

Half Life

Nooshin Askari, Serminaz Barseghian, Adam Fearon, Rebekka Hilmer Heltoft, Siyi Li, François Pisapia, Ursula Pürner, Elif Saydam
October 20 - November 18, 2023
Organized by Elif Saydam

A life folds into a shoebox into a storage into a warehouse.
A warehouse folds into a squat into a cinema into a brewery.
A brewery folds into a studio into a start-up and then a brewery again,
which folds into a gallery into a hotel into a condo.
A condo multiplies with velocity into a highrise at half the time we were expecting.
The tram tracks have reached the neighborhood at twice the time we were expecting.

Back on the ground, a florist folds into a vape store into another start-up. And then a bar.
In the bar Kenny sings about how to fold 'em. Ironically though.
A corner store folds into a cafe into a co-working space into a children's boutique,
and then unfolds back into a corner store. That's trust.
A finger rolls the final cigarette paper over.
A police station opens in the lobby. And then a prison.

A laundromat folds into a tailor into a dry-cleaner into another laundromat. It's the district
for that.
A matchbook folds upon a phone number, into a pocket, which folds into a lifestyle.
Handkerchiefs once folded, body parts too. There's an app for that now,
so laundromats return to strictly washing clothes again. Quite cleanly.
A lover folds the trousers of another lover, sadly.
But back to the shoebox:
two more blondes move into my building; my favorite neighbor folds.

I fold myself into a crevice between economy class and the toilets, having found a spot for
the artworks to journey. I return to my seat and fold the safety buckle over. A traveling
grandmother folds her hands on her lap and puts her head upon my shoulder. We share
sweets. We share codes. We can't speak. We fold into one another; we take each other into
the fold.

– Elif Saydam for Nooshin Askari, Serminaz Barseghian, Adam Fearon, Rebekka Hilmer
Heltoft, Siyi Li, François Pisapia and Ursula Pürner

For inquiries or to request additional information please contact fk@franzkaka.com



Half Life (installation view), 2023
Franz Kaka, Toronto, CA
Photo: LFdocumentation



