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## Der Zeit ihre Kunst /

Makoto Aida / Ines Doujak / Işıl Eğrikavuk /  
 INDECLINE / Eugenio Merino / Csaba Nemes /  
 Tools for Action / Wen Yau

## Der Kunst ihre Freiheit /

Zehra Doğan

January 24th till March 8th, 2020

Opening with Hito Steyerl / January 23rd, 2020, 6 pm

**Under the title *To each era its art / To art its freedom*, the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is showing an international double exhibition that deals with the current, global strengthening of authoritarian and populist regimes.**

In line with the maxim formulated by Ludwig Hevesi, which embellishes the Vienna Secession Building since 1898 and has also been visible on the façade of the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden since last year, the first exhibitions of the new decade at the Center for Contemporary Art Wiesbaden emphasize the timeliness of the demand for artistic freedom.

An authoritarian backlash has taken hold of democracies worldwide. Since 2003 Turkey has reconfigured the government into a bespoke presidential democracy. The prime minister of Hungary has created an illiberal democracy on Russia's model. And, since 2017, an American billionaire has been running the most powerful office in the world with his contemptuous, attention-grabbing posturing. Populist parties have shifted the political discourse in Europe to the right and are celebrating electoral successes. The new populism is anti-political and aims at division. Exclusionary ridicule, provocation and political incorrectness have become the weapons of these movements. Culture and art have fallen into this vortex and have again become a site of dispute.

What political and artistic restrictions do artists face? How and with whom do the artists feel solidarity? Which prescriptions can art offer for regaining one's own agency?

The group exhibition **To each era its art**, introduces international artists and artist groups, who stand up against new impositions in their countries, take to the streets, participate in the social negotiation process, point out dangers, and provoke them in their turn.

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Under the second part of the Viennese maxim, **To art its freedom**, a comprehensive selection of works from the Kurdish journalist and artist **Zehra Doğan** (\*1989, Diyarbakır, Turkey) is presented in her first German solo exhibition with her original works.

After Zehra Doğan was arrested in 2016 for a painting depicting the city of Nusaybin destroyed by the Turkish army and sharing the message of a 10-year-old child on social media, the works of **Clandestine Days** (2017) were created after her release from five months of pre-trial detention. During this time, she had gone into hiding in Istanbul. After her subsequent conviction for alleged terrorist propaganda in July 2017, the artist continued to work secretly under even more difficult conditions, even in **Diyarbakır** prison (2017–2018).

The works reflect Doğan's experiences of detention and living in hiding, which were characterized by isolation and repression, but also by resistance and cohesion among the detainees. They stand for an impressive charge and rebellion against the suppressive political regime.

With her paintings and drawings, Zehra Doğan advocates the freedom of press and expression, and documents the current situation in Turkey through artistic means. While she was denied access to paints in prison, she used cardboard, bed sheets, menstrual blood and leftover food to continue her artistic work regardless. Thus, the works from this period reflect the state of oppression and censorship, also through their materiality.

"With this important double exhibition we continue our commitment to diversity, internationality and tolerance and embed current developments in a historical context within the Jugendstiljahr in Wiesbaden. I am convinced that as an independent cultural institution which is open to everyone, we have to stand up for the freedom of art and culture", says Elke Gruhn, artistic director of the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden.

"In the current double exhibition at the Nassauischer Kunstverein in Wiesbaden visitors have the opportunity to reflect upon and locate themselves in our time through the mirror of art. The performative, resisting power of political art and artistic activism can be experienced in the works of international artists. I am pleased that the freedom of art is celebrated as an unconditional prerequisite of an open society in Wiesbaden" says Eva Claudia Scholtz, managing director of the Hessische Kulturstiftung.

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The double exhibition **To each era its art / To art its freedom** is supported by the Hessische Kulturstiftung.



The double exhibition is part of the Jugendstiljahr Wiesbaden 2019/20.



The exhibition **To each era its art** is based on an exhibition by HALLE 14 - Center for Contemporary Art, Leipzig. It was shown under the title **The Ends of Freedom** in 2019 and was supported by the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Goethe Institute Hong Kong.

Text excerpts of the exhibition **The End of Freedom** by Michael Arzt.



The Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is institutionally supported by the Office of Culture of the state capital Wiesbaden.





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## **Program /**

### **Opening with Hito Steyerl /**

Thursday, January 23rd, 2020, from 6 pm

### **SUNDAE /**

Guided tour with ice cream

Sundays, 3 pm

### **ESPRESSO /**

Short guided tour with espresso

Tuesdays, 12.45 am to 1.15 pm

### **SPRITZ /**

Art, drinks and more...

Thursdays, 6 pm to 8 pm

### **Kids inSIDE /**

For all / with Titus Grab

Last Saturday of the month, 11 am to 1 pm

January 25th, 2020

February 29th, 2020

### **Wilhelms Wanne /**

Interactive tour / 8 years of age and above

First Saturday of the month, 3 to 5 pm

February 1st, 2020

March 7th, 2020

### **Finissage on International Women`s Day /**

Sunday, March 8th, 2020, 3 to 6 pm

We appreciate your interest.

For further information, we are available by phone or e-mail.

### **Press contact /**

Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

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## Press Images /

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### Der Zeit ihre Kunst /

#### Eugenio Merino

Punching Putin, 2019  
Installation view HALLE 14, 2019

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Le Kon, 2019



#### Ines Doujak

Follow the Leader, 2004,  
Installation view HALLE 14, 2019

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HALLE 14, Leipzig | Walther Le Kon, 2019



#### Işıl Eğrikavuk

Time To Sing A New Song, 2016,  
Installation view

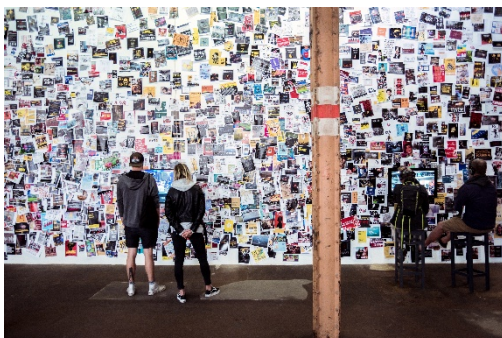
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#### Wen Yau

Wir sind das Volk! (homage to all  
peaceful revolutionaries), 2019,  
Installation view HALLE 14, 2019

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HALLE 14, Leipzig | Walther Le Kon, 2019



**Der Kunst ihre Freiheit /**

**Zehra Doğan**

Untitled, 2017

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**Zehra Doğan**

Untitled, 2017

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