

GRIMM

WELT

KASSEL

PRESS RELEASE | Kassel, 04 November 2021

## Opening of the Turkish artist Necla Rüzgar's exhibition: »My Name Was Written On Every Page«

**GRIMMWELT Kassel is opening its new special exhibition on 4 November 2021: for the first time, over one hundred drawings and watercolours by the Turkish artist Necla Rüzgar (born 1972) will be showcased in a solo exhibition in Germany.**

Most of the works in the exhibition belong to the series called »My Name Was Written On Every Page«, which the artist began during the first lockdown of the pandemic in the spring of 2020 – as a reaction to the events. *»I guess I adapted myself to the isolation worldwide by reducing and paring back my own world more and more. I started to scale down my figures, my techniques and my materials according to my living space,«* explains Necla Rüzgar, describing her existential experience and its transformation into her art.

Necla Rüzgar's works often deal with socially critical themes. She sees herself as an artist who addresses the problems of being a woman, but also those of being human, and sheds light on them in a cross-cultural way. In her works, Necla Rüzgar often uses her own portrait as a kind of alter ego for the feminine. Just like the deer, stags, birds and other animals in the paintings, the feminine becomes potential prey. The fascination with the discrepancy between beauty and violence, which are only superficially far apart, is reflected in many of Necla Rüzgar's works. The artist says, *»The creatures chosen as prey are generally regarded sacred and envied for their beauty. Strangely, beauty and fertility evoke the sacred, which in turn leads to violence and tragedy.«*

At the same time, her paintings convey a profound narrative based on ancient tales. Inspiration comes from an inner canon of images developed by the artist since her earliest childhood from stories told by her grandfather. The central motif in Necla Rüzgar's visual work always comes back to the symbolic transformation or fusion of a human being into an animal or hybrid being – a theme that has guided her for around twenty years. The real and the fantastic converge, allowing the audience to lose themselves in their own fantasy worlds. Neuland Magazine describes Necla Rüzgar's work as follows: *»Her artistic work is based on finely painted watercolours, and she has recently started making sculptures. The sceneries quite cold-bloodedly present the social and political tribulations of everyday life, but confront them with another, delicate and magical reality.«* This ambivalence of beauty and danger is what makes the Turkish artist's works so complex.

The State Secretary in the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art, Ms Ayse Asar in her welcoming address to the exhibition:

*»I am very pleased that Necla Rüzgar's first solo exhibition in Germany is taking place at Grimmwelt in Kassel. Just as the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm have more than one dimension, Necla Rüzgar's often magical works also offer several dimensions and deal with current social problems such as the oppression of women. I was also touched by the fact that many of the exhibited works were created during the first lockdown of the pandemic, a time that threatened the existence of many artists. We in the Ministry of Science and the Arts also experienced the worries and hardships very clearly and reacted to them with two cultural packages to support creative artists in this difficult time. Because where bright and creative minds can flourish, they contribute to making our society fit for the future.«*

**Exhibition period:**

04 | 11 | 2021 – 24 | 04 | 2022

**Opening hours:**

Tue – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Fri 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. | Mon closed

**Address:**

GRIMMWELT Kassel gGmbH  
Weinbergstraße 21  
34117 Kassel  
[www.grimmwelt.de](http://www.grimmwelt.de)

**Admission prices:**

Adults: € 10, concessions: € 7 | Families: € 25  
Group minimum 8 people: € 7, minimum 40 people: € 6  
Children under 6: admission free

**Admission prices for special exhibition only:**

Adults: € 5, concessions: € 3 | Families: € 12  
Group minimum 8 people: € 3, minimum 40 people: € 3

**Press releases:**

<https://www.grimmwelt.de/site/presse/>

## **Curriculum vitae**

**Necla Rüzgar** was born in Tunceli, Turkey, in 1972 and now lives and works in Ankara. Since 2013, she has worked as a professor at the painting department of the Faculty of Arts at Hacettepe University in Ankara, where she also studied. Her works have already been featured in international exhibitions, including in Alexandria, Basel, Berlin, Bucharest, Freiburg, Seoul, Thessaloniki and Zurich. The artist is represented by Galeri Nev.

## Contributors

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**We would also like to thank all contributors, including:**

Matthias Heß, Ulrich Duttenhofer, Matthias Marth, Florian Müller, Heiko Wiktor

## Accompanying publication

**Necla Rüzgar - My Name Was Written On Every Page**

Peter Stohler and Christina Soose (eds.), GRIMMWELT Kassel

modo Verlag GmbH, 2021

With essays by Kevser Güler, Christina Soose, Peter Stohler, and an interview with Necla Rüzgar by Peter Stohler

The accompanying publication comprises a cross-section of highly expressive works consisting of paintings and drawings in which Rüzgar turns time and again to myths and legends to address the cultural and social conditions of being a woman in a misogynistic environment.

176 pages, 105 illustrations,

German | Turkish | English,

24 x 29 cm, hard cover, thread-stitching.

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und Kunst

**GRIMMWELT:**

In GRIMMWELT Kassel, the Brothers Grimm are brought to life in the here and now: through art, media and interaction, this newly created world of adventure conveys the Brothers' fascinating life and work. Valuable originals, artistic installations along with interactive and multimedia features all draw visitors in to explore the permanent exhibition. International in its approach, the museum presents the cultural heritage of »fairy tales« and »language« in a way that appeals to children and adults, art lovers and fairy tale lovers alike.

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