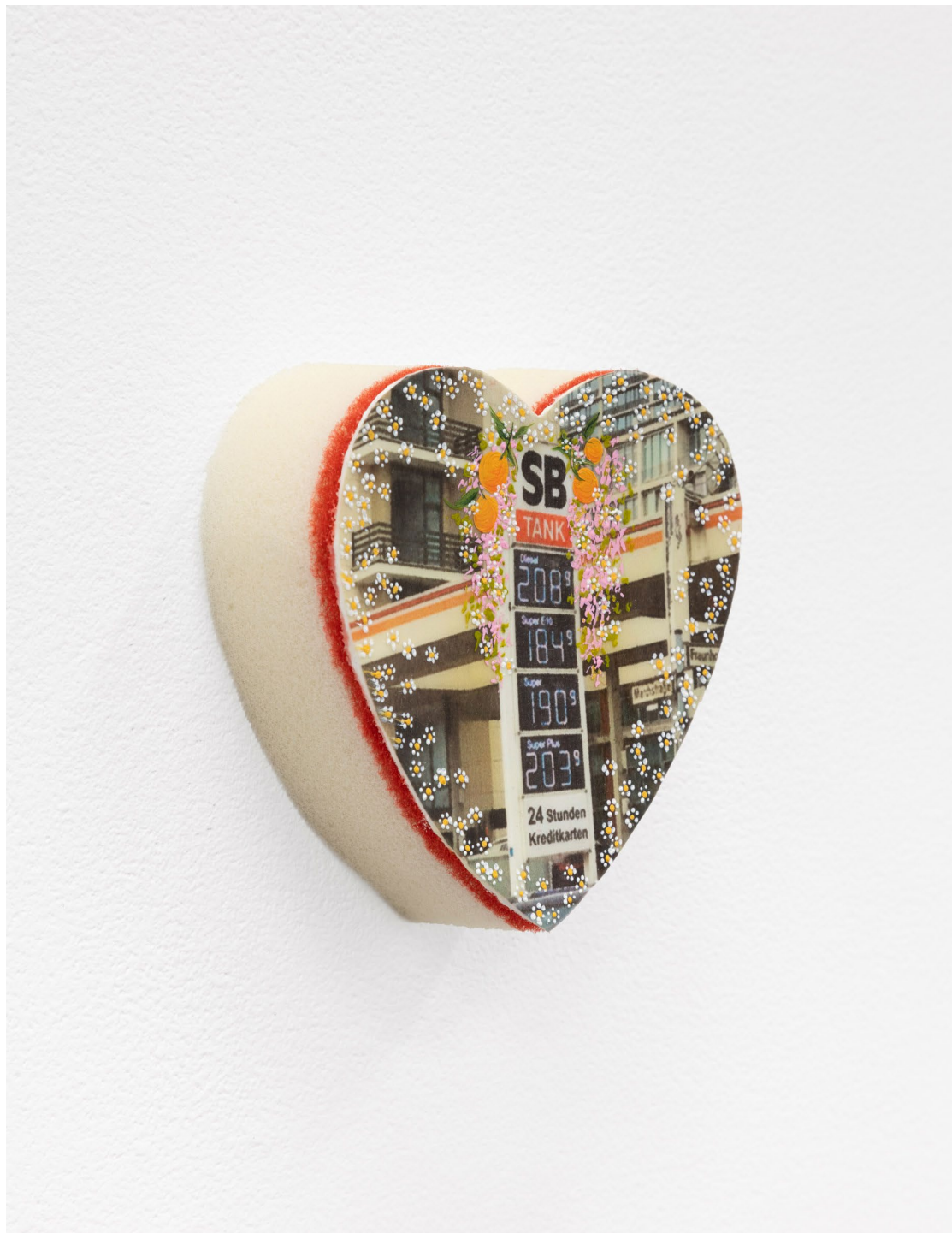
Elif Saydam

The world is not your oyster, 2023

Collage, oil and resin on gessoed kitchen sponge

3.5 x 3.25 x 1.25 in (8.9 x 8.3 x 3.2 cm)

ES-2327



Elif Saydam

Fill him up, 2023

Collage, oil and resin on gessoed kitchen sponge

3.5 x 3.25 x 1.25 in (8.9 x 8.3 x 3.2 cm)

ES-2326



Elif Saydam

My creeping purple heart, 2023

Collage, oil and resin on gessoed kitchen sponge

3.5 x 3.25 x 1.25 in (8.9 x 8.3 x 3.2 cm)

ES-2325



Siyi Li
Untitled (€), 2023
Oil on linen
4.9 x 2.8 in (12.4 x 7.1 cm)
SL-231



Siyi Li
Untitled (€), 2023
Oil on linen
4.9 x 2.8 in (12.4 x 7.1 cm)
SL-232



Franz Kaka



Adam Fearon
Bedroom São Paulo, 2023
Oil on canvas
11.4 x 13.4 in (29 x 34 cm) cm
AF-231

