



Voicing Voices

hatırlamak
ve anlatmak
için şehre **BAK**

BAK: Revealing the City Through the Memory

Voicing Voices Collective Production Workshop

July 2020 - April 2021

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Program Booklet

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VOICING VOICES

Everyone, at least once as a child, must have sat in a circle and played telephone. Everybody gets one chance to say the sentence they heard from the person sitting next to them -as quietly as possible- to the next person. When that's the rule of the game, the missing or misunderstood parts of the sentence carry a potential to change the words completely. To an extent, everyone playing the game knows that the initial sentence will turn into something ridiculous. And that is where the beauty of the game lies. All the performance is focused on the enjoyment of a single moment when the eyes and mouths become wider, the faces stretch, and a loud laughing starts.

5 The idea of BAK Voicing Voices Collective Production Workshop came out of the excitement that stems from the possibility of rapidly passing through sliding doors of time and space via stories we have been hearing and telling since we were children. We wanted to go on a journey with whispers of women in the universe of emotions and experiences suppressed and kept inaudible by dominant narratives of the city. We went on an adventure to bend the customary narratives together with 12 women living in Diyarbakır, Batman and Mardin who share a collective memory and a common experience-world despite all their differences. Is it possible to complement the courage of becoming the subject of the transformation in the story to the weight of witnessing and the urgency of bringing visibility to what we have seen? Instead of grand, noisy and comprehensive narratives, can Voicing Voices offer a possibility to breath by following the stories that transform, become liberated and diversified through joy of a game and vulnerability of staggering? Voicing Voices films would like to extend the excitement emerging from collective production to the audience and invite everyone to think through these questions and dream together.

BAK: Revealing the City through Memory

In 2012, **BAK: Revealing the City through Memory** started as a cultural and artistic production program that brought together young people from different cities in İstanbul and Diyarbakır. The first five years of the program was designed by docistanbul – Center for Documentary Studies and Geniş Açı teams, the photography and video consultants to BAK. During three phases of the program, 60 young people from 12 cities produced photography and video works to tell stories from their cities. More than 200 young people joined BAK trainings and thousands of people attended BAK exhibitions and screenings. Various public and cultural institutions, and collectives in different cities shared BAK's excitement throughout the years, and hosted workshops and trainings. Photographers, filmmakers, contemporary artists and academics joined the ever-expanding community of BAK as trainers. BAK grew with the interest and enthusiasm of the young storytellers in different cities. In 2017, it transformed into an online platform run by Anadolu Kültür – **sehrebak.org** – with the hope to multiply the force of diverse coexisting voices. **sehrebak.org** not only encourages visual storytelling in different cities through open calls for artists but also serves as a depository of reference materials, translations and critiques on documentary photography and video. The website continues to host open calls and online exhibitions on the themes of migration, belonging, diversity, ecology and everyday life; in addition to trainings and production workshops titled BAK Meetings in the spirit that face-to-face meetings are essential to discussions, learning, exploring and production.

Voicing Voices Collective Video Production Workshop, run by **Diyarbakır Arts Center** with support from **Institut français de Turquie** and **Anadolu Kültür**, took place online from July 2020 to April 2021 within the scope of **BAK: Revealing the City through Memory**.

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Image Capture



Director Aylin Kızıl
Video, 6'33", February 2021
Diyarbakır

Image Capture (Fotoğraf Altı) takes us on top of Helin Apartment – a tall building overlooking Diyarbakır Fortress and the surrounding neighborhoods, which are either demolished, reconstructed, or waiting to be demolished any moment now. The disembodied voice-over initially endeavors to rule over images but then slowly surrenders to them. As the voice starts to engage with the images, it slowly finds its body and place in the film's world.

Aylin Kızıl



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Aylin Kızıl was born in 1988 in Diyarbakır. She graduated from Eskişehir Anadolu University Faculty of Pharmacy. She joined NarPhotos Agency in 2012. She pursues documentary photography and video, and focuses on subjects of urban transformation, identity, gender, and migration. She is the co-director of two short documentaries: **Miraz** (2017) with Serdar Bayram and Lezgin Kani; and **Bir Tribün Hikâyesi** (2020) with Fatma Çelik.



