

ABOUT LIFE

WCDA-2025 international juried exhibition

organized by the Art Educators Association (SEDER) on September 25,-27 2025
in Cappadocia, within the scope of the 13th World Conferences of Art and Design.

13th WORLD CONFERENCE
on DESIGN and ARTS (WCDA-2025)
Cappadocia University, Türkiye, September 25 – 27, 2025

The World Design and Art Conference 2025 will be organized by the World Educational Research Association (Northern Cyprus) in partnership with the Art Educators Association (Türkiye) and hosted by Cappadocia University (Ürgüp / Nevşehir, Türkiye) under the theme “Art, Politics, and Life.”

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Art, Politics, and Life

Ödül Işıtman

The 13th World Conference on Design and Art (WCDA-2025), themed “Art, Politics, and Life,” aims to explore the power dynamics between these realms in a contemporary world where the post-World War I motto “Back to Life!” regains relevance.

At the core of the conference are critical discussions on the modernist glorification of the new, the postmodernist rejection of grand narratives, and Lev Kreft’s models of nation-building, autonomy, and the avant-garde within the art-politics framework. Topics include the 20th-century avant-garde critique of modernism and aestheticism, the inherent art-politics dilemma of modernity, the avant-garde’s revolutionary ideals, and the Frankfurt School’s blurring of boundaries between art and politics. The postmodern “everything goes” approach, globalization since the 1990s, cultural imperialism, the decentralization of the human, the loss of truth, and the transformative impact of the digital world are also central to the discussion.

Additionally, the conference will explore the societal alienation caused by AI, blockchain, augmented reality, virtual reality, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data, and other emerging technologies, questioning their effects on values, interaction, and communication networks.

In the 1960s, Arthur Danto shook the boundaries between art and life by declaring the “end of art”, signaling not a conclusion but a new beginning. In response, the 1990s saw Gilles Deleuze claim that art is not about communication but resistance, while Francis Fukuyama proposed the “end of history” thesis. A decade later, Donald Kuspit argued that art had become inseparable from politics and dissolved into life itself, asserting that the end of art is contemporary art. Around the same time, Jacques Rancière advanced the debate by rejecting the idea that art and politics exist as two separate, fixed realities. Instead, he posited that both function as forms of distributing the sensible, shaped by distinct regimes of perception.

Today, discussions continue over whether art and politics act as opposing, transformative, or mutually destructive forces. However, new concerns have emerged—such as the rupture from reality and the dominance of AI, reshaping society through digital culture.

The World Conference on Design and Art (WCDA) is an international event that brings together artists, thinkers, academics, and enthusiasts to explore the impact of art on social, political, and individual life. It provides a platform for sharing diverse perspectives and rethinking the evolving role of art in a rapidly changing world.

The International juried exhibition with the theme
“ABOUT LIFE...” was held by the Art Educators Association (SEDER)
in Nevşehir, Cappadocia on 25-26-27 September 2025,
within the scope of the 13th World Conference of
Art and Design (WCDA-2025).

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Mirta MORIGI (Artist, Member, Int. Academy of Ceramics, Italy)
Mutlu BAŞKAYA (Artist, Hacettepe University, Türkiye)
Ödül İŞITMAN (Artist, Middle East Technical University, Türkiye)
Refa EMRALİ (Artist, Hacettepe University, Türkiye)
Sonia Cespedes ROSSEL (Artist, Int. Ceramic Artist Association, Peru)
Tuk SKUMARİ (Artist, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

About Life..

