

Portfolio.

ŞEBNEM
YÜKSEL

2004-2024
Selected Works

DANCE. CHOREOGRAPHY. VIDEO. PAINTING. INSTALLATION



hi!

I am Şebnem Yüksel.

**An interdisciplinary artist, dancer,
choreographer, improviser and
academic.**

**I believe in the freedom of creative
expression and I am fascinated by the
feeling of liberty that arises when
artistic disciplines come together and
intertwine.**

**My creations take place in the fields of
dance, theater, installation, video, and
painting.**

What is taking me to creativity over and over again?

THAT MOMENT... when the inner and outer merge.

**DISCOVERY....Joining in the adventure of discovering
the authentic moments of connections and relations**

**POETICNESS... that deliciousness of encountering
poetical moments.**

**PLAYFULNESS... very much alive, very fresh and carry
the innocence of a child- simple, humble and clear.**

**SURRENDERING... to the process mindfully and with
complete openness.**

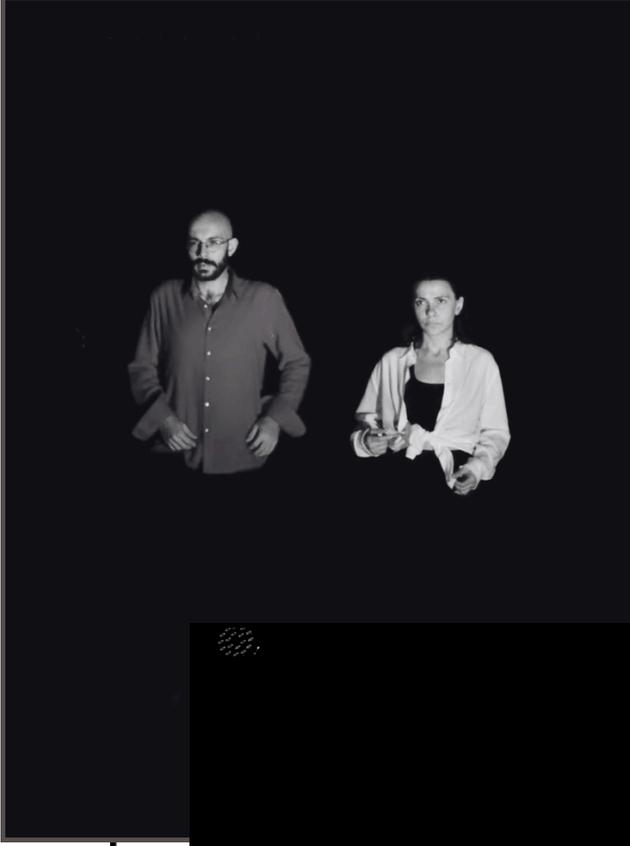
**SAYING YES...to what the existence offers and only
being a channel for which comes into birth.**

I love to share this!

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dance and choreographies





Direction and Choreography: Şebnem Yüksel
Performance: Ergin Keskin, Duygu Kula
Sound Design: Burçin Elmas Çubukçu
Lighting Design: Kerem Çetinel
Poster Design: Işık Dikmen

@2024

Everything was actually ready... It seemed easy. It could be done anyway... It would happen in an instant... It could have happened...

When did easy turn into hard?

The performance takes the audience into a journey that they can connect emotionally while searching for an answer to this question within a compelling flow.

The existential struggles of two characters, suspended between doing and not doing, are brought to the stage through a physical narrative.

In a dynamic structure, the work delicately portrays the repeated transformation of giving up into hope, hope into anger, anger into excitement, excitement into fear, fear into courage, courage into resignation, and resignation into stubborn persistence.

The conflict on stage, reflecting the moments of uncertainty we all go through, invites the audience to an inner reflection on their own experiences.

