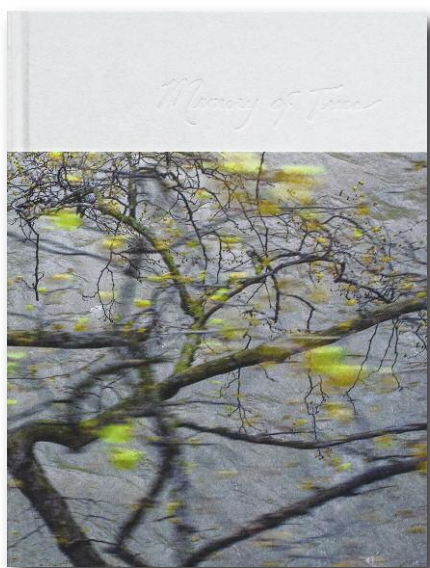




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NEUERSCHEINUNG IM KEHRER VERLAG

**Kathryn Cook**

Memory of Trees

Texte von François Cheval, Karin Karakaslı, Kathryn Cook

Gestaltet von Kathryn Cook, Dominique Herbert

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**In ihrer Fotoserie thematisiert Cook die Folgen des Völkermords an den Armeniern im neuen Osmanischen Reich**

*»Memory of Trees is a project about the erasure of memory – a loss unthinkable to most of us, living as we do in an age of instant and constant documentation.*

*In 1915, as Ottoman Turkey was on the brink of war, something horrible happened, the memory of which has been manipulated and left out of Turkish history books. A fiercely nationalistic young government, the Committee of Union and Progress, devised a plan for a great empire, a plan based on ethnic and religious homogeneity. This dark ideology was accepted as a state policy against non Muslims, who were regarded as traitors of the Republic. There-fore, the Armenians were in the way (as were the Greeks and Assyrians), and so they were disposed of by government orders.*

*An estimated 1.5 million Armenians were violently forced to leave their homes, their possessions, the lives and the ancient homeland behind. They were marched across unforgiving terrain without food and water. Families were ripped apart; men were marched away, never to return. Rape and murder was rampant. Children were sometimes spared, given to a family and converted to Islam. The operation ended »incomplete decimation of the Armenian community of which only an estimated 60,000 remain today.*

*This bloodshed, which paved the way for the birth of the Republic in 1923, is a dark, unspoken stain.* Kathryn Cook

**Der Titel:** Im Dorf Agaçlı – türkisch für »Ort der Bäume« – erinnern nur noch uralte Maulbeerbäume an die armenischen Bewohner, die dort früher Seidenraupen züchteten.

*Memory of Trees* folgt den Spuren eines verborgenen, düsteren Ereignisses in der Geschichte der Türkei, über dessen Definition noch heute, fast ein Jahrhundert später, gestritten wird. Kathryn Cook sichtete die Überreste dieses Erbe und sprach mit Überlebenden in der Türkei, Armenien, Syrien, Libanon und Israel. sucht Überlebende auf und erkundet die Überreste dieses Vermächtnisses. Ihre Bilder dokumentieren weniger bestimmte Ereignisse, als dass sie die emotionale Seite der Geschichte wiedergeben.

**Kathryn Cook** (\* 1979) lebt in Rom und wird von der Agentur VU' vertreten. Die Arbeiten der Amerikanerin wurden unter anderem in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, und dem *Stern* veröffentlicht. Für dieses Projekt erhielt sie 2008 den Inge Morath Award, den Aftermath Project Grant, den Endzo Baldoni Award und 2012 den Alexia Foundation Grant.

**François Cheval** ist Chefkurator des französischen Fotografie-museums Musée Nicéphore Niépce Chalon-sur-Saône.

**Karin Karakaslı** ist türkische Lyrikerin, Autorin und Kolumnistin bei den türkisch-armenischen Zeitungen *Agos* und *Radikal*.

