

Vor Ort 2024: Melike Kara

June 29th – October 29th, 2024

Monthly guided tours on Tuesdays from 3-7 PM with time slots. For more information, visit <https://www.ludwigstiftung.de/besuch>. Additional dates are available upon request.

As part of their Vor Ort Artist Project, the Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation has invited artist Melike Kara. Her temporary installation at Haus Ludwig will be on display from June 29th to October 29th, 2024.

Melike Kara explores the interplay of past, present, and future in Aachen. She fills three spaces at Haus Ludwig with her own works: windows, arcades, and an outdoor colonnade.

Melike Kara on her project: "It was particularly exciting for me to see how tradition and future are intertwined in this place. The Ludwig Foundation must also embrace change, and with my works, I integrate what I preserve while simultaneously setting new accents. It's important for me to take my place, quietly yet clearly."

For her installation, Melike Kara utilizes a variety of materials and technologies such as fabric, latex, 3D printing, plaster, paint, and canvas. Raised in Germany, she draws from a diverse cultural heritage of the Kurds. The exhibition begins with 'weaving', an ensemble of three fabric works. Here, Kara intertwines traditional Kurdish knot ornamentation with modern materials. This work moves in the wind, conveying lightness and lending dynamism to the overall installation. The two paintings 'barzani', 2024 and 'mantik surchi', 2024 feature ornaments from Kurdish wall hangings and hang in the arcade. They are characterized by a free, gestural, and abstract expression, with a color palette that captures the play of colors in the surroundings. The third work of the installation titled 'herati' plays with the window front, translating to 'future'. Depending on the viewer's perspective, Kara interweaves the exterior and interior spaces.

Carla Cugini, Managing Executive Director, on the third edition of the Vor Ort Project: "We are very pleased to have Melike Kara for this year's 'On-Site Project'. With her works, she transforms our spaces, both indoors and outdoors. If Haus Ludwig were a piece of music, I would say Kara adds another very poetic voice."

About Melike Kara's work:

Understanding that history is in constant flux, Kara aims to translate her roots into the present. Inspired by traditional carpet patterns, she transforms their shapes and signs into abstract compositions. In her art, she addresses themes such as displacement, preservation, and forward thinking. These cultural influences shape and inspire her work.

Melike Kara is interested in imbuing her personal history and the cultural elements that connect her with new meaning. She was particularly impressed by the integration of art historical and architectural objects at Haus Ludwig. The building was constructed from rubble after World War II by Irene and Peter Ludwig, along with architect and restorer Hans Küppers. They incorporated

numerous found objects into the architecture to give them new space—a central inspiration for Kara's project. Kara reverses the design process: while Peter and Irene Ludwig once collected decorative arts and built what is now known as 'Haus Ludwig' around these artworks, Melike Kara transforms this process by first creating artworks adorned with ornamentation and then integrating the building into this artwork.

Biography

Melike Kara (*1985, Bensberg, Germany) lives and works in Cologne. Her works have been exhibited internationally, including at MO.CO. Montpellier; SCHIRN Kunsthalle Frankfurt; Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen; Kunsthalle Zürich; Kunstverein Düsseldorf; Museum De Fundatie, Zwolle; Philara Foundation, Düsseldorf; Frac des pays de la Loire, Nantes; Mead Gallery | Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry; Neue Galerie Gladbeck; Ludwig Forum Aachen; Kölnischer Kunstverein; Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels; Kunstverein Göttingen; Kunstinstituut Melly, Rotterdam; Yuz Museum, Shanghai; and Dortmunder Kunstverein. She participated in the 58th Carnegie International in Pittsburgh, curated by Sohrab Mohebbi.

Location Haus Ludwig, Eupener Straße 281, 52076 Aachen **Information** <https://www.ludwigstiftung.de/stiftung@ludwigstiftung.de> **E-Mail** stiftung@ludwigstiftung.de **Phone** +49 (0) 241 89498 0 **Instagram** @ludwig_stiftung
Press Kathrin Luz (Kathrin Luz Communication) **E-Mail** kl@neumann-luz.de **Phone** +49 171 3102472, Jana Hecht (Volontärin) **E-Mail** hecht@ludwigstiftung.de **Phone** +49 (0) 241 89498 17

The Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation

The Foundation.

The Irene and Peter Ludwig Foundation continuously researches, organizes, and expands the Ludwig Collection. Twice a year, associated museums have the opportunity to submit project proposals. The Foundation is led by Managing Executive Director Dr. Carla Cugini. The Chair of the Board of Trustees is Carolin Scharpff-Striebich. The collection, currently comprising over 14,000 objects, is distributed internationally through donations and long-term loans to 30 publicly funded museums. In Aachen, where the Ludwigs lived, three museums have close ties to the collections, while in Cologne there are four. Further collaborations exist within Germany. Internationally, the Foundation is active in China, Cuba, Russia (currently dormant support), Hungary, Austria, and Switzerland. Additionally, there are two other foundations in Vienna and Havana that cooperate with the Irene and Peter Ludwig Foundation in Aachen.

The Collection.

Throughout their lives, art collectors Irene and Peter Ludwig amassed a comprehensive collection spanning from Egyptian and ancient art to contemporary international art. Their stated collecting concept aimed to underscore the quality and significance of art across time, cultures, and countries, as a globally valuable and uniquely human expression principle. The term "world art" guided their approach, understood as an international and transcultural perspective intended to aesthetically render societal and political differences experientially accessible. Unbiasedly, during a time when the art world was predominantly shaped by Western European and North American influences, the Ludwigs directed their gaze towards Russia, China, and eventually Central America, particularly Cuba.