[video link](#)

yet it seemed easy

prelude

Prelude is a site-specific performance created for the M.O. Korfmann Library in Çanakkale, one of Turkey's largest and most comprehensive libraries in the fields of archaeology and art history. The performance, which uses all areas of the library, is shaped by the sensory impact of the space on touch, hearing, smell, and sight. The main source of inspiration for the performance has been the pressure of the silence that permeates every corner of the library.



**Performance Design and Choreography:
Şebnem Yüksel**

Performers: Yiğit F. Atıcı, Elif Ağören, Nuri Cabaroğlu, Rana Erol, S. Estel Giritlioğlu, Melih Karlık, Ergin Keskin, Duygu Kula, Yasemin Yancı

@2024

Fuse Project is a "process-based" performance, where the disciplines of dance, painting, and music merge, and the very act of creation is embraced as a work of art. Through these three interconnected art forms, which inspire, influence, shape, and transform each other in a continuous dance of simultaneity, the project underscores the vibrant, fleeting, and ever-evolving nature of creation, while delving into the profound depths of inner discovery.



**Dance & Painting:
Şebnem Yüksel**

with different musicians in each performance

@2024

[video link](#)

fuse

that one day

Concept, Choreography & Performance:
Şebnem Yüksel

Dramaturgy:
Esra Çizmeçi

@2023



That One Day is a work inspired by the truth that our lives can completely change in one day, in various ways. The piece presents the journey of a woman, in search of self-expression, as she decides to pick herself up and reclaim her life after it has been turned upside down in that one day. It explores her process of standing up for herself, finding the courage to speak the unsaid, and rediscovering herself. This journey is conveyed through dance, theatrical text, and painting. The work reveals the physical reflections of the struggle every woman faces as she rises from the chaos of her life, which is turned upside down, not only in that one day but every day.

[video link](#)



A cross-cultural meeting in improvised movement and sound - bodies of flesh & bone, wood & metal and the breath that passes between them vibrate and tune to each other in the present moment. Canadian, dancer-vocalist Susanna Hood is pleased to share this encounter with local artists in this her first visit to Istanbul.

Dance:

Susanna Hood, Şebnem Yüksel

Music:

Duygu Demir (cello), Susanna Hood (vocal), Ceren Yeşilbaş (vocal&sound design)

@2022

video [link](#)

an evening of **improvised** **dance and music**



hoşgör fabric's dance with birds

**Concept: Marmara Uni.Textil Design
Dep. & Municipality of Buldan
Costume Design: Marmara
Uni.Textile Design Dep.**

**Performance Creation:
Şebnem Yüksel**

**Sound Design: Nilüfer Ormanlı
Make Up Artist: Hülya Tekin**

**Performance: Erkan Akbulut,
Doğanalp Dulkadir, Dicle Doğan,
Gülnara Golovina, Seda Gürdoğan,
Özlem Kaya, Fırat Kuşçu, Tuğba
Özku, Deniz Soyarslan, Salih Usta**

Photographer: Rüçhan Gürşen

**@Tripolis Ancient City,
Buldan/Denizli 2018**

Şebnem Yüksel was invited to create a choreography to present the costumes, designed by Marmara University Textile Design Faculty with inspiration from the migratory birds of the region and produced from Buldan's unique Hoşgör fabric in the Ancient City of Tripolis. While the first part focuses on the body language of individual birds, the main theme of the second part is the movements of birds in flocks. The integration of make-up, sound, costume and dance with each other and with the texture of the ancient city enabled the performance to turn into a surreal theatre play.

[video link](#)



Being the second piece of a trilogy, “Lady of Diamonds” represents the woman after modernism which is the opposite of the first piece, “Queen of Hearts” where the archaic female qualities were represented. “Lady of Diamonds” examines the alienated women who lost her center and got stuck in 21st centuries’ artificially structured “body”. During the piece, the woman witnesses her struggle to find herself back.”

