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# Cemile Sahin /

## Gewehr im Schrank – Rifle in the Closet

**April 28th, 2023 to July 23th, 2023**  
**Opening / Thursday, April 27th 2023, 6 pm**

Cemile Sahin's artistic practice moves between film, photography, installation and literature. Thematically, the artist and author deals with unnoticed narratives about wars, militarization, surveillance and control. Stories and histories from the past and the present often merge in her works in ways that shed new light on contemporary relations between warfare and life. Sahin's multimedia installations are rooted in a conceptual working practice. By combining image and text material from different sources, including literary quotations, online videos and 3D animations, her works embody the simultaneity of image- and text-based communication. Her works intentionally create a dizzying rhythm: they sweep the viewer along, towards unexpected and sometimes uncomfortable insights into historiography and warfare.

For the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, Cemile Sahin is developing a spatial installation entitled **Gewehr im Schrank – Rifle in the Closet**, in which she addresses the historical development of Western societies' militarization, with Switzerland as a case study. The title refers to the standard practice of Swiss soldiers taking home their service weapons after military training and storing it in the closet for emergencies. As a result, Switzerland is the country with the highest density of privately stored weapons in Europe. The installation consists of a video combined with floor and wall collages, interweaving different historical, political, technical and digital aspects of militarization. The starting point of Sahin's research were two treaties signed a hundred years ago, which divided up the territories of the Ottoman Empire after World War I: the *Treaty of Sèvres* (1920) and the *Treaty of Lausanne* (1923), in which, among other things, the current national borders of Turkey were defined. In 2023, as the Treaty of Lausanne celebrates its centenary, the consequences of this arbitrary border demarcation are still felt in the region today. Sahin focuses on Lausanne, the capital of the Canton of Vaud, as the negotiating site of historic armistice agreements and peace treaties on the one hand and simultaneously the most important location for the production of combat drones today.

The installation spins a collage of historical and contemporary references: The large-format quotation LIBERTÉ ET PATRIE (Liberty and Fatherland) from the cantonal coat of arms is prominently featured, combined with watercolor war scenarios of the Swiss army by the amateur artist and captain Albert von Escher (1833-1905). In addition, picture panels with motifs of soldiers, landscapes and rifles are positioned within the installation. On these are quotations from the "Soldier's Book" published in 1958, which was handed out to all members of the Swiss army until 1974. They show clichés, norms and codes of conduct that have shaped the understanding of the Swiss military to the present day. The Palais de Rumine, where the Treaty of Lausanne was signed in 1923, and that is targeted from the perspective of a drone, appears on large-scale 3D images on the walls. Sahin is referring to the rapidly expanding drone industry in Lausanne. This has earned the entire region the nickname "Drone Valley" - without

overshadowing the city's international image as the site of important peace negotiations and treaties in the collective perception. With **Gewehr im Schrank – Rifle in the Closet**, Sahin reflects on questions about the role of images and language in war as well as the consequences of the visual representation of computer images for military strategic purposes. The idea of a supposedly 'neutral Switzerland' seems almost cynical.

An essential role in the installation is played by the elements of writing, which, in addition to their content intensify the impression of digital immersion through the 3D effects. The writings on the floor quote the last two stanzas of the oath formula ("We will trust in the highest God and not fear the power of men.") from Friedrich Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell* (1804), which became known as the "Rütli Oath" in the mid-19th century. This quotation as a visual and content-related bracket of the exhibition refers to the founding legend that has become a national myth of Switzerland, including its pathetic undertone. The grid on the floor serves as a network and picks up on the digital recording of landscape from the perspective of a drone. The aesthetics of simulated drone flights can also be found within the film newly produced for the exhibition, which is positioned into the room like a surveillance monitor. The film offers simulations of the Swiss Federal Office of Armaments (armasuisse) and alternates with AI-generated images and voices. The suggestion of a virtual atmosphere similar to a computer game is transferred into the physical exhibition space and simulates visual techniques of modern warfare.