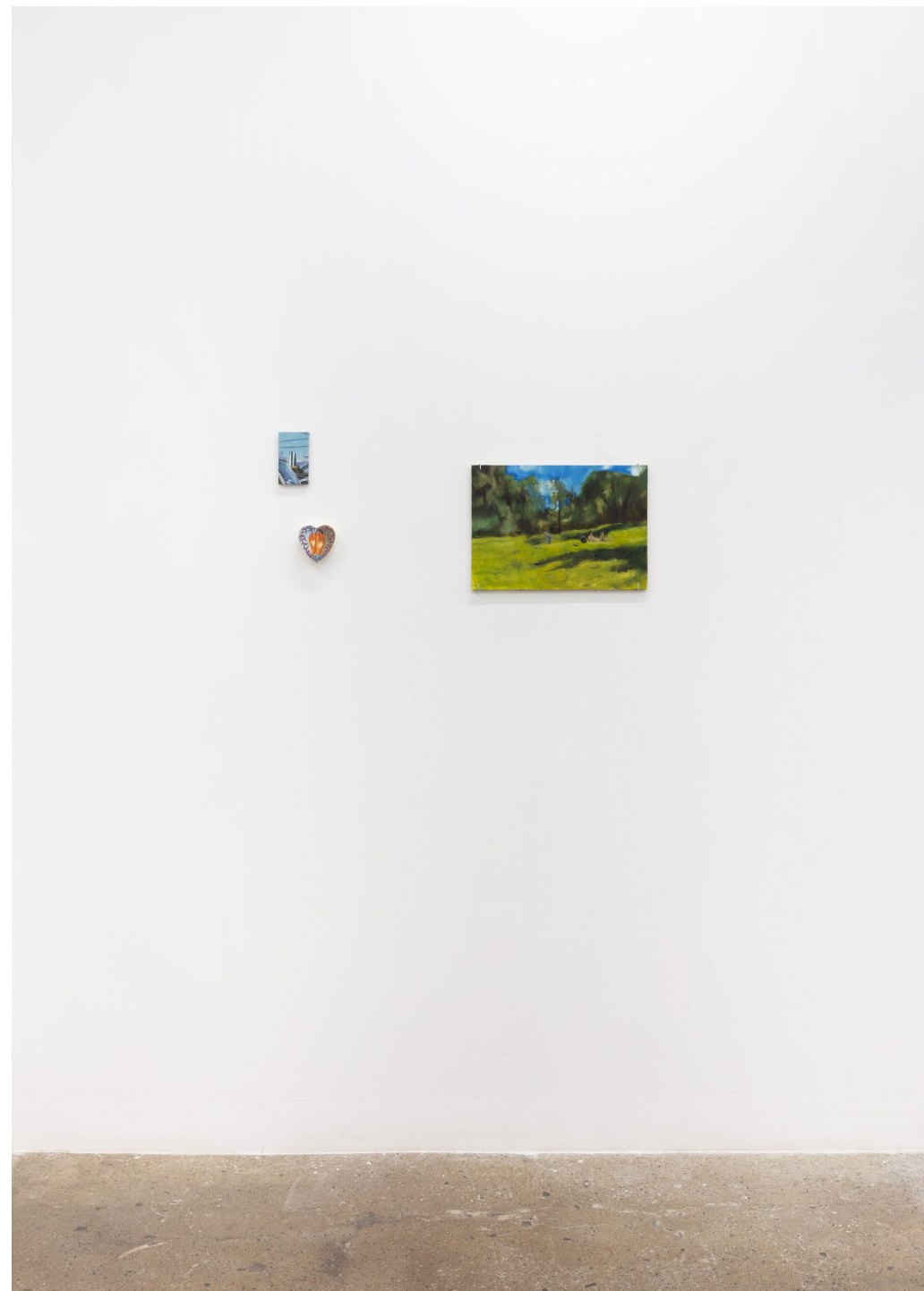




Adam Fearon
Cruising Grounds Hasenheide, East Entrance, 2023
Oil on canvas
11.8 x 10.2 in (30 x 25.9 cm)
AF-232



Adam Fearon
FKK Tiergarten, 2023
Oil on board
11.8 x 16.5 in (30 x 41.9 cm)
AF-233



Franz Kaka



Franz Kaka



Rebekka Hilmer Heltoft
Potential waving at me (with flowers), 2023
pencil, watercolour and pastel on Sennelier hot pressed watercolour paper pad,
handcasted hinges in bronze, sandblasted brass screws, Douglas fir, linseed oil paint
21.7 x 15.7 x 1.2 in (55.1 x 39.9 x 3 cm)
RHH-231