Grandma Zeki



Director Berivan Bağrı
Video, 6'36", February 2021
Mardin

In **Grandma Zeki (Pîrê Zekî)**, Berivan and her grandmother have a cozy conversation with the help of camera, and together they joyfully introduce the colorful world of Berivan's grandmother to the viewer. Grandma Zeki lives alone in a house with a garden located in one of Mardin's villages. She welcomes us, alongside Berivan, into her elderly world, showcasing her rings and bracelets, basil in the garden, variety of pickles and other objects from her life that decorate her living room walls.

Berivan Bağ



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Berivan Bağ was born in 1991 in Mardin. She graduated from Pamukkale University Department of Turkish Language and Literature. She has a master's degree in Kurdish Language and Culture from Mardin Artuklu University. She is currently conducting projects with children and women through various civil society organizations in Mardin. Her work "Direniş" [Resistance] composed of 4 images were on "Sarı" [Yellow], an online exhibition held at sehrebak.org in 2020.



Possible



Director Berivan Karatorak
Video, 4'11", February 2021
Diyarbakır

Could I lay myself down here, under the shade of the trees? Is that possible? Not really for women who try to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and find peace in nature. **Possible (Pêkan e)** gives you a shimmering glimpse into an ordinary day at Hevsel Gardens, which are at the core of cultural heritage and ecology debates in Diyarbakır. A day in which a woman dances on her own, searches for herself, explores her boredom, follows her curiosities; a day when she can actually breathe.

Berivan Karatorak



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Berivan Karatorak was born in 1990 in Şırnak. She is a student at Kocaeli University Department of Radio, Television and Cinema. She's been a resident of Diyarbakır since 2018 and works in media. She received Kurdish grammar training at the Kurdish Research Association in 2016. Since then, she has taken part in various research and translation projects in Kurdish.



The Door



Director Evindar Tokur
Video, 7'19", February 2021
Diyarbakır

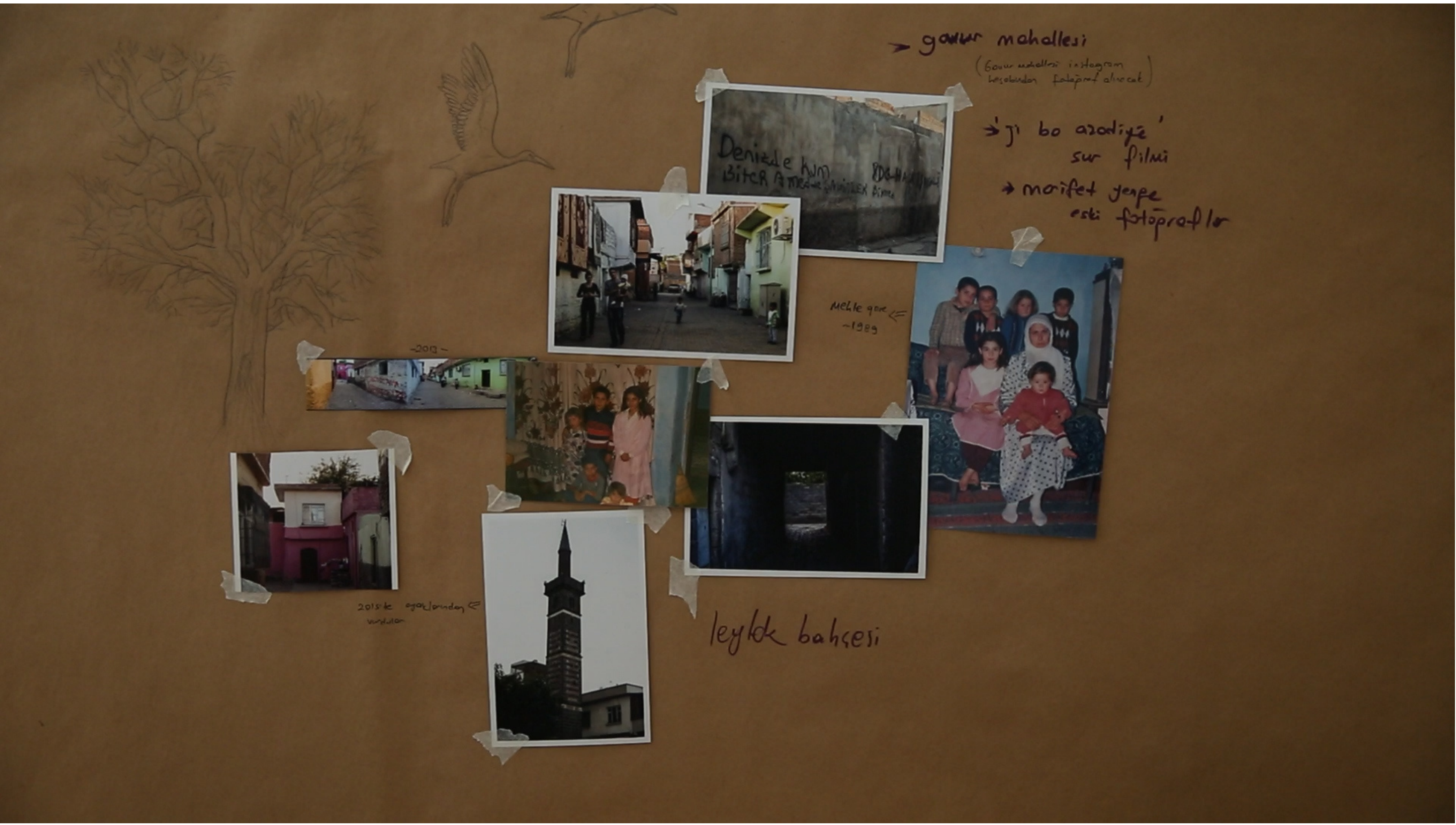
The Door (Kapi) focuses on an effort to soothe the never-ending sorrow of murders committed by unknown perpetrators and forced migration by confronting the city. The film searches for the past by tracing artefacts of childhood, home and lost places in contemporary Diyarbakır while trying to hold personal and collective memory together. **The Door** not only utters sentences in anger and mourning but also words of farewell. The film itself is an attempt at nourishing the desire for surviving the past and healing, rather than holding onto the memory of a dark crime.

