical Shifts works, discovering shifting grounds in the way they navigate and control the times of crises and instability through art.

- **15.10 } 18:00 — 19:30**
GUIDED TOUR
< WALK, SIP AND SOUND >
BENGÜ GÜN, MARGARITA OSEPYAN
-

- **18.10 } 17:30 — 20:30**
PERFORMANCE
< SCORES FOR DAILY LIVING >
EMMA WALTRUD HOWES
-

Live performance by Canadian artist Emma Waltraud Howes inspired by the floor plan of the Kunstverein am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz building in Berlin and translated into

moves and scores in relation to space and people. We will have our take at Barin Han now.

- **23.11 } 14:00**
ARTIST TALK
< APPROACHING A SITE OF EXTRACTION >
EGE KANAR
& RANA ÖZTÜRK
(ACADEMIC / CURATOR / WRITER)
-

We are pleased to invite you to a talk on Ege Kanar's installation, *Approaching a Site of Extraction*, conceived for the group exhibition "Critical Shifts." The discussion will explore topics such as archives, acts of extraction, and the nature of new image production techniques.

- **23.11 } 16:30**
TALK
< BORDERS, BAD BORDERS:
TRANSGRESSIVE STRATEGIES IN POLITICAL ART,
LITERATURE AND CINEMA >
AHMET ERGENÇ
& SÜREYYA EVREN
-

In this talk, we will discuss migration, exile, borders and identities, especially through literature and cinema. Today, these concepts have almost become part of everyday vocabulary: those who migrate, those who cross borders, those who cannot cross borders, those who cannot find shelter in their own countries are creating a new 'critical shift'. The world, we think, is once again in a state of 'mobility' as never before. But not for everyone.

In this talk, we will look at this state of 'mobility' in reverse, through individuals and communities who are prevented from moving both literally and metaphorically. Today, while the discourse of 'globalisation' is spreading, the jargon of 'global openness' is being used and 'borders' are implied to be a thing of the past, some regions are deprived of movement and borders are rising like walls. Since one of the regions where borders are like walls and 'lack of movement' is felt the most is Palestine (both historically and today), this talk will focus on Palestine (among other countries), Palestinian literature and cinema.

We will examine these borders, these bad borders, through the texts and films produced

by Palestinian writers and filmmakers, and we will also look at the strategies of political art: How does political art move between the good position and the bad position? What awaits political art that crosses the border of evil? What are the relations between transgression and the strategies of political art in dealing with its object?

Press