Rebekka Hilmer Heltoft
Support (violet red), 2023
handcasted hinges in bronze, sandblasted brass screws, Douglas fir, linseed oil paint
30.3 x 2.4 x 2.8 in (77 x 6.1 x 7.1 cm)
RHH-232





Rebekka Hilmer Heltoft

Confusion (white), 2023

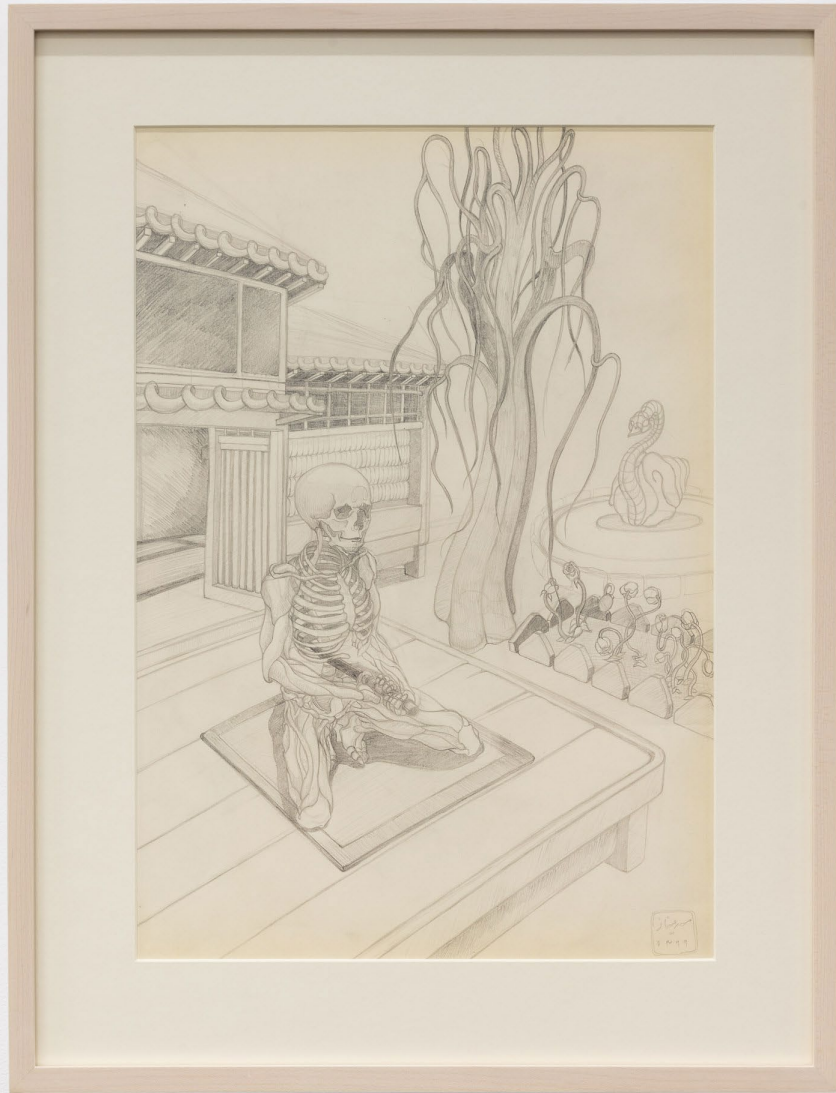
handcasted hinges in bronze, sandblasted brass screws, Douglas fir, linseed oil paint

46.6 x 5.5 x 1.2 in (118.4 x 14 x 3 cm)