Evindar Tokur

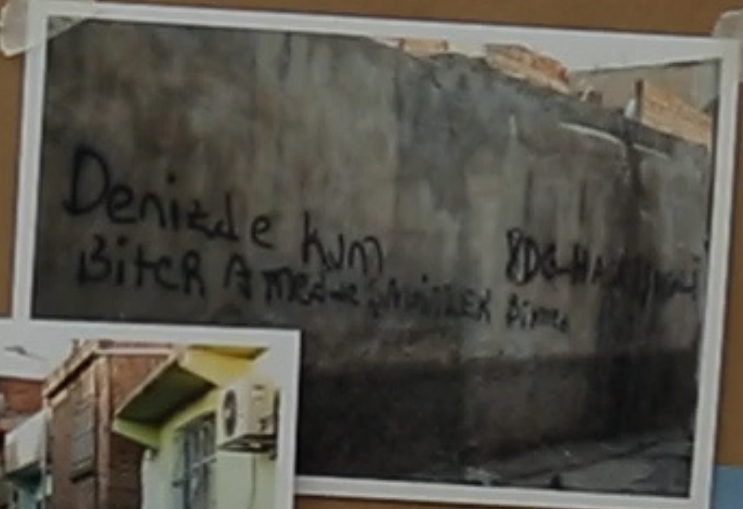


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Evindar Tokur was born in 1986 in Silvan, Diyarbakır. She graduated from Ege University Department of Landscape Architecture in 2012. She's been working as a designer since 2013. She has volunteered with Diyarbakır Metropolitan Municipality on women's issues and policy making. In 2019, she participated in Diyarbakır A4 Open Art Space and took part in different arts projects. She made her first short animation film **Masê** during that time. **Masê** was screened at A4 and Depo İstanbul as part of Diyarbakır Peşrevi Eşliğinde Beraber Ve Solo [Together And Solo, Accompanied by Diyarbakır Peşrevi] exhibition.