Concept: İlkay Türkoğlu
Choreography & Performance:
İlkay Türkoğlu, Şebnem Yüksel
Dramaturgy: Hayati Çitaklar
Sound Design: Ömer Sarıgedik
Art Director: Sıla Karakaya
Lighting Design: Alev Topal

@2014

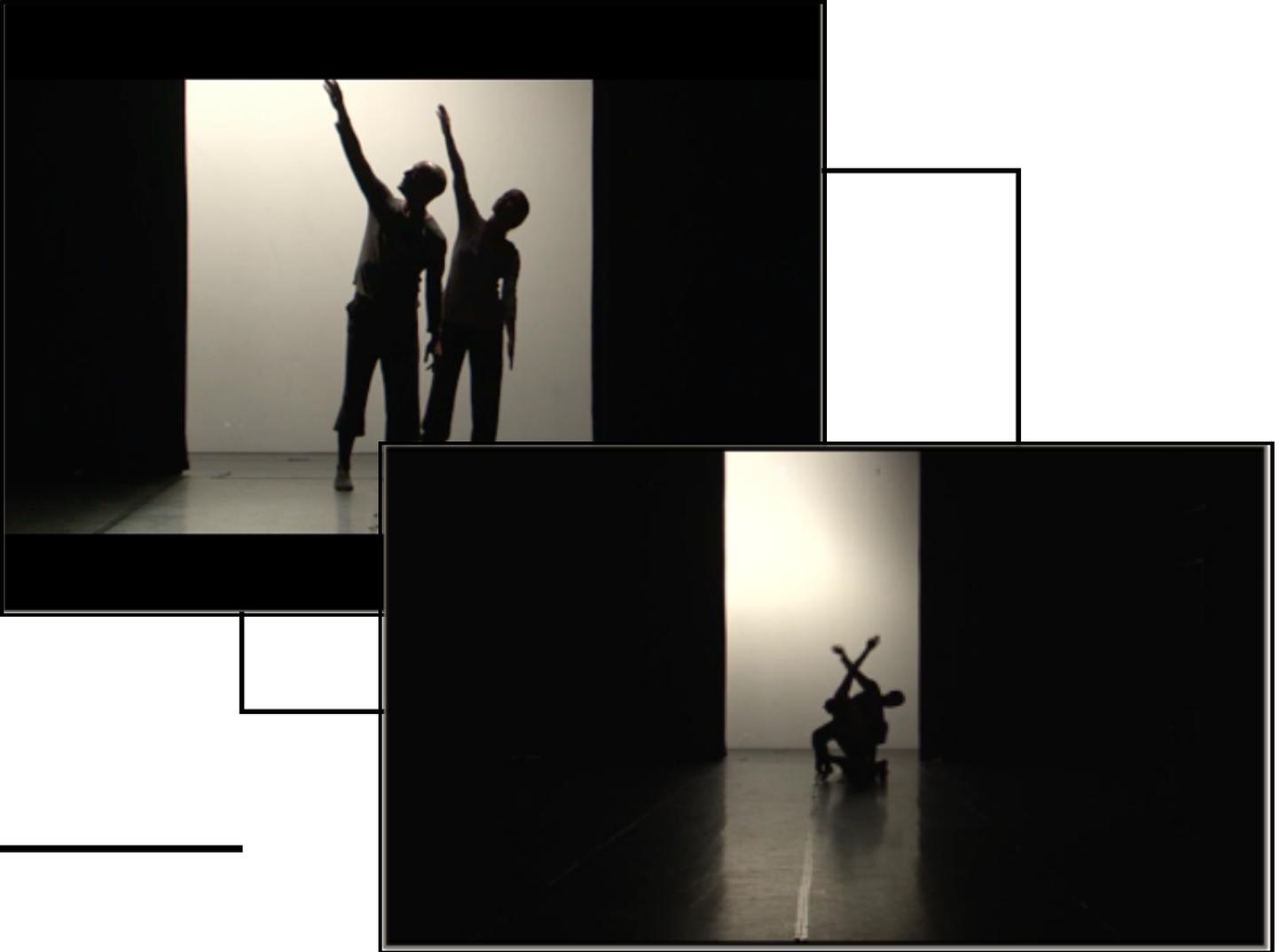


lady of diamonds

[video link](#)

grey

Throughout the piece, two bodies dancing in unison with one another create a kaleidoscopic ritualistic atmosphere in the space. As ends transform into beginnings, the rhythm of constant repetition and swinging is conveyed to the audience from a deeply rooted layer, thus turning the dance into a state of meditation.