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## The artist /

**Cemile Sahin** (\*1990, Wiesbaden) studied fine arts at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. This is the first time a project of hers will be shown in the RheinMain area. She has been featured in numerous international solo and group exhibitions, including the Lyon Biennale, the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn and the Kunsthalle Os-nabrück (all 2022), the Akademie der Künste Berlin (2021), the Kunstverein Hamburg (2020), the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig and the NS Dokumentationszentrum München (both 2019). She published the novels TAXI (2019, Korbini Verlag) and ALLE HUNDE STERBEN (2020, Aufbau Verlag). Sahin was a fellow of the Junge Akademie der Künste in Berlin (2019), is an ars viva award winner for visual arts (2020) and a laureate of the Alfred Döblin Medal (2020). Cemile Sahin is represented by Esther Schipper Berlin/ Paris/ Seoul.

The exhibition in Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is one voice within **FLUXUS SEX TIES** (the theme of the Wiesbaden art summer 2022-2023), focusing on artists in the wake of Fluxus and marking the 60th anniversary of the iconic FLUXUS Internationale Festspiele Neuester Musik. The festival that took place in Wiesbaden's Städtisches Museum in 1962 is today regarded as having sparked a revolution in ways of practicing, implementing and interpreting art. Though originating in ideas formulated in the 1950s, primarily by composer John Cage, FLUXUS rapidly spread across Europe, Japan and eventually back to the United States following the sensationalist media coverage of the 'concerts' (the term 'performance' was not yet customary in an art context) in Wiesbaden. Opened in summer 2022 with a showcase of past concepts, FLUXUS SEX TIES – Hier spielt die Musik! is continuing into the present day with exhibitions by **Mary Baumeister, Andrea Büttner, Andréja Šaltytė, Mónica de Miranda, Hyunju Oh** and, now, **Cemile Sahin**.

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## Program /

Current information can be found at: [www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de](http://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de)

### OPENING /

**Cemile Sahin /**

**Gewehr im Schrank – Rifle in the closet**

**Thursday, April 27th 2023, 6 pm**

With an introduction by Elke Gruhn (director and curator of the exhibition). The exhibition will be opened in the presence of the artist, and drinks will be offered at the bar. During the evening, art mediators will be on-site to answer questions regarding Cemile Sahin's works.

### CURATOR'S TOUR /

**Sunday, May 14th 2023, 3 pm**

In the exhibition Elke Gruhn (director and curator of the exhibition) will share information about the works of Cemile Sahin and the concept of the show in a personal conversation. Free of charge, no registration required (more dates online).

### ARTIST TALK WITH CEMILE SAHIN

**Sunday July 2nd 2023, 3 pm**

The artist Cemile Sahin and Elke Gruhn are talking about the exhibition. Duration: 60 min., in the exhibition.

### UPCOMING AT NASSAUISCHER KUNSTVEREIN WIESBADEN

#### IDA FLUX – Stücke für Stille und Begegnung

**(Performance)**

Felicitas Baumann (Singing/Violin) | Mareike Buchmann (Dance/Performance) | Lina Hartmann (Saxophone/Clarinet/Vocals) | Lena Kunz (Dance/Performance) | Rebecca Pitter (Piano/Trumpet)

May, 7th and May, 20th 2023 / 3 to 6 pm

IDA FLUX is Wiesbaden's Independent ensemble for process-oriented, contemporary dance and performance art, founded in 2022. Based on the "Fluxus" movement of the 1960s, IDA FLUX rethinks this heritage under contemporary conditions. IDA FLUX works with movement, voice and instrument and also explores silence and the deep listening of Pauline Oliveros, Marina Abramović, John Cage. This results in fluid scores that are performed as happenings and invite participation in different ways.

**OPENING /**

**FOLLOW FLUXUS**

**Daniela Ortiz / The children of the communists**

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 6 pm**

With a welcoming speech by Axel Imholz, head of the Cultural Office of the City of Wiesbaden and an introduction by Elke Gruhn (director and curator of the exhibition). Drinks at the bar. During the evening, art mediators will be on-site to answer questions.

**Startbahn Fluxus / Contemporary Choreographies**

**Tuesday, June 13th and Friday June 16th 2023**

**each 17:45-19:45 and 19:45 to 21:45**

**Tickets via Staatstheater Wiesbaden (22,- Euro)**

In cooperation with the Hessian State Ballet and the study programs Media: Conception and Production of the RhineMain University of Applied Sciences and the Fashion Design course of the Academy of Fashion & Design, Department of Design of the Fresenius University of Applied Sciences, dancers and students will present various self-organized projects in public space and in various institutions of the city, following the Fluxus idea. The boundaries of the concept of artwork will be explored and new forms of inter-institutional as well as cross-media artistic cooperation will be tested.