→ gömrü mahallesi
(Gömrü mahallesi Instagram hesabından fotoşərtlər alınca)



→ 'ji bo azadiyə' sur filmi
→ mərifət jəpə estə fotoşərtlər



Mehla qorə
-1989



-2013-



leylək bahçesi



2015-ke oğalardanay vurdulan



Mehla Qorê



Director Fatma Çelik
Video, 8'24", February 2021
Diyarbakır

Mehla Qorê recreates the neighborhood where Fatma spent her childhood by building on her very first memory. The film brings together photographs of Suriçi, the neighborhood destroyed during 2015 clashes, old family photo albums, recollections of women in her family and what they remember and disremember while accompanying Fatma's quest to find her first memory.

Fatma elik



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Fatma elik was born in 1987 in Diyarbakır. She graduated from İnönü University Department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance. Since 2009, she's been working as a counselor at schools in Diyarbakır. She also volunteers with children and women through civil society organizations. Since she joined NarPhotos Agency in 2012, her photography and video work focused on migration, identity, memory, ecology, and gender. She is the co-director of two short documentaries: **Güvenli Bir Film** (2014) with Musa İrşi, produced within the scope of BAK, and **Bir Tribün Hikâyesi** (2020) with Aylin Kızıl.



Think of a Circle



Director Fatoş Güneri
Video, 5'29", February 2021
Diyarbakır

Fatoş tries to find her way around the small alleyways of Diyarbakır with the help of fortunes. Each sentence uttered by the fortuneteller takes her on another path, paths she is destined to take, very alien and familiar to her at the same time. Bringing together voices of fortunetellers of Diyarbakır with documentary footage of the city, **Think of a Circle (Bir Çember Düşün)** transforms the memories of childhood places.

Fatoş Güneri



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Fatoş Güneri was born in 1997 in Diyarbakır. She graduated from Diyarbakır Fine Arts High School in 2014, and Dicle University Department of Art Instruction in 2020. She has taken part in TÜYAP with her video-art and installation works in 2017 and 2018. She qualified to participate in BASE with her video-art works in 2020. She participated in various projects and workshops since 2017, and her work focuses on themes around city, identity, belonging, body and women. She continues to produce contemporary art works.



Space, Fehmi and Secrets of the City



Director Mediha Güzelgün
Video, 11'47", February 2021
Mardin

Space, Fehmi and the Secrets of the City (Uzay, Fehmi ve Şehrin Sırları), replaces the traditional narration of Mardin as a “fairy tale city” with a tale of space adventure set in Mardin, which intertwines the past with the future. The hospitable narrator of the film believes that beneath the fortress of the city lies Noah’s Ark, and that the ark was filled with types of people, not animals, before it anchored in Mardin. We meet Fehmi, who might as well be Noah; and who, according to the narrator, secretly wants to go to space or perhaps he is actually from there...

Mediha Güzelgün



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Mediha Güzelgün was born in 1991 in Kahramanmaraş. Since 2015, she's been working as a primary school teacher in Mardin. She is currently pursuing a master's in graphic design at Mardin Artuklu University Department of Communication Design. She is trained in photography, cultural heritage, folk dances, drama and erbane (daf). Her interests include literature, tennis, rhythm instruments, graphic design, video, manga, cultural heritage, museum studies, memory, collections, cinema and traveling.



Stone and Water



Director Nalin Acar
Video, 5'14", February 2021
Batman

Hasankeyf has gone underwater following the construction of Ilisu Dam, and now decorates the walls of an ornamental pond in Batman. This pond, just like the historical Hasankeyf, has created its own ecosystem. By matching images with certain concepts and revisiting the same concepts in the context of different images, **Stone and Water (Taş ve Su)** invites the audience to constantly reexamine the meaning of these concepts and images with relation to each other. This playful structure also aims at pointing at the weight of witnessing.

Nalin Acar



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Nalin Acar was born in 1994 in Batman. She graduated from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Her BA thesis focused on representation of places in Kurdish Cinema. She was part of the Mezopotamya Film Collective from 2016 to 2019. She directed a short film, **Rojek Ji Rêzê (An Ordinary Day)** with Adar Taş in 2019. She co-wrote the documentary script for “Çatının Tozu” (“Dust of the Roof”), a documentary, with Sevgi Şahin and Adar Taş, during Eurasiadoc Amed Workshop. She has been volunteering in activities organized by civil society organizations on issues pertaining to the city, place and cinema since 2016.