**Ausstellung**

Musée Nicéphore Niépce, Chalon sur Saône, Frankreich  
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## Pressebilder



1. Children play in the courtyard of the old İhlasiye Madresesi, or religious school, in Bitlis, Turkey. According to archive documents, Bitlis's population was roughly half Armenian before 1915. © Kathryn Cook



2. A priest's frock hangs out at an Armenian abbey in Jerusalem. © Kathryn Cook



3. Ayşe Bal, estimated age 98 (in 2012), is seen in her home in Ağaçlı, Turkey. Ayşe's mother, originally from the city of Muş, was hidden and saved during the Genocide. She was converted to Islam and later married a Muslim. © Kathryn Cook



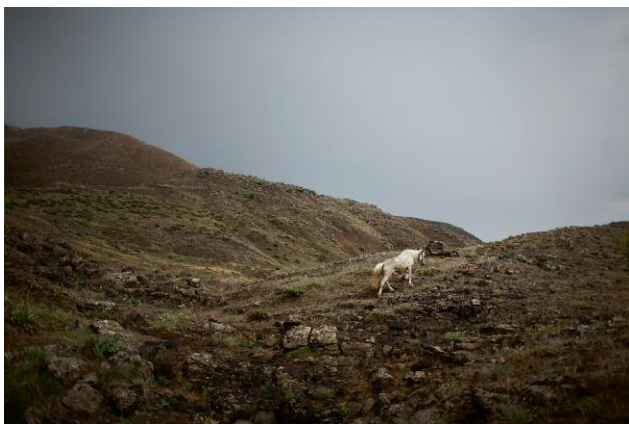
4. A photo of Enver Paşa, one of the leaders of the Young Turks and Minister of War. The Young Turk triumvirate –Enver Paşa, Talat Paşa and Cemal Paşa– are accused of planning the extermination of the Armenians in the early 20th century. © Kathryn Cook



5. The home of an Armenian Genocide survivor in Gyumri, Armenia.  
© Kathryn Cook



6. A hearse, carrying the flower-covered coffin of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, is seen during the funeral procession in Istanbul, Turkey. He was assassinated in broad daylight outside of his newspaper's office in Istanbul on January 19, 2007. Dink, who dedicated his work to improving Turkish-Armenian relations, was charged with breaking Law 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, which makes it criminal to "insult" the Republic or being a Turk. © Kathryn Cook



7. A horse wanders through a meadow outside of the town of Arapgir, Turkey, formerly inhabited by a significant Armenian population.  
© Kathryn Cook



8. A flock of birds flies over the coast of Lake Van in Eastern Turkey where the largest population of Turkey's Armenians had been living for centuries.  
© Kathryn Cook



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9. Hundreds of silkworms feed on mulberry leaves in the room of a house in Ağaçlı, Turkey.

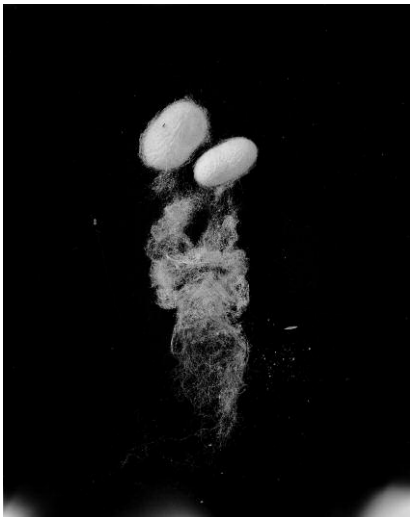
The village mayor initiated a project to revive a tradition of silk cultivation to generate money for families, and resurrected an Armenian silk-weaving tradition inspired by Ağaçlı's former inhabitants. A group of women formed a co-op in the village, and they use looms to make pure silk scarves.

© Kathryn Cook



10. A family wishing to remain anonymous, seen at their home near Gerger, Turkey.

The family has experienced discrimination for being Armenian, especially since they won their land back in a rare court case. Few of the family members live openly as Armenians. © Kathryn Cook



11. Silk cocoons from the village of Ağaçlı, Turkey.

An Armenian silk-weaving tradition was revived in this village, boosting silk production. Worms are raised by families, and these small cocoons are processed to make silk thread, which is then woven on looms into scarves.

© Kathryn Cook



12. Silk cocoons from the village of Ağaçlı, Turkey.

An Armenian silk-weaving tradition was revived in this village, boosting silk production. Worms are raised by families, and these small cocoons are processed to make silk thread, which is then woven on looms into scarves.

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