

Tanya Leighton

ELIF SAYDAM

Born 1985 in Calgary, Canada
Lives and works in Berlin

Education

2016 MFA, Städelschule Staatliche Hochschule, Frankfurt am Main
2009 BFA, Concordia University, Montréal

Solo Exhibitions

2026 *Glory*, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich
2025 *Saving Nine*, Kunsthal Thy, Denmark
List Projects 32: Elif Saydam, MIT List Visual Arts Center,
Cambridge, Massachusetts
RAUS, Franz Kaka, Toronto
2024 *Hospitality*, Audain Gallery, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver
Stealth, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich
2023 *Eviction Notice*, Oakville Galleries, Gairloch Gardens, Toronto
2022 *Cleaning up the neighborhood*, All Stars, Lausanne
Elif Saydam / Tom Hardwick-Allan, Lady Helen, Berlin
*F*rgiveness*, Tanya Leighton, Berlin
2021 *...schläft sich durch*, Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg
Shane (with Beth Collar), Zarinbal Khoshbahkt, Cologne
2020 *Everybody's Fool*, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich
NADA (with Paul Kajander), Franz Kaka, Toronto
Gut feeling, Tanya Leighton, Berlin
Selfing, Mélange, Cologne
glücksfall (with Leonie Nagel), The Tail, Brussels
2019 *What me worry*, Stadium, Berlin
La belle dame sans merci, Franz Kaka, Toronto
2018 *Colt Jonner's Desecration of Descent* (with Vera Palme), Berlin Art Week
2017 *No R.E.M.*, Ashley, Berlin
2016 *Matador*, Kunstverein Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nuremberg

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 *Tausendmal Berlin*, Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der
Gegenwart, Berlin
2025 *The Three-Legged Cat*, 18th Istanbul Biennial
My Protagonists, Kunst Raum Riehen, Basel
The Shape of a City, Frank Kaka, Toronto
2024 *Ansichten einer Ordnung*, Anti Kriegs Museum, Berlin
A Crack We Sprout Through, Sanatorium, Istanbul
it's not you it's me, Sentiment, Zurich
2023 *Die Wissen*, nGbk, Berlin
Die Wissen, TAXISPALAIS Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck

- Half Life*, Franz Kaka, Toronto
Doch alle eine Insel?, GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen
POTSBLITZPAINTING, Potsdamer Str. 103, Berlin
- 2022 *ENTER_NATURE*, Galerie im Körnerpark, Berlin
Zum schönen Knie II, Doom Spa, Berlin
Dogtooth, Helena Anrather, New York
Playing with Bones, La Traverse, Marseille
- 2021 *Kuli*, Mauer, Cologne
Lose Enden, Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland
The Sun Machine is Coming Down (with Floating University),
International Congress Centre, Berlin
CASA UOVO, Sangt Hipolyt, Berlin
Von der schenkenden Tugend, Zarinbal Khoshbahkt, Cologne
Jahresgaben, Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg
Luxury and Glamour. The Wilfulness of the Superfluous,
Landes-Stiftung Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck, Bonn
- 2020 *Perhaps A window?*, Stadium, Berlin
Reality, Tropez, Humboldthain Schwimmbad, Berlin
Kartoffelmuseum, Stallmuseum, Berlin-Brandenburg
Times in Crisis, Klosterruine, Berlin
- 2019 *Network Error*, INOX, Copenhagen
Made in Balmoral, Künstlerhaus Schloss Balmoral, Bad Ems, Germany
NEUE HORIZONTE 2030, Winterfeldtstr. 41, Berlin
Real Books (Extraordinary Tales), Jan Kaps, Cologne
- 2018 *Still Life*, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich
Emic etic, Between Bridges, Berlin
- 2017 *Young Positions*, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich
Pressing your face in wet grass, privateOFFSPACE, Frankfurt am Main
Friday the 13th Full Moon in Cancer presents tears, Cave 3000, Berlin
- 2016 *Jahresgaben*, Kunstverein Nürnberg Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft,
Nuremberg
Marianne-Defet-Malerei-Stipendium, Kunsthalle Nürnberg
Croissant, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main
31 Women, Philipp Pflug Contemporary, Frankfurt am Main

Performances, Readings and Lectures

- 2025 Guest seminar with Nooshin Askari, *Decoration as Perversion*, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA
- 2024 Artist talk with Brendan Tang, Audain Gallery, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver
Lecture, Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto
- 2023 Lecture, *P is for Poodles...* with Ben Miller (in the context of General Idea), Martin Gropius Bau
Lecture, Academy of Fine Arts, Nürnberg
Lecture, York University, Toronto
Lecture/workshop, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen
Lecture, California State University

