

**ART SPACE  
PYTHAGORION  
NEVIN ALADAG  
BORDERLINE  
20.7.-10.10.14**

Following the two successful exhibitions of Harun Farocki in 2012 and Slavs and Tatars in 2013, Art Space Pythagorion now presents a solo show by artist Nevin Aladağ, titled *Borderline* (July 20 – October 10, 2014).

The official opening, in the presence of the artist, will take place on August 4, 2014.

A host of talks and presentations are to be held during the days of the opening, until August 6. International curators, theoreticians, professors, and writers have been invited to reflect on the notions of European identity, migration, border transgressions, and the important role of contemporary art in this context.

There are different types of borders – geographical and cultural, social and political, as well as ideational. Borders are often invisible, making them hard to find.

Elsewhere, however, barriers, security fences and checkpoints mark borders. They are a statement so loud and clear that it is impossible to ignore. And in the shadows of these demarcated walls stand no-man's-lands, *terrains vagues* and buffer zones that belong neither here nor there, but somewhere in between, on transient soil. Territorial lines are first traced out conventionally on paper and only later manifest themselves in a landscape. This explains many of the dead-straight lines visible on maps of the world. The origin of a borderline can also be seen as an act of drawing, which in turn makes more meaningful the engaging with the phenomenon from an artist's perspective.

Born in Turkey and raised in Germany, Nevin Aladağ has repeatedly examined, negotiated, updated, and questioned the concept of the "border". The breadth of relevant and meaningful debate on this topic prompted the Schwarz Foundation and its director Dr. Andrea Lukas to invite the artist to initiate a show at Art Space Pythagorion. Every year, the foundation aims to organize a programme that relates to current political discourse, addressing the question of how politically and socially relevant themes can be dealt with from an artistic perspective.

The Art Space on the harbour of Pythagorion, once a hotel in the 1970s, was converted several years ago. The venue offers views of the Turkish mainland, which in some places is at a distance of just a few hundred meters. The Art Space thus lies in the immediate vicinity of two borders: the political demarcation line between EU member state Greece and Turkey and the symbolically charged divide between East and West. Here, wishes, hopes, and desires intertwine with feelings of uncertainty and foreignness. For many, the West represents the gateway to a world without poverty, repression and war. Every day, refugees come ashore on the island of Samos in hope of finding a better life in Europe.

The exhibition's central piece, accordingly titled *Borderline*, was specially commissioned by the Schwarz Foundation and created in Pythagorion. The video work shows the backwash of a ship as seen from the deck. The camera slowly pans over the water and occasionally lifts to the horizon, thereby revealing landmasses. At times, shots of a screen appear, showing the ship's current GPS position. It soon becomes clear that the ship is following the marine border between Greece and Turkey. In this way, the churned up wake traces the borderline once defined by cartographers. The ephemeral furrow in the marine landscape soon closes again, but the video preserves it - maintaining its visibility.

Another work commissioned for the exhibition on Samos is titled Bee-line. Looking out of the windows of the exhibition space on Samos, one sees the Turkish mainland. Aladağ transposes the exact metric distance from the building to the Turkish coast into a correspondingly measured fishermen's rope wound onto several wooden reels. The reels are presented as stools, allowing visitors to sit on the actual distance and simultaneously look out over the perceived distance to Turkey. In this way, Aladağ approaches the border-specific dilemma of measurement and the question of distance. While the length of a borderline consists of a single, measurable unit, its width is not specified. It is no more than an immaterial, cartographic mark. Often it is the perceived social and cultural distance that defines the imagined amplitude of the divide.

Aside from being an individual who moves between cultures, Aladağ is an artist who works across boundaries and genres. Using various types of media, she creates objects and films that give border crossings a poetic and prolific meaning. Her first show in Greece includes seven video works, a sound piece, and an installation.

Nevin Aladağ was born in 1972 in Van, Turkey, and studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Art in Munich. Since 2002, she has been living and working in Berlin. Her installations, films and performances have drawn international attention, with solo and group shows at venues including: Kunsthalle Basel 2014, Sharjah Biennale 2013; Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich 2012; ARTER Vehbi Koc Foundation Istanbul 2012; MOT-Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo 2011; Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt 2011; Hayward Gallery, London 2011; The XIV Biennale Internazionale di Scultura, Carrara 2011; The 11th Istanbul Biennial 2009; The 8th Taipei Biennial, Taiwan 2008; Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel 2007.

The artistic director of the Schwarz Foundation is the Munich art historian Dr. Andrea Lukas. After many years of directing the *Pinakothek der Moderne Foundation* in Munich, she now works as an independent advisor to collectors and foundations.

The exhibition in Samos is curated by Marina Fokidis from Athens. She is an independent curator, director of Kunsthalle Athena, and editor of the art magazine *South*. She was commissioner and curator of the Greek pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennial (2003) and curator of the 1st Tirana Biennial (2001).

Art Space Pythagorion is an initiative of the Munich-based Schwarz Foundation.

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For all press and PR inquiries, please contact:

PR office Germany

Anna Wichmann  
Press and Communications  
Isestrasse 11  
20144 Hamburg  
phone +49 40 7410 6768  
[me@annawichmann.de](mailto:me@annawichmann.de)

PR office Greece

Chara Zuma  
Zuma Communications  
Tzavella 28 | 10681 Athens  
phone +30 210 3224765  
mobile +30 698 0571057  
[chara@zumacom.gr](mailto:chara@zumacom.gr)

## Press images

Borderline, 2014  
HD Video  
Courtesy by the artist, Wentrup Gallery, Rampa Gallery



Borderline, 2014  
HD Video  
Courtesy by the artist, Wentrup Gallery, Rampa Gallery



City Language III, 2009  
video loop 42 sec  
Courtesy by the artist, Wentrup Gallery, Rampa Gallery



Session, 2013  
3-channel video installation  
HD video loop 6 min  
Courtesy by the artist, Wentrup Gallery, Rampa Gallery



Session, 2013  
3-channel video installation  
HD video loop 6 min  
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Border Sampling, 2011  
HD video 10:30 min  
Courtesy by the artist, Wentrup Gallery, Rampa Gallery



Border Sampling, 2011  
HD video 10:30 min  
Courtesy by the artist, Wentrup Gallery, Rampa Gallery



Border Sampling, 2011  
HD video 10:30 min  
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Portrait of  
Nevin Aladağ



Invitation Card  
for Borderline



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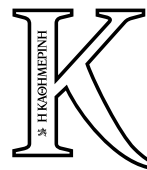
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