

UNIT 17

Derya Akay (b. 1988, Turkey)

Lives and works on the unceded and traditional territories of Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh nations, colonially known as Vancouver, Canada

Education

2010

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver, Canada

Solo Exhibitions

2021

Meydan, The Polygon Gallery, North Vancouver, Canada

2020

Fruit and Flower, Frieze New York, USA

2018

Green Grocer, Unit 17, Vancouver, Canada

Ghost Spring, Grunt Gallery (with Dilara Akay), Vancouver, Canada

2017

with bread, Campbell River Art Gallery, Campbell River, Canada

Pumice, Del Vaz Projects, Los Angeles, USA

2015

Painting with Light, Kunstverein Toronto, Toronto, Canada

2014

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Supper, Centre A, Vancouver, Canada

Painting with Light, Gallery 295, Vancouver, Canada

2013

anewground, The Apartment, Vancouver, Canada

Wall blobs, Terasaki Gallery, Kofu-shi, Yamanashi, Japan

2011

Scans on Display, Blanket Contemporary Art Inc. & The Apartment, Vancouver, Canada

Group Exhibitions

2022

Toronto Biennial of Art, Toronto, Canada

2021

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Contact Traces, The Wattis Institute, California College of Arts, San Francisco, USA

2020

The Neighbour's Plate, Unit 17, Vancouver, Canada 2019

2019

SUPER, NATURAL, Unit 17, Vancouver, Canada

2018

Club 29, Ag Galerie, Tehran, Iran

A Low Hanging Fruit: Lullenial, Lulu, Mexico City, Mexico

Annex LA, M+B, Los Angeles, USA

2017

Nature's Way, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada

Dream Islands, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo, Canada

Here, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada

Here, Unit 17, Vancouver, Canada

2016

Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada

2015

RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada

Occasional Furniture, The Apartment, Vancouver, Canada

Geometry of Knowing: Part I, SFU Galleries, Burnaby, Canada

2014

Contemporary Art Society Emerging Artist's Prize Exhibition, Access Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

2013

Proof 20, Gallery 44, Toronto, Canada

2012

Serial Abstracts, The Commons, Vancouver, Canada

Vessel, Access Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

2011

So Gay!, The Apartment, Vancouver, Canada

The Problem of Nothing, Hayaka Arti, Istanbul, Turkey

Office Hours, Phillip, Vancouver, Canada

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Contemporary Histories: Intersecting pasts and future, AHVA Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

2010

The International Chilliwack Biennial, Offsite project of Artspeak & Or Gallery, Chilliwack, Canada

Hand Joy, Centre for Recent Drawing (C4RD), London, UK

Sculpture Garden, Vancouver School of Art Gallery, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, Canada

favorites, WOO Gallery, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, Canada

Winter Salon, Vancouver School of Art Gallery, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, Canada

2009

The Hand of a Stranger, Shudder Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

Plus/Is, Hayaka Arti, Istanbul, Turkey

Selected Collaborative Projects

2021

Looking at the Garden Fence (Artists Supporting Artists) with Vivienne Bessette, Community

Garden Project, September 2020-December 2021, Contemporary Art Gallery, Elisabeth Rogers

CommunityGarden, Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House, Sahalli Park Community Garden, Vines

Art Festival and Western Front, Vancouver, Canada

2019

Bundle dying workshop (with Vivienne Bessette), Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada March 27

2018

Grunt Gallery (with Dilara Akay), Vancouver, Canada

No Person's Land by Amy Kazymierchyk and cheyanne turions, Cooking workshop (with Kurtis Wilson), SFU Gallery Burnaby, Vancouver, Canada, June 24

Bundle dying workshop (with Vivienne Bessette), Western Front Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, June 2

2017

Elaine (with Anne Low), Dinner event, AKA Artist Run, Saskatoon, Canada, Sept 16

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Elaine (with Anne Low), Bar event, Re:Fuse, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, Mar 10

2016

Elaine (with Anne Low), Dinner event, Haunt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, May 27

2012

screen scans / rescan (with Nicole Ondre), Black Diamond / Turner Valley, Online exhibition

Roundhay Garden Scenes (with Julia Feyrer), Video-In Bar, VIVO Media Arts Centre, Vancouver, Canada

2011

Aviary (with Joshua Bartholomew), Small Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

Selected Talks, Performances and Screenings

2021

Guest Speaker, University of Toronto, Visual Arts 300 Level Class, Toronto, Canada, October 15, February 21

2018

Ghost Spring Happening #1, Mountain View Cemetery, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, January 13

Ghost Spring Happening #2, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, January 20

Ghost Spring Happening #3, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, January 27

2017

Artist talk, Campbell River Art Gallery, Campbell River, Canada, March 31

Panel discussion: The Materiality of Clay, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada, Jan 14

2015

RBC Emerging Artist People Choice Award Panel Discussion, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada, June 16

Sculpture Garden self-guided walk (collaboration with Julia Feyrer), SFU Galleries, Burnaby, Canada, February 15

2013

Artist talk, Terasaki Gallery, Kofu-shi, Yamanashi, Japan, August 18

2012

Heroes in the Streets, Fuse Event, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada, November 9

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Awards and Grants

2021

Concept to Realization Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, Canada

