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Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt *Ratatataa*

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and Mustafa Kunt

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First major institutional solo exhibition of the artist duo Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt in Germany

With *RATATATAA*, the Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe presents the first major institutional solo exhibition of Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt in Germany. The onomatopoeic, provocatively energetic title points to the central themes of the exhibition and its accompanying publication: sound, language, and symbol as carriers of social power structures. The artistic principle of the duo Günyol & Kunt lies in the quiet staging of socially critical questions. With subtle humor and analytical precision, they expose mechanisms of power, representation, identity, and belonging—reducing complex themes to an aesthetic minimum. Transformation, repetition, and superimposition are recurring themes throughout the exhibition, whose 30 works were created between 2008 and 2025.

Central to their work is a focus on public space—understood both as a physical site and as a discursive field where collective memories and power structures are negotiated.

The installation *Free Solo* (2019–2025)—also featured on the cover of the book—draws on structures in public spaces. The title of the work not only alludes to the most dangerous form of climbing: Günyol & Kunt translate details of numerous statues and monuments in Frankfurt, Istanbul, Çanakkale, and Karlsruhe into real climbing holds and invite visitors to actively explore the wall. The work does not originate in sport, but in the collective impulse to take over public space and climb monuments during celebrations or social unrest.

The fact that Günyol & Kunt do not work with neutral materials, but deliberately use charged objects and symbols, is evident in

their works devoted to the themes of migration and flight. In *That which remains...* (2017), traces of Aegean seawater crystallized on watercolor paper can be seen forming terms such as »Life,« »Equality,« and »Movement.« In the context of the 2016 EU-Turkey agreement, these excerpts from the Declaration of Human Rights become silent references to the discrepancy between aspiration and reality in the refugee crisis.

Özlem Günyol (*1977) and **Mustafa Kunt** (*1978) grew up in Turkey and have been working in Frankfurt am Main since 2007. After studying art at Hacettepe University in Ankara, they continued their education at the Städelschule in Frankfurt—Özlem Günyol with Ayşe Erkmen, Mustafa Kunt with Wolfgang Tillmans. Their work has received numerous awards, including the H. W. & J. Hector Art Prize (2009) and the HAP Grieshaber Prize from VG Bild-Kunst (2017).

Exhibition

Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt

RATATATAA

Städtische Galerie Karlsruhe, Germany

September 27, 2025 – April 12, 2026

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Press Images



01_ Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Free Solo, 2019–2025 / Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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02_ Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Free Solo (Detail), 2019–2025 / Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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03_ Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Free Solo (Detail), 2019–2025, Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul / Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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04_ Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Mr. Bertelli, you are right. The profile still continues., 2019 / Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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05_ Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Self Defence, 2015, Photo: Işık Kaya
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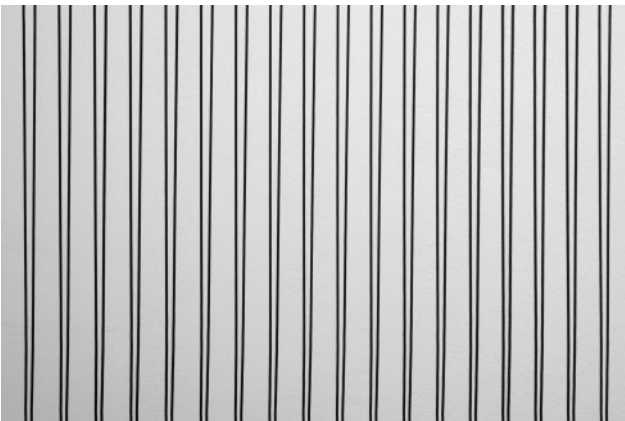
06_ Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Ceaseless Doodle, 2009, Photo: Cem Yücetaş
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07_Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, Neither Up nor Down, 2019–2023, Self-Portrait (Çamlıca), 2024 / Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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08_Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt Self-Portrait (Çamlıca), 2024 / Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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09_Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt Self-Portrait (Çamlıca) (Detail), 2024 / Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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10_Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt, The Clock, 2022, Installation view, Dirimart, Istanbul, Photo: Nazlı Erdemirel
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