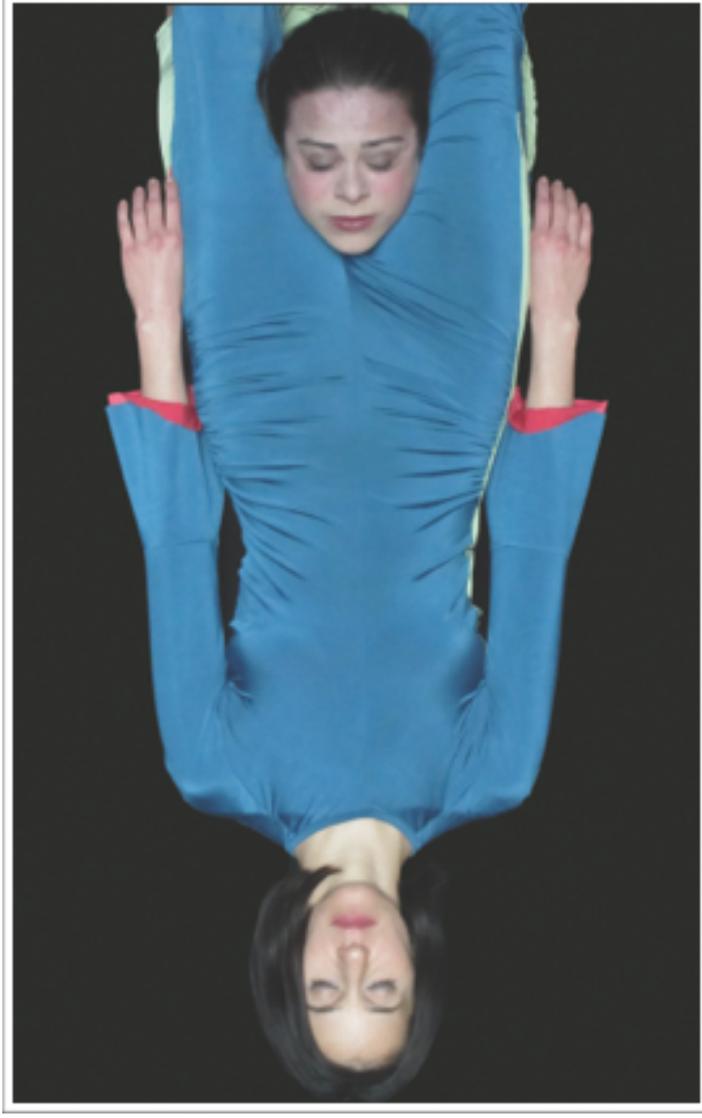


Choreography: Şebnem Yüksel
Performance: Emre Olcay, Şebnem Yüksel
Lighting Design: Kerem Çetinel

[video link](#)

@2013

They allowed the power of the images formed in their minds and the associations these images sparked in their bodies to guide them on a journey. Along the way, they were shaped by the very creations they themselves brought into being. Like the Phoenix, which, after burning to ashes, is reborn from its own remains, the process first consumed them, only to recreate them again and again, each time as a completely new "Self." Perhaps the pain they felt was not the agony of the birthing mother, but the suffering of the human who dies, turns to ashes, and seeks to take form once more.



Concept and Choreography: İlkay Türkoğlu
Choreographic Material & Dance:
İlkay Türkoğlu, Şebnem Yüksel
Sound Design: Ömer Sarıgedik
Text: Hayati Çitaklar
Costume Design: Zepür Hanımyan

18. Istanbul Theatre Festival

@2012

queen of hearts

[video link](#)

rainbow

Rainbow is an interdisciplinary performance by Damla Hacalođlu based on the interaction between the audience and the performance elements. Sebnem Yüksel was invited to collaborate with Hacalođlu for the creation of the performance and choreography.