2019

Research and Creation Grant, Canada Council for the Arts, Canada

2017

Production assistance grant, SAHA Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey

2016

Project Grant in collaboration with the Campbell River Art Gallery, Canada Council for the Arts

Portfolio Prize, Emerging Artist Award, Vancouver, Canada

Residencies

2021

The Practical Writer Online writing workshop led by Catherine Lacey, Graver Goods, Brooklyn, NY, USA

2020

How to Write and Essay Collection Online writing workshop led by Alexander Chee, The Shipman Agency, Brooklyn, NY, USA

2017

Burrard Marina Field House Residency, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

2015

Artist fellow, Free Home University at Ammirato Culture House, Lecce, Italy in organization with Musegetes, Guelph, Ontario, Canada

2013

Self-directed residency, AIR-Yamanashi, August 4 – September 3, Kofu-shi, Yamanashi, Japan

2010

Theater of Erosion or I Hate Work That is Not A Play, Thematic residency with artist Geoffrey Farmer, November 11 – December 10, The Banff Centre, Canada

Exhibition Catalogues/Texts

2018

Chris Sharp & Andrew Berardini, ed., “The Lulennial II: A Low Hanging Fruit,” Published by Mousse Publishing, *Lulu*, Mexico City, Mexico

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2017

“Here: Locating Contemporary Canadian Art,” Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada

2016

“Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures,” Vancouver Art Gallery and Black Dog Publishing, Vancouver, Canada

2014

Patryk Stasieczek, “Painting with Light,” Lighbox, *Gallery 295*, Vancouver, Canada

2013

Christopher Dzierzawa, “Meditation/Conversation on Gesture,” anewground, The Apartment, Vancouver

Mikhel Proulx, “Views from the Ground,” *Proof 20*, Gallery 44, Toronto, Canada

Magazines and Periodicals

2021

April Thompson, The Neighbour's Plate, Derya Akay, Amna Elnour & Dana Qaddah, *C Magazine* issue 149

2018

Ling, Steffanie, “2018 Critics’ Picks,” *Akimbo Online*, December 12

Hamilton, Greta ‘Derya Akay, on Process, Labour and Time’, *C magazine*, Issue 137, Spring

Griffin, Kevin, “ART SEEN: Ghosts of the past and present honoured at grunt gallery,” *The Vancouver Sun*, January 12

Hennig, Clare, “Turkish mother and son explore politics, death and grief in new Vancouver art show,” *CBC News*, January 4

Gallagher, Margaret, “Turkish mother-son duo examine death and grieving in new art show in Vancouver,” *CBC Radio Early Edition*, January 3

2017

Berardini, Andrew, “Derya Akay: Pumice,” *ArtReview*, May 2017

Piejko, Jennifer, “Derya Akay,” *Frieze Magazine*, Issue 186, April 2017

“Break bread at the art gallery,” *The Campbell River Mirror*, March 23

“Derya Akay: Burrard Marina Field House artist-in-residence,” *Galleries West*, March 20

Durey, Lucien, “Vancouver Report: Resistance is not futile,” *Canadian Art Online*, February 2

McKee, Jesse, “Derya Akay,” *Kaleidoscope Magazine*, Milan, Italy, January 2017

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Witt, Andrew, "Eccentric, Polymorphous, Abstract: Vancouver Art and other Mythologies of the Near-Future," *The Mainlander*, January 14

2016

Griffin, Kevin, "Getting contemporary: Vancouver Special reflects state of the art in Terminal City," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 2

Lederman, Marsha, "Coastal Disturbance," *The Globe and Mail*, December

2015

Dick, Terence, "RBC Emerging Artist People's Choice Award at the Gardiner Museum," *Akimbo Online*, July 14

Singhal, Sheila, "Not Your Mama's Ceramics," *NGC Magazine Online*, July 9

Kim, Sunny, "RBC's Emerging Artist People's Choice Award," *Artoronto.ca*, June 30

2014

Nuttall, Rupert, "Derya Akay: Material Hangings, Hangouts," *Espace Magazine*, #108, Fall issue

2013

Turner, Michael, "Michael Turner's Top 3 of 2013: Signs of Change," *Canadian Art Online*, December 19

"Derya Akay and Anna Halprin at The Apartment, Vancouver," *Mousse Magazine Online*, December 2

2012

Pike, Nathan, "Fuse," *Discorder Magazine*, Vancouver, November 15

2010

Collins, Allison, "Observations from the Chilliwack Biennial," *Fuse Magazine*, Volume 33, No 4

Published Writings

2016

"Tarot decks," *Canadian Art Magazine*, December 2015

"Eating and Words and Simmer and Thoughts: An Artist's Recipe," *Canadian Art Online*, Oct 20 "Hit List," *Akimbo Arts Canada*, February 12

2009

"Ahmet Yildiz is My Family," *Woo Magazine*, Emily Carr University, Issue 4.

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Publication Projects

2018

One Thousand and One Fortunes, with Dilara Akay as a part of Ghost Spring, grunt gallery, Published by DDOOGG, Vancouver, Canada

2016

A Flower as a Poem, Published by Perro Verlag, Mayne Island, Canada

2009

-10 *Woo Magazine*, Emily Carr University, Vancouver, Canada