- 2022 *Sparta-X-Elif Saydam*, Lecture, Sparta Kunstakademie Düsseldorf
Two Cents, Reading, Hopscotch, Berlin
*F*RGIVENESS*, Lecture, Berlin Art Institute
- 2021 *The House Always Wins*, Online lecture, Städelschule, Frankfurt Am Main
Chomp. Spit. Bite, Online lecture/performance, Academy of Fine Arts, Nürnberg
...schlafen sich durch, Südlese Festival Hamburg
- 2020 *Empathy When*, Broken Dimanche Press Podcast series, Tropez, Humboldthain Schwimmbad, Berlin
Youth, Gegenwart, Hamburg
I want to cum in your heart, Babes Bar, Berlin
- 2019 *Von Fleisch und Zucker*, Montez Press Radio, Hamburg
Desecration of Descent (with Vera Palme and Stefan Müller), Art Book Fair, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne
Desecration Of Descent for die Marmory Show IV (with Vera Palme), Deborah Schamoni, Munich
Pure Fyction Mausoleum, Johan, Frankfurt am Main
- 2018 *Desecration of Descent: Marathon Reading and Flesh Roast*, Büro BDP, Berlin
Die Welt und das Schwimmbad, Tropez, Humboldthain Schwimmbad, Berlin
Pure Fyction, an Un-trodyction, Ashley, Berlin
Telephone: Act II. Miss St's Hieroglyphic Suffering, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin
Cool Ranch Honky Tonk, Babes Bar, Berlin
- 2017 *Produktion: MADE IN GERMANY DREI, IMPURE Fiction presents . . . der Kaukasische Kreidekreis von Brecht*, Kestnergesellschaft, Sprengel Museum, Kunstverein Hannover
- 2016 *The Grand Balcony, La Biennale de Montréal: IMPURE Fiction presents. . . Le Misanthrope 1666*, Société des arts technologiques, Montréal, Canada
Major Canis Minor, Kunstverein Nürnberg Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nuremberg
Pure Fiction: Belly of the Whale, Johan, Frankfurt am Main

Residencies, Fellowships and Prizes

- 2024 Hessisches Kulturstiftung, Atelier Stipendium New York
- 2022 Canada Council for the Arts Concept to Realization Grant
Kunstfonds NEUSTART Kultur, Germany
- 2021 Canada Council for the Arts Concept to Realization Grant
Singular Plurality: Canada in Germany, Frankfurt Book Fair, Canadian Embassy in Germany
- 2020 Förderpreis "Kataloge für junge Künstler", Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung
Kunstfonds NEUSTART Kultur, Germany
- 2019 Singular Plurality: Canada in Germany

- Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 Canada Council for the Arts Research and Creation Grant
 Künstlerhaus Schloss Balmoral, Stiftung Rheinland-Pfalz für Kultur
- 2018 Sobey Award Longlist, National Gallery of Canada
 Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 Production grant, Canadian Embassy in Germany
 RFSU Ottarfonden, Sweden
- 2017 Berlin Program for Artists, Berlin
 Production grant, Canadian Embassy in Germany
- 2016 Marianne-Defet-Malerei-Stipendium, Da Vinci Pinselfabrik /
 Kunstverein Nürnberg Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft, Nuremberg
 Production grant, Canadian Embassy in Germany
 Linklaters LLP Prize for Painting, Städelschule Rundgang
- 2012 Professional Development Award, British Columbia Arts Council
 Banff Centre Spring Thematic: LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL STOP PLEASE
 ALLOW FEATURES ASSUME... , Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada
 Samband Islenskra Myndlistarmanna/Association of Icelandic Artists.
 Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2009 The Betty Goodwin Award in Studio Arts, Concordia University
 Prix du centre des arts et des fibres du Québec, Concordia University
 / Diagonale Centre des arts et des fibres du Québec

Publications and Catalogues

- 2026 *ASCHE 1992-2025-2700*, die schönsten schwulen bücher, Netherlands
 (forthcoming)
- 2025 *Hospitality*, Publication Studio/Simon Fraser University, Vancouver
 (forthcoming)
Elif Saydam: List Projects 32 (interview with Zach Ngin), MIT List
 Visual Arts Center, Cambridge
Postponed: A Reader, self-published by Sanna Helena Berger, Berlin
- 2022 *Elif Saydam: TWO CENTS*, artist monograph, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen
 und Halbach-Stiftung, Mousse Publishing (Italy)
Sibyl's Mouths: Pure Fiction, Sternberg Press/MIT (Berlin/Cambridge)
- 2020 Interjection Calendar, Montez Press (London)
Luxus & Glamour: vom Eigensinn des Überflüssigen, Künstlerhaus
 Schloss Balmoral (Bonn)
- 2019 *PF The Bastard*, PureFiction (Cologne)
- 2018 *Colt Jonner's Desecration of Descent*, Broken Dimanche Press (Berlin)
Pure Fyction, Städelschule, Pure Fiction (Frankfurt am Main)
- 2017 *Produktion. Made in Germany Drei*, Kestnergesellschaft/Kunstverein
 Hannover/Sprenkel Museum (Hannover)
Pyre Fiction, Städelschule, Pure Fiction (Frankfurt am Main)
- 2016 *The Grand Balcony: BNL MTL*, La Biennale de Montréal (Montréal)
Matador, Kunstverein Nürnberg / Institut für moderne Kunst
 (Nuremberg)
Eye to Eye, The Capilano Review (Vancouver)
Dysfction III, Städelschule, Pure Fiction (Frankfurt am Main)

