

HODA TAWAKOL

Silent Voices in a Palm Grove

25 March – 11 June 2023

curated by Rebekka Seubert

DORTMUNDFR

'Where there is power, there is resistance. And yet, or rather consequently, this resistance is never in a position of exteriority in relation to power' (Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality 1, The Will to Knowledge, trans. Robert Hurley, New York 1978, p. 95).

Control over another person's body can be a tool of pleasure or a means of violence. Oscillating between sensuality and brutality, the large-format textile sculptures by Franco-Egyptian artist Hoda Tawakol attract the gaze and make social power structures visible. They transform the new premises of the Kunstverein into a *palm grove*, a place of fruitful utopias and of resistance.

The power of the gaze is one of art's inherent issues, and it also appears in stories and folk beliefs – from the Eye of Horus to the Hand of Fatima. In many ways Hoda Tawakol turns the power of the gaze into a protagonist: as rapprochement and reassurance between people, between people and objects, but also as control over bodies, control over stimuli. As an interplay of allure, seduction and the suppression of reflexes or conditions, people and bodies. As power over access and exclusion.

Silent Voices in a Palm Grove, rising up from the undergrowth in the cover of twilight. They fight for freedom by reversing the means of repression. They are robed as warriors in armour made of hair, and they stand – like the visitors to the exhibition – behind a large curtain that protects the Kunstverein from prying eyes.

In this exhibition Hoda Tawakol recurrently plays with scale in order to spell out the violence of certain cultural practices and patriarchal social structures: there is a shift here from the head to the whole body – from the braided mesh of the veil to the intricate mashrabiyya (ornamental wooden lattice used in the

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architecture of the Arabic-speaking world as permeable walls and windows on balconies or in courtyards). Or she transfers the formal language of the tiny leather falcon lures to attractors of her own: larger-than-life textile structures whose organic forms recall human body parts rather than the lumps of meat for training birds of prey. For the upper space Tawakol has created a trellis structure based on the layout of the men's area (Salamlek) of the famous Bayt Al-Suhaymi, the house of Sheikh Al-Suhaymi in Medieval Cairo. Traditionally reserved for male visitors, this space is open to all in the exhibition, and in it Tawakol presents ten falcon masks enlarged to human proportions.

With her first institutional solo exhibition, Hoda Tawakol brings a utopian realm into being in the Kunstverein. A glowing palm grove that radiates out into the surrounding city, visible from afar.

*Hoda Tawakol (*1968 in London, lives in Hamburg) graduated in fine arts at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Hamburg, with Andreas Slominski in 2011. Her works have already been shown internationally in exhibitions, including Museum for Art in Wood, Philadelphia (2023) and Kunsthalle Schirn, Frankfurt am Main (2020).*

The artist's booklet "The Eyes of my Mothers - Die Augen meiner Mütter" is published to accompany the exhibition.

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PROGRAM

Sun, 26 March, 2 PM

GUIDED TOUR

with the curator Rebekka Seubert

Thu, 11 May, 7 PM

FILM EVENING #22 MAHA MAAMOUN

Selected short films by the Egyptian video artist

Maha Maamoun (*1972)

Language: OV Arabic with English subtitles

Sat and Sun, 13 + 14 May, 12-21 PM

Kulturmeile Dortmund

ANNA EHRENSTEIN: COFFEE GROUND IMAGINARIES

Thu, 1 June, 7 – 10 PM

THEME EVENING

HAIR POLITICS

EXHIBITION TALK

Walk & Talk with Hélia Paukner (curator, Mucem, Marseille)