RHH-233



Franz Kaka



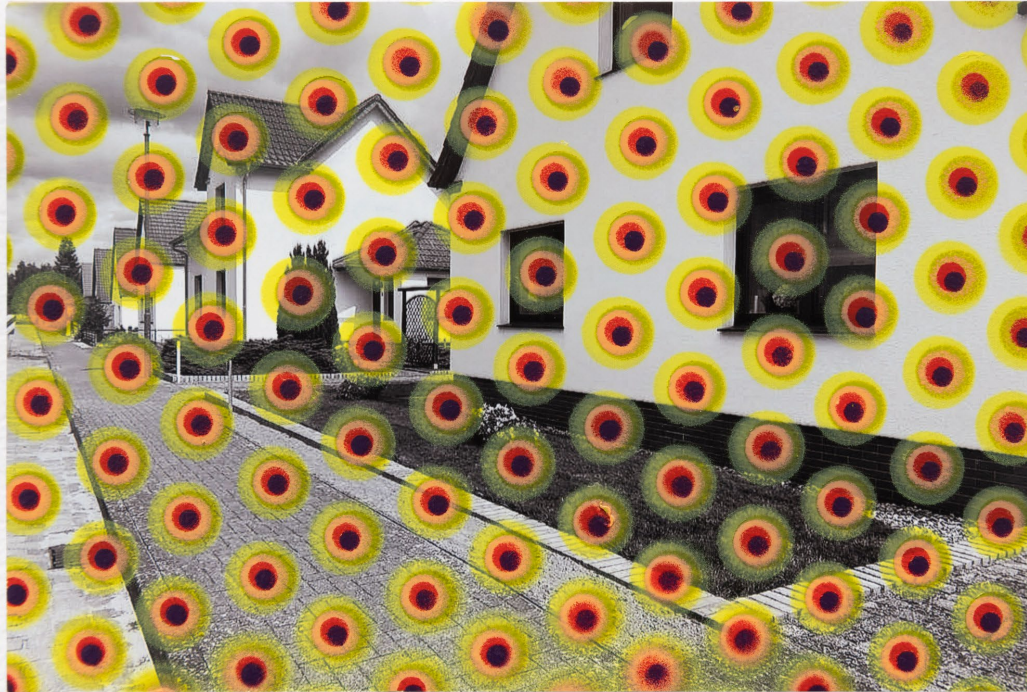
Serminaz Barseghian
A Harakiri Swap or Let Me Live My Own Life, 2018
Pencil on paper
21.2 x 16.1 in (53.8 x 40.9 cm)
SB-231



François Pisapia
beds and bunkers, 2023
Digital slideshow, 5 min. 27 sec.
FP-231



François Pisapia
sex in the city, 2023
Digital slideshow, 2 min. 03 sec.
FP-232



François Pisapia
Suburbia, 2023
Spray paint on mounted photograph
3.75 x 5.5 in (9.5 x 14 cm)
FP-233



Ursula Pürer
Tacheles 1, 2023
Mixed media
8.25 x 11.75 in (21 x 29.8 cm)
UP-231



Ursula Pürrer
Tacheles 2, 2023
Mixed media
8.25 x 11.75 in (21 x 29.8 cm)
UP-232



Ursula Pürrer
Zaun/Fence, 2019/2023
Mixed media
8.25 x 11.75 in (21 x 29.8 cm)
UP-233



Franz Kaka



Nooshin Askari

Room Nr. 13, 2023

UV-print, pencil, paper, painted wood veneer, painted wooden frame
13.25 x 5.75 x 1 in (33.7 x 14.6 x 2.5 cm)

NAS-231



Nooshin Askari

Room Nr. 12, 2023

11.75 x 6.75 x 1 in (29.8 x 17.1 x 2.5 cm) UV-print, pencil, paper, painted wood veneer,
painted wooden frame

NAS-232



Franz Kaka



Franz Kaka

Nooshin Askari (b. 1989) lives and works between Tehran, Iran and Berlin, Germany.

Serminaz Barseghian (b. 1987) is an artist born and based in Tehran.

Adam Fearon was born in Dublin, Ireland and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. He studied at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin; The Haute Ecole d'Art et Design, Geneva and the Städelschule, Frankfurt. Recent group exhibitions have taken place at Harbinger and Verksmiðjan á Hjalteyri, Iceland; TJ Boulting, London; Frankfurter Kunstverein; Kunsthal ved am seden af, Svendborg, Denmark and BQ, Berlin. Solo projects include those at Ashley, Berlin; The Butler Galley, Kilkenny; Harbinger, Reykjavik and MIGlisse, Berlin.