- 2015 *Dysfxyction II*, Städelschule, Pure Fiction (Frankfurt am Main)
 2014 *Dysfxyction I*, Städelschule, Pure Fiction (Frankfurt am Main)

Bibliography

- 2025 Elisabeth Klaus, "Elif Saydam – Lebensfreude gegen Klassismus, Rassismus und Sexismus", *feministische studien*, November 2025
 Lara Fresko Madra, "18th Istanbul Biennial, 'The Three-Legged Cat'", *e-flux Criticism*, October 2025
 Andrey Shental, "Hope in a New Dark Age: The 18th Istanbul Biennial", *Berlin Art Link*, October 2025
 Zeynep Yayınoglu, "18th Istanbul Biennial: Artists You Must See", *saatolog*, September 2025
 Micaela Deiana, "La 18ma Biennale di Istanbul sublima l'amarezza del reale", *Il Giornale Dell'Arte*, September 2025
 Karen Krüger, "Istanbul Biennale: Widerstand auf Samtpfoten", *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, September 2025
 Barbara Pollack, "After a turbulent period of reorganisation, the 18th Istanbul Biennial favours futurity over futility", *The Art Newspaper*, September 2025
 Ingo Arend, "18. Istanbul-Biennale: Die Politik sitzt in den Poren des Alltags", *Monopol*, September 2025
maecenas, Hessische Kulturstiftung, autumn 2025
 Dhvani Ramanujam, "The Shape of a City", *C Magazine*, August 2025
 Elizabeth Wiet, "Through the Flowers", *Impulse Magazine*, August 2025
 Mark Westall, "List Projects 32: Elif Saydam at the MIT List Visual Art Center.", *FAD Magazine*, July 2025
 "Elif Saydam Debuts at MIT List Visual Arts Center", *ArtDog Istanbul*, July 2025
 Silke Hohmann, Art Basel "Statements": Auf die große Bühne, *Monopol*, June 2025
- 2024 Didem Ermiş, "Filizlendigimiz çatlaklardan ürettigimiz mekânlar", *Argonotlar*, July 2024
 Quirin Brunnenmeier, "Ornament und Identität: Elif Saydam in der Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle", *gallerytalk.net*, March 2024
- 2023 Lisa Yin Zhang, "The Top Ten Shows Around the World in 2023", *Frieze*, December 2023
 Xenia Benivolski, "Elif Saydam Articulates Neighbourhood Aesthetics", *Frieze*, October 2023
 "Elif Saydam: Eviction Notice", *Oakville News*, September 2023
 Maxi Wallenhorst, "The Anatomist, The Poet", *Texte zur Kunst*, March 2023
- 2022 Jonathan Wiggin, "Run Paint Run", *Twin*, October 2022
 Mitch Speed, "Elif Saydam: Nothing Lasts Forever Until It Does", *Camera Austria*, September 2022
 Nina Prader, "Elif Saydam", *Berlin Art Link*, July 2022
 Elena Meilecke, "Grief and Resilience", *Texte zur Kunst*, June 2022
 Anna Meinecke, "Das Beste zum Gallery Weekend Berlin 2022",

- gallerytalk.net*, April 2022
- 2021 Jens Althoff, "... schläft sich durch", *ArtForum*, September 2021
 Miriam Bettin, "Every ticket wins: hyperpositivity in the work of Elif Saydam", *Conceptual Fine Arts*, 14 June 2021
 Sonja Maria Borstner, "Elif Saydam: Ein Blick hinter die Geschichten des öffentlichen Raums", *Berliner Zeitung*, 18 April 2021
- 2020 Harry Burke, "Elif Saydam", *Canadian Art*, Winter issue
 "Elif Saydam, Artists (Kotti)", *Artam Magazine*, November issue
 Olivia Giovetti, "5 Must-See Shows from Gallery Weekend Berlin", *Artsy*, 15 September 2020
 Sonja-Maria Borner, "A Guide to Berlin's Art Week and Gallery Weekend", *Frieze*, 9 September 2020
 Ophelia Lai, "Elif Saydam", *Art Asia Pacific*, issue 117, March– April 2020
 Kristian Vistrup Madsen, "Working Nine to Five Five Five: Elif Saydam", *Mousse Magazine*, issue 71, March 2020
- 2019 Stanton Taylor, "Elif Saydam at Stadium", *Berlin Critic's Pick*, *Artforum*, October 2019
 Stephanie Ling, "Elif Saydam at Franz Kaka", *Flash Art International*, #325, April – May 2019

Public Collections

Die Sammlung Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart
 Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Germany
 Neuer Berliner Kunstverein Artothek, Germany
 By Art Matters, Hangzhou, China
 The Istanbul Modern, Türkiye
 RBC Art Collection, Canada