**Concept: Damla Hacalođlu Choreography: Şebnem Yüksel Stage Design: Damla Hacalođlu
Sound Design: Erdem Helvaciođlu Costume Design: Refika Tarcan Make Up Artist: Ahsen Gülkaya
Performers: Sevi Algan, Erdiñ Anaz, Yenal Boztepe, Rüya Büyüktopçuođlu, Devın Çınar, Filiz Duran, Seda İsea,
Kerem Kelebek, Damla Özen, Tuđba Özkul
Stage Director: Gizem Bilgen**

Premiered in 14th Istanbul International Theatre Festival in one part of ancient underground Byzantine Great Palace.

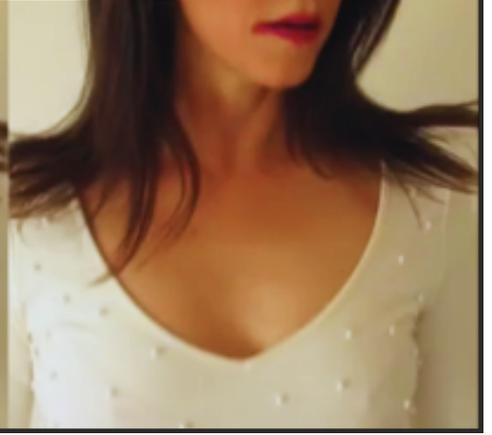
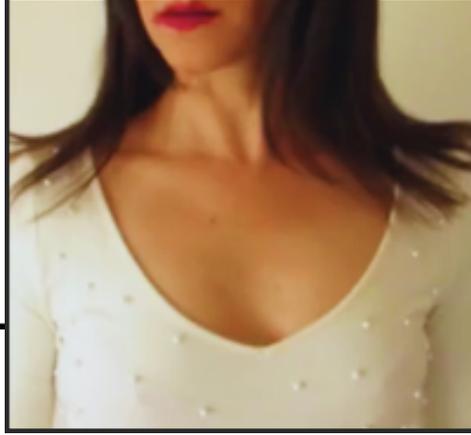
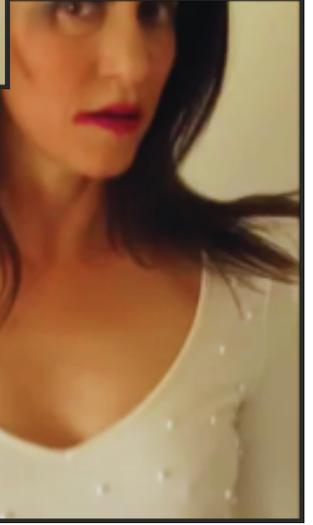
@2004

[video link](#)

video works



ups and downs



Ups and Downs asks a question about the return value of the things we work for and put energy and effort into. Are we making or breaking?

The artist investigates this question by applying make-up while jumping.

In the video, the same woman is seen applying make-up on one side of the screen and removing her make-up on the other.

The repetitive ups and downs of the jump creates the basic rhythm of the work.

Over time, as the woman with make-up and the woman without make-up change places indistinctly, the idea that making and unmaking are perhaps the same thing emerges.

Created and Performed by Şebnem Yüksel

@2020

[video link](#)

journeys through sound and body castle



This short film, directed by Şebnem Yüksel, reveals a journey between images, emotions and sounds, with the inspiration of Çanakkale Atikhisar Castle. In the film, where the intense texture of the castle walls affects the entire atmosphere, the choreography were created by the interaction of textures, empty spaces and the bodies of the the dancers who also served as cameramen. The team, which could not go to the Lacuna Festival abroad for a performance under pandemic conditions, participated in the online festival with this short film. Thus, this historical castle, which is no longer usable, was revived with movement and sound has become visible all over the world.

