

Cemile Sahin, Four Ballads for my Father – Spring, 2022, Courtesy the artist and Esther Schipper, Berlin/Paris/Seoul, Film still: © Cemile Sahin



Cemile Sahin

In the IBB Video Space

12.1. – 6.2.23

Cemile Sahin is a writer, artist and filmmaker. Language and image are inseparable in her work, which embraces film, photography, sculpture, installation and the literary novel. She takes a particular interest in how history is written and how pictures are used for manipulative ends. She has also explored in detail how (state) power is exercised and portrayed, not least in her novels “TAXI” (2019) and “ALLE HUNDE STERBEN” [ALL DOGS DIE] (2020).

The Berlinische Galerie is screening her film “Spring” (43 min.), the first part of her new project “Four Ballads for my Father”. A key motif is water, with a focus on the economic and social impact of the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP). This huge infrastructure programme was set up to “develop” the rivers Euphrates and Tigris as water resources for commercial purposes by constructing numerous dams and hydroelectric power stations. This has caused both environmental and social problems for the people who live in the region. The project has also led to tensions with Syria and Iraq, neighbouring countries concerned that Turkey will cut them off from their water supply.

Sahin’s film tells of a fictional Kurdish family whose homeland was flooded to make way for a dam. We see episodes from the lives of several family members. We learn about their everyday situation and their worries – and about Hasan, a husband and father who allegedly died as a result of police brutality. Sahin quotes cinematic genres ranging from the documentary to the political thriller, from film noir to the soap opera or telenovela. Despite the theme of structural violence and patriarchal power, this lends the work a light touch and laconic humour that make us eager to hear more.

The filmmaker

Cemile Sahin was born in Wiesbaden in 1990. She studied at Central Saint Martin’s College of Arts in London and at the University of the Arts in Berlin. She was awarded the Alfred-Döblin-Medaille for “TAXI” and the ars viva prize for her practice in fine arts.

IBB Video Space

The IBB Video Space is screening artists who work with time-based media. The programme, which changes every month, features not only established names in contemporary video art but also up-and-coming artists rarely seen in museums to date. For these, the Berlinische Galerie seeks to facilitate an institutional début.



Each month brings a new encounter with work that raises questions about the medium and about social or political issues. Importance is attached to including marginalised perspectives and to shedding light on the impact of power structures.

More video works online:
bg.berlin/en/video-art-online

This project has been facilitated by Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB).

Press images
berlinischegalerie.de/en/press-release/cemile-sahin

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Press **Berlinische Galerie**

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Admission 12 €, concessions 8 €

Berlin's Museum Sunday
On the first Sunday of every month
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