Rebekka Hilmor Heltoft (b. 1991, Jammerbugt, DK) is a visual artist with a background in philosophy. Her work investigates how meaning moves into being and how this process is related to chance. She uses methods such as writing, drawing, painting, printmaking techniques, film and building objects of various sorts. Recent activities include the publishing of her personal essay *Drawn To The Pencil*; *Dark Light Glitter* (2023), duo show *HEART CUTS CONNECT* in collaboration with Julia Sjölin (2022) and the film *Gold Teeth And Certain Arms* (2022). She has studied at Vienna Academy of Fine Arts (2016-2018), holds a bachelor in philosophy from the University of Copenhagen (2014) as well as in fine arts from the The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Visual Art, Copenhagen (2018). In 2023 she graduated from the same institution as a Master of Fine Arts and with a Minor in Writing and Research. She lives and works in Copenhagen. Siyi Li (b. 1999, China) is an artist who currently lives and works in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Often working with one media at a time, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, photography or music, he preserves ephemeral emotions with simple and humble conceptual gestures as antidotes to shattered contemporary life. Li received a BA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London in 2021 and is finishing his Meisterschüler at Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main in 2024. His recent exhibitions include, *Crybaby*, *Cibrián* (San Sebastián, ES, 2023 upcoming); *Softpretty*, *fffriedrich* (Frankfurt am Main, DE, 2023); *Mostly Sunny*, *Fragile* (Berlin, DE, 2022); and *+1*, *Tor Art Space* (Frankfurt am Main, DE, 2021).

Siyi Li (b.1999, China) is an artist who currently lives and works in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Often working with one media at a time, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, photography or music, he preserves ephemeral emotions with simple and humble conceptual gestures as antidotes to shattered contemporary life. Li received a BA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London in 2021 and is finishing his Meisterschüler at Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main in 2024. His recent exhibitions include, *Crybaby*, *Cibrián* (San Sebastián, ES, 2023 upcoming); *Softpretty*, *fffriedrich* (Frankfurt am Main, DE, 2023); *Mostly Sunny*, *Fragile* (Berlin, DE, 2022); and *+1*, *Tor Art Space* (Frankfurt am Main, DE, 2021).

François Pisapia (b. 1990, Montreal, CA) is an artist based in Berlin. His practice moves through video, photography, performance and installation. It contemplates fantasies of the home, urban planning, private property and public displays of affection. Pisapia completed a BFA in Design from Concordia University (Montreal) and graduated from the Städelschule art academy (Frankfurt). His work has been shown at the Centre for Contemporary Art (Glasgow), Staedel Museum (Frankfurt), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Millenium Film Workshop (New York), Centre Clark (Montreal) and more.

Ursula Pürerer (b. 1962, Vienna) studied “Visual Media Design” from 1984 to 1989 at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna and Electroacoustics and Composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, receiving a Master degree with honours. Pürerer’s works include “Super 8-Girl-Games” (1984/85), “The Drift of Juicy” (1989), “Das Aufbegehren oder das andere Begehren (Revolt or Desire)” (1991), “Flaming Ears” (1992), and “Blueprint” (2000). Since 1996, Pürerer has worked as a film editor.

In their expanded painting practice, Elif Saydam (b. 1985, Calgary, Canada) addresses the relationship between social categories and the construction of aesthetic value systems. Drawing on decoration, ornamentation and embellishment, as well as the judgements and mechanisms these entail, they raise questions around valued labor, identification impulses and social mobility within late-Capitalism. Most recently, Saydam has been making small-scale paintings which take their cues from historical Ottoman and Persian miniature painting. The works explicitly reference a non-European Illuminated Manuscript tradition, but are further complicated with low-brow materials collaged from contemporary youth culture, everyday Kitsch and queer iconographies.