**Directed by:
Şebnem Yüksel**

**Camera and Performance:
Esra Yurttut
Şebnem Yüksel**

**Sound Design and Post
Production Supervisor:
Ceren Yeşilbaş**

@2020

[video link](#)

power: lost or found

The video criticizes the fact that the spirituality in the world has become superficial and is being used as a marketing tool.

Does repeating daily affirmations and power poses, which have become an extension of the consumer society, lead us away from meaning or does it help us feel a power within us?

To investigate these questions, the artist creates choreography by successively adding poses called "power poses" and creates sound design by repeating "affirmations" that are claimed to create power in the inner world.

The composition of the work contains increasingly faster and more echoing repetitions, resulting in a hypnotic effect. The question that the work set out to investigate comes to the fore once again here.

Do these repetitions distract us from the meaning or do they reveal a sense of power within us?

[video link](#)

Created and Performed by Şebnem Yüksel

@2021



Expanded Boredom, Expanded Boredom is a work about transforming the feelings of immutability and monotony that develop in a state of depleted waiting during the pandemic into creative expression. While the distorted image of the body corresponds with the distressing state of pandemic, with its simple narrative, the video highlights the unreality and, in a sense, the hypnotic state of this process with a text which is composed of only time-indicating concepts and presented like a tale.

Created and Performed by Şebnem Yüksel

@2022

video link

expanded boredom



installations





whole



WHOLE highlights the concepts of making together. In this interactive installation, the audience cut and added pieces of colored felt to a rounded 100% natural felt base for 2.5 months which turned into a completed work on the last day of the exhibition. Then, the colored pieces were fed to the felt base using the hammering method, creating an inseparable whole. Everyone who participated in the project was not only a part of the exhibition, but also a part of the production of a work of art. Additionally, since the felt panel was displayed at all times, the audience witnessed the creation process of this work, which changed and transformed day by day.

Concept and Application: Şebnem Yüksel

@2017

you've got caught redhanded



A video installation trilogy that takes its origin and inspiration from the performance *One Divided By Three*. While examining the site and distance changes on the game 'une-due-trois', the project puts an importance on coming across people in unexpected times and places around town. The three videos were screened in a frigidaire and between plants in French Cultural Institute and in a cupboard in a cafe in Istiklal Street.

In 2008, *You've Got Caught Red Handed* was invited to an Artist In Residency in Madrid, organized by La Casa Encendida and University of Alcalá. The Artist in Residency was realized with the support of Roberto Cimetta Travel Fund.

Concept: Şebnem Yüksel

Installation Advisor: Damla Hacaloğlu

Video Advisor: Fatih Kızılgök

Performance and Creation: Erdiñç Anaz, Duygu Güngör, Şebnem Yüksel

@2007

CV



ŞEBNEM YÜKSEL

(Assoc.Prof, Dancer, Choreographer)

Birth date and place : 07.06.1977, Vienna
e-mail : sebyuksel@gmail.com (preferred method of contact)
mobile : (0090) 533 714 0193
website : www.sebnemyuksel.org

education

2016 PhD degree; Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University State Conservatory, Istanbul
(thesis: Interdisciplinary Transmissivity)
2006 MFA degree; Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University State Conservatory, Istanbul,
(thesis: interaction between the audience and the performance elements)
2001 BA degree; London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS) at The Place, London &
SUNY Purchase College, NY
1998- 1995 Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University State Conservatory, Istanbul

professional experience as a teacher

2019- Assistant Professor; Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Theatre Department
2011- 2016 Research Assistant; MSFAU State Conservatory
2002-2011 Contractual Teacher; MSFAU State Conservatory

artistic experience as a dancer, choreographer and interdisciplinary artist

as a dancer

2002- 2012 Aydın Teker, Istanbul (www.aydinteker.com)
2003- 2007 Bare Feet Company, Istanbul (www.ciplakayaklar.com)

choreographies (collaborators inside the brackets)

