



Presse release

Leyla Yenirce– Serê Cîya

Curated by Janika Jähnisch

27 June - 20 September 2026

Opening: 27 June, 5pm

47m Contemporary, Wünschmann-Haus, 6.OG, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 12, 04107 Leipzig

Opening hours: Wed, Fri: 3-8pm, Sat: 1-6 pm

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Leyla Yenirce – Serê Cîya

27 June – 12 September 2026

47m Contemporary

With Serê Cîya, the Kunstverein 47m Contemporary presents a solo exhibition by artist Leyla Yenirce (*1992 in Qubînê, Kurdistan; lives and works in Berlin), which interweaves memory, resistance, political history, landscape, and geographic spaces. Across works in video, sound, performance, and painting and including a site specific newly commissioned work, she creates connections between the Kurdish mountains, Leipzig's Fockeberg, and Paris's Montmartre: sites that become symbolic carriers of origin, loss, and resistance.

At the center of the exhibition are the video works Being Strong Is Hard (2021) and My Playground Is a Graveyard (2026). While Being Strong Is Hard explores questions of resistance and media image production through a dense audiovisual flow, the newly created work My Playground Is a Graveyard shows the artist's appropriation of Leipzig's Fockeberg through bodily movement. The hill, formed from the rubble of the Second World War, becomes at once playground, stage, and site of memory, which the artist traverses in continuous motion.

At the architectural high point of the institution—the dome located 47 meters above street level—an acoustic experiential space is installed: Yenirce's album Souvenirs (2024) enters into a visual and spatial confrontation with the panoramic view over Leipzig. Created during a stay in Paris, where the artist composed the album overlooking the Sacré-Cœur Basilica on Montmartre, the work combines voices,

field recordings, and atmospheric soundscapes into an archival narrative of personal and collective memory, addressing themes of origin and displacement.

Serê Cîya (Kurdish for “on the top of the mountain”) unfolds a multi-layered topography in which past and present, individual experience, and collective memory intersect. The exhibition reveals how historical violence, political struggle, and personal memories become inscribed in landscapes.

Leyla Yenirce (b. 1992 in Qubînê, Kurdistan) is an artist working across performance, music, video, and painting. Her practice engages with figurations of resistance and structures of media dominance. She studied Cultural Anthropology and Political Philosophy at HafenCity University Hamburg and Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia, as well as Fine Arts at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg.

Her work has been presented in solo exhibitions at Landesmuseum Oldenburg (2026), Kunstmuseum Magdeburg (2024), and Kunsthaus Hamburg (2022). Yenirce also participated in numerous group exhibitions, including at Museum Brandhorst (Munich, 2026), Museum Folkwang (Essen, 2024), Deichtorhallen and Sammlung Falckenberg (Hamburg, 2024), Kunsthalle Münster (2024), Haus der Kunst (Munich, 2023), Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst (Leipzig, 2023), and Halle für Kunst Lüneburg (2022).

Yenirce is among the recipients of the Kunstpreis Berlin 2024 and the ars viva Prize 2022. Her works are held in the permanent collections of Mudam – The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg, the Detroit Institute of Arts Museum, Kunstmuseum Magdeburg, Germany, and Kistefos Museum, Norway.

Accompanying Program

July 25, 2026, 3:00 PM

Guided tour of the exhibition with Hannah Lüken (Curatorial Assistant)

August 8, 2026, 3:00 PM

Guided tour of the exhibition with Anica Kehr (Art Educator)

September 12, 2026

1:00–6:00 PM

Closing event of the exhibition

3:00 PM

Guided tour of the exhibition with Hannah Lüken (Curatorial Assistant)

8:00 PM

Artist talk with Leyla Yenirce and guests

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