December 4, 2020, Nusaybin



Director Rozerin Tadik
Video, 4'13", February 2021
Mardin

Rozerin's grandfather's house, where a total of 12 cousins including Rozerin and her siblings were born and raised, was among the thousands of houses destroyed during the clashes in Kurdish cities from 2014 to 2016. **December 4, 2020, Nusaybin (4 Aralık 2020, Nusaybin)** is a short visit to the childhood memories of two cousins on the phone, as one of them is standing on the balcony of an apartment in a mass housing complex built following the destruction in the same district.

Rozerin Tadik



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Rozerin Tadik was born in 1995 in Nusaybin. She graduated from Van Yüzüncü Yıl University Department of English Language and Literature. She briefly worked as an English language instructor, then as a fixer. She is currently working as the coordinator of communications at Diyarbakır Institute for Political and Social Research. She has been pursuing her interest in photography since 2018. Her photography work entitled “Yılmayan Şehir” [The city that doesn’t give up] was on “Sıradanın Gücü” [Power of the Ordinary], an online exhibition held in 2019 at sehrebak.org.



Cudi of the Wishes



Cudi of the Wishes (Cûdîyê Miradan) treats the natural flow of four seasons in Cudi and the fallouts of conflicts that interrupt this flow by pivoting on a feeling from a childhood memory and images. It is an attempt at reconstructing the name of the mountain - home to a wide range of flowers, goats, and honeybees that is believed to be the grantor of wishes - from within that geography in contrast to what outsiders have been attempting to do for decades.

Director Semiha Yıldız
 Animation, 6'32", February 2021
 Diyarbakır

Semiha Yıldız



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Semiha Yıldız was born in 1994 in Şırnak. She graduated from İnönü University Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technologies. She has been pursuing her interest in animation since 2016. She has worked as an animator for Zarok TV and Erkam Animation. She is currently working for Botan International as a social media content developer and publicity specialist.



Here



Director Sibel Öge
Video, 6'31", February 2021
Batman

With **Here (Li Vir)** we take a step towards the concrete space left from the burned and demolished Batman Yılmaz Güney Film Theater, which had hosted hundreds of films, plays, concerts and panels since 2005. The empty concrete space with an ambiguous future awaiting its destiny transforms into a place when filled with voices from its past. The daily noises of the street become inaudible as the memories of the Yılmaz Güney Film Theater sprout out of the concrete ground, and we are captivated by the power of producing, getting together, standing in solidarity and sharing here and now.

Sibel Öge



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Sibel Öge was born in 1991 in Batman. She graduated from Ege University Department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance. She has been working as counselor since 2014 in Şırnak, and since 2017 in Batman. She is on the Board of Directors of Batman Culture and Arts Association. She has assisted “Yerinden Edilenler” [Displaced] Documentary and Video Workshop in 2020 as part of the activities of the same association. She has co-directed a documentary called **Xwezî Ev Xewn Be û Ez Jê Şiyar Bim** (2020) with Barış Eviz during that workshop. She is also the assistant director of **Veşartok** (2020).



Gleaners, Dreams and Greens



Director Zelal Sadak
Video, 5'21", Şubat 2021
Diyarbakır

Who remembers the women who used to pick the greens in the fields where no one sowed the seeds, or watered them, or defined their borders by putting up fences around them? **Gleaners, Dreams and Greens (Aşefçiler, Rüyalar, Otlar)** fills the absence of aşefçi women at the bazaar named after them with a polyphonic whisper choir. Hevsel Gardens where aşefçis used to pick herbs shed light on the history of the market place rendered invisible with time.

Zelal Sadak



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Zelal Sadak was born in 1991 in Diyarbakır. She graduated from Dicle University Department of Political Science and Public Administration and has a degree from Mardin Artuklu University Department of Medical Laboratory Techniques. She works at the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey Office in Diyarbakır, while also volunteering for several rights-based civil society organizations. She worked as a researcher and a narrator in a project supported by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Diyarbakır that focused on social memory and place. In her short documentary for Diyarbakır Cinema Club “Image-Human-Space” project, she focused on themes of belonging, place, migration and women.