2024 Yet It Seemed Easy
2024 FUSE
2024 Prelude @ Korfmann Library
2023 That One Day
2023 Bahar İstasyonu (V.Özge Zeren and ÇOMÜ Theatre Department)
2022 An Evening of Dance and Music (Susanna Hood)
2022 İzler ve Gazeller (Gülce Oral, Ceren Yeşilbaş)
2021 Selam Olsun (Esra Çizmeci, V.Özge Zeren and ÇOMÜ Theatre Department)
2020 Ulrike...I am shouting (Esra Çizmeci, V.Özge Zeren, ÇOMÜ Theatre Department)
2019 Journeys Through Sound and Body (Ceren Yeşilbaş)
2018 HOŞGÖR's Dance with Birds (Marmara University Textile Department)
2017 Personal Space (İlkay Türkoğlu)- 15th Istanbul Biennial side events
2017 A Musical Letter: Dance and Music Improvisation Performances (Anıl Karao
2015 Spaces in City (Deniz Soyarslan)

2015 Sketches of A Woman in Four Movements (Mary-Clare McKenna)
2014 Lady of Diamonds (İlkay Türkoğlu)
2014 You Didn't Say Don't Go
2013 Grey
2012 sOYUN (Esra Yurttut)
2012 Queen of Hearts (İlkay Türkoğlu)- 18th Istanbul International Theatre Festival)
2011 MSFAU Bomonti Campus Opening Performances
2011 Sculptor: DANCE
2010 Lane
2010 THREEHUNDREDTHIRTYTHREE
2010-2009 'Temporary Occupation' (Defne Erdur)
2009 Once in a While
2007 One Divided by Three
2005 Streets Series-1 (Damla Hacaloğlu)
2004 Rainbow (Damla Hacaloğlu)-14th Istanbul International Theatre Festival)

video works

2022 Expanded Boredom
2021 Power: Lost or Found
2020 Ups and Downs
2020 Castle- Journeys Through Sound and Body
2018 Puddle
2018 Teach Us To Love
2015 Tryouts on Videography #1

installations

2017 Whole
2010 Going Through
2007 You've Got Caught Red Handed!

choreographies at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University State Conservatory

2014 Gitme Demedin
2011 Güzel Bir Günün Köşesinde
2009 Sessiz Harf
2008 Ya Durduğunca Durunca Hiç Duramazsa
2007 Bir Bardak Soğuk Su
2005 Biraz Yeşil
2003 Hiç Hatırlamıyorum

supports and grants

2022 Erasmus Teaching Mobility Program to Academy of Osijek (HR)
2020 daire: Social Network of Artist-in-Residence Programs (EU Partnership Project)
2016 Skinner Releasing Institute, Teacher Training Certification Program scholarship
2011 Europe In Motion (EIM), Istanbul
2008 Artist in Residence; La Casa Encendida & Universidad de Alcalá (Madrid/ES)
2008 Roberto Cimetta Travel Fund
2001 DanceWEB scholarship, ImpulsTanz Festival (Vienna/A)

more teaching experience

2002-2024

Academy of Osijek (HR), Theatre Department

Muğla University Fine Arts Faculty, Performing Arts Department

İstanbul Bilgi University, MapPA Performing Arts Program

ÇATI Contemporary Dance Artists Association

Elim Sende Derneği

CID Unesco in Cappadocia

SALT Galata

Çanakkale Children Biennial; workshops

Children's Right Day workshops in Swedish Embassy, Istanbul

European Capital of Culture Children and Youth Art Biennial

Dans Buluşma Istanbul

personal qualifications

She is very fluent in written and spoken English; beginner level in Spanish. She holds a FAI A Licence in skydiving and a 3*CMAS Scuba Diver licence. She is an associative instructor in Qigong. Her hobbies are extreme outdoor sports including snowboarding and rock climbing; painting, mandala drawing, woodcrafts and cooking. She offers in-company team building trainings. She continues her spiritual journey through traditional mother earth rituals, dietas and vision quests in nature.