**SONNTALK /**

**Get off the Couch!**

**Guided tour through the current exhibition / Sundays, 3 pm**

**ESPRESSO /**

**Short and strong!**

**Short guided tour and Espresso / Tuesdays, 12:45 am -1:15 pm**

**SPRITZ /**

**Art, Drinks and more! / Thursdays, 6 to 8 pm**

**DIE KUNST-KOFFER KOMMEN!**

**THE ART CASES ARE COMING! /**

**For kids / no registration / free of charge**

**Last Saturday of the month, 3 pm - 5 pm**

**April, 29th 2023**

**May, 27th 2023**

**June, 24th 2023**

**FINISSAGE /**

**Sunday, July 23th 2023, 3 to 6 pm**

**More information can be found at: [www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de](http://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de)**

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## Cooperations /

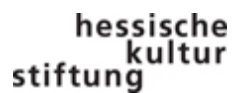
The Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is permanently institutionally supported by the Cultural Office of the Capital City of Wiesbaden



The exhibition is part of the program **FLUXUS SEX TIES – Kunstsommer 2023**.



This exhibition was made possible by the Hessische Kulturstiftung



We would like to thank Henkell & Co. Sektkellerei KG for the sparkling atmosphere and R+V Insurance for the always reliable shipping of our mailings.



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## Press images /

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**Cemile Sahin**  
**Gewehr im Schrank - Rifle in the closet, 2023**

Multimedia installation  
Courtesy of the artist and  
Esther Schipper Berlin / Paris /  
Seoul



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Photo: Christian Lauer



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## Cemile Sahin CV

### Exhibitions /

- 2023 *Gewehr im Schrank - Rifle in the closet*, Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, DE (solo)
- 2022 *Manifesto of Fragility*, 16e Biennale d'art contemporain de Lyon, FR  
*Identität nicht nachgewiesen*, Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, DE  
*A Song of Tigris & Euphrates*, Kunsthalle Osnabrück, DE
- 2021 *Arbeit am Gedächtnis - Transforming Archives*, Akademie der Künste Berlin, DE
- 2020 *ars viva 2020*, Kunstverein Hamburg, DE  
*Laboratory of Contested Space Art & Truthtelling*, Akademie der Künste Berlin, DE  
*Where the Story Unfolds*, Akademie der Künste Berlin, DE  
*Studio Berlin*, Berghain, Berlin
- 2019 *ars viva 2020*, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig, DE  
*Tell me about yesterday tomorrow*, NS Dokumentationszentrum München, DE  
Kurdisches Filmfestival, Babylon Cinema, Berlin, DE
- 2017 *Die Kant*, Uferstudios, Berlin, DE

### Novels /

- 2020 *Alle Hunde sterben* (Aufbau Verlag)
- 2019 *Taxi* (Korbinian Verlag)

### Awards and scholarships /

- 2020 arsviva-Award winner for visual arts  
Award winner for the Alfred Döblin-Medaille
- 2019 Scholarship holder of the Junge Akademie der Künste in Berlin

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**For further information and pictures please contact us via phone  
or  
e-mail.**

**Press contact**

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65185 Wiesbaden  
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**Opening hours**

Tues, Wed, Fri 2 to 6 pm  
Thur 2 to 8 pm  
Sat, Sun 11 am to 6 pm

**Admission:** Regular: 5 €/ Reduced (Students / Pensioners): 3 €

**Admission free for:** Members of the Nassauischer Kunstverein, children and teenagers under 18, Friends of the Museum Wiesbaden, ICOM (International Council of Museums) Card holders, Members of any other ADKV Kunstverein, art students of Städelschule, the Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach, the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Kunsthochschule Mainz, teachers accompanying a school class, Holders of the Ehrenamtscard Wiesbaden and refugees of all nationalities.

**INFO** All information about the visit at <https://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de/en/home>

**NEWSLETTER** Subscribe to the newsletter at <https://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de/newsletter>

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