and Rebekka Seubert

LECTURE

Prof. Dr. Alexandra Karentzos (Chair of Fashion and

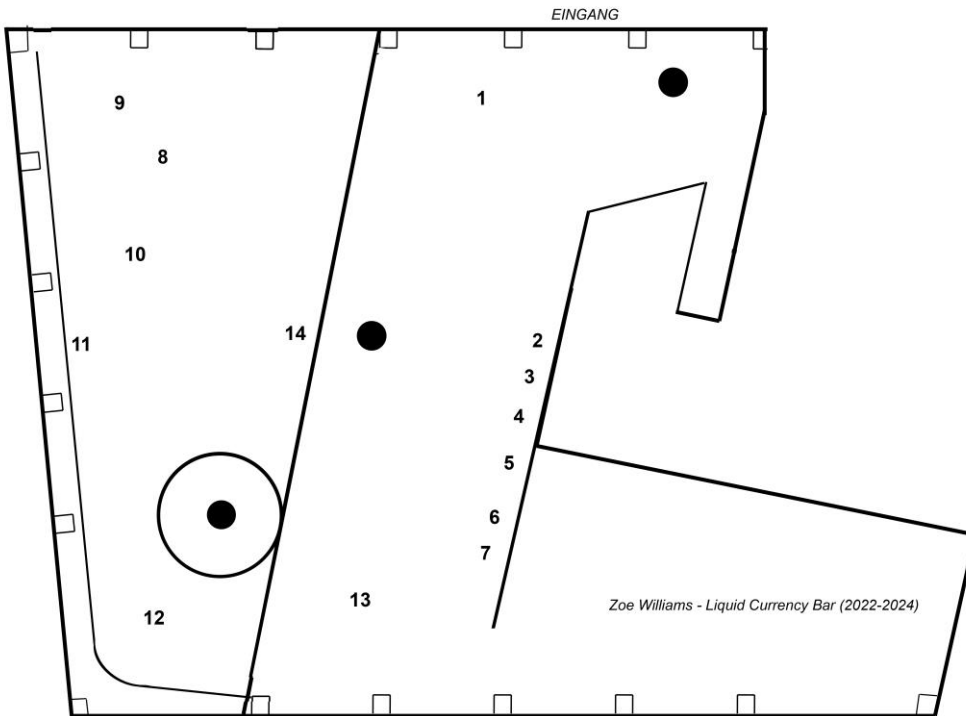
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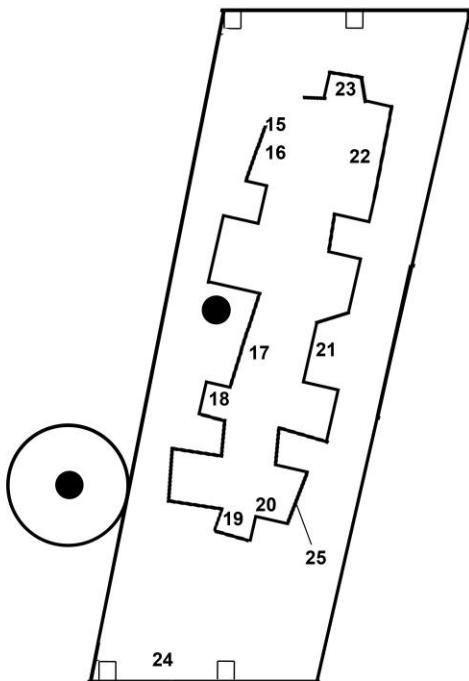
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GROUND FLOOR

- 1 Warrior #2, 2010
- 2 Shebbak #11, 2014
- 3 Hair #4, 2011
- 4 Hair #7, 2014
- 5 Shebbak #1, 2014
- 6 Hair #3, 2011
- 7 Shebbak #10, 2014
- 8 Palm Tree #32, 2023
- 9 Lure #16, 2019
- 10 Lure #28, 2023
- 11 Palm Grove #1, 2023
- 12 Lure #25, 2021-23
- 13 Lure #27, 2023
- 14 Jungle #7, 2023



TOP FLOOR

- 15 Falconry Hood #46, 2023
- 16 Falconry Hood #41, 2023
- 17 Falconry Hood #40, 2022
- 18 Falconry Hood #43, 2023
- 19 Falconry Hood #42, 2023
- 20 Falconry Hood #38, 2021
- 21 Falconry Hood #44, 2023
- 22 Falconry Hood #47, 2023
- 23 Falconry Hood #45, 2023
- 24 Falconry Hood #39, 2022
- 25 Salamlek #1, 2023