Ödül Işıtman

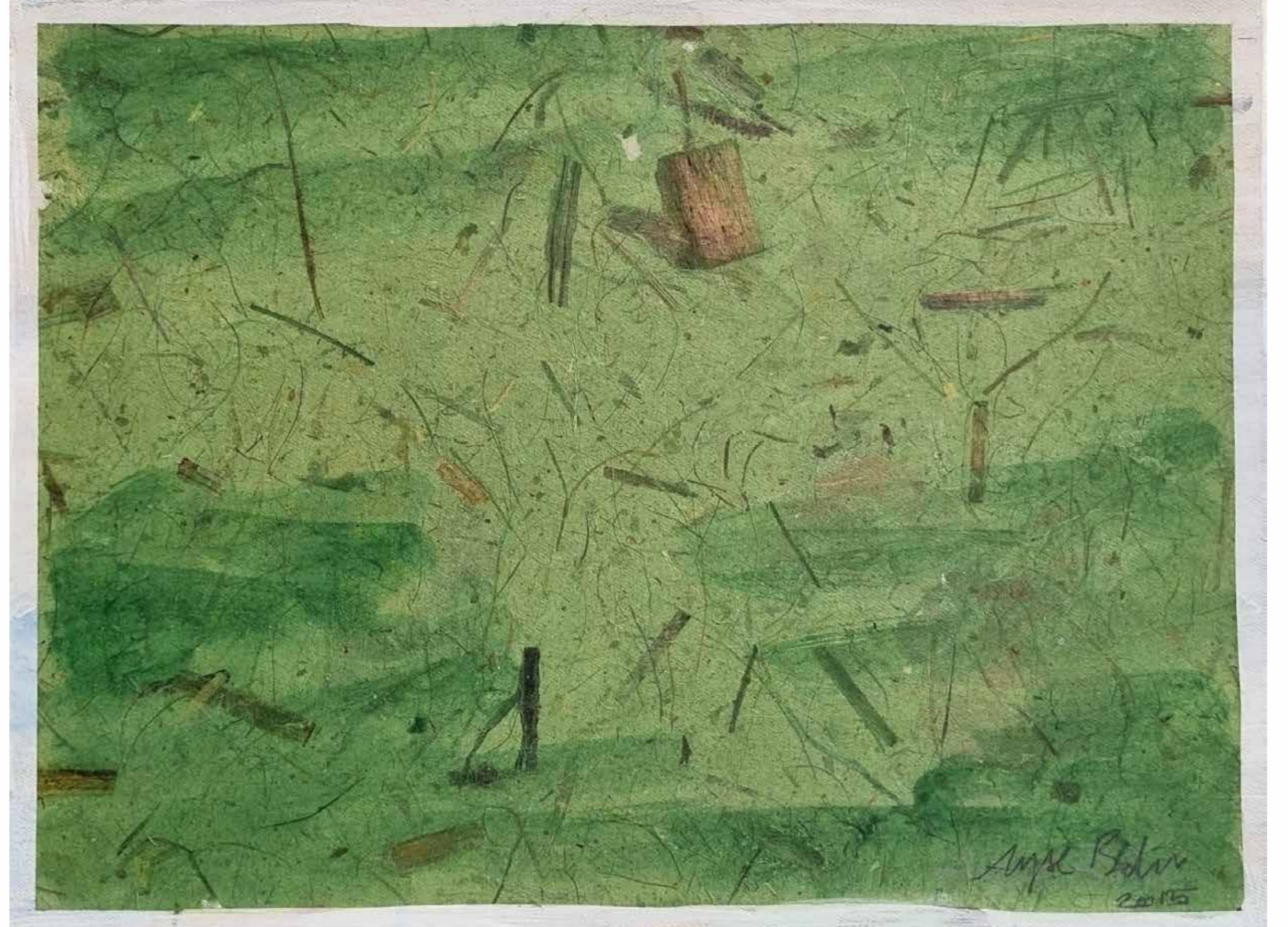
There is still no definitive answer to what life is. But it is known that three core human efforts have shaped it: to pursue purpose, make sense of life, and assign meaning to it. In constructing life, people have sought answers through these three efforts.

Today, life is no longer homogeneous. With political developments, wars, increasing economic inequality, migration, displacement, globalization and its ensuing explosion of information technologies, cultural hybridization or loss, and the emergence of artificial intelligence displacing humans—life has become pluralistic and contested, yet dynamic. The culture industry, which brings distant things close while pushing the close ones away, also constructs its own culture. The days that prompted Adorno to ask, “Can poetry be written after Auschwitz?” are long gone. The artist, in this process, has often fearlessly confronted themselves to be able to write poetry again—questioning themselves, society, art, works, existence, and all that is about life. Drawing from life and producing reflections of life, values have merged, rejected, or transformed each other. The one thing that perhaps remained constant is the question asked to the mirror held to oneself: “Mirror, mirror, on the wall...” New meanings, languages, and expressions have been found each time—never ceasing to create a playground full of mystery, freedom, and excitement, built on the hidden answers of life.

AYŞE BİLİR
member of jury

*Respect for Green, 2015, Acrylic paint and
Collage on Canvas, 30 x 40 cm.*

She graduated from the Painting Department of Buca Higher Teacher Training School at Dokuz Eylül University in 1982. She completed her master's degree at Hacettepe University in 2004 and the Proficiency in Art program in 2010. She has held exhibitions, participated in national and international group exhibitions, won numerous awards, and her paintings are included in numerous collections. In her paintings, she explores the dilemmas between nature and urban life, striving to bring order to today's visual, verbal, and semantic chaos through the human-nature reckoning and create a sense of unity. She currently continues her work as a lecturer at Hacettepe University's Faculty of Fine Arts.



CANDAN DİZDAR TERVİEL

member of jury

Untitled, 2025, ceramic, hand shaping and transfer paper, 1040 C, 32 x 56 x 12 cm

She graduated from Hacettepe University School of Health Administration in 1984 and from the Ceramics Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the same university in 1988. She obtained her Master's degree from the same university in 1991, her Diploma of Proficiency in Art in 1996, her Associate Professor title in 2002, and her Professor title in 2010, and works full-time at Hacettepe University. The artist, who received her PhD from Ankara University Faculty of Educational Sciences in 1999, has held seven solo exhibitions, three of which were in the Netherlands. She has received four awards, one of which was from the PTT's 150th Anniversary Exhibition Competition.



EZGİ AYSEVER KORKMAZ

invited artist

*I Have Root , 2025, Fabric dyeing technique
on hand-loomed silk and cotton woven fabric,
93 x 80 cm*

A multidisciplinary artist and educator, she completed her master's degree in the Department of Art and Design at the Institute of Social Sciences at Hatay Mustafa Kemal University with a thesis titled "Design Proposals Prepared for Use in the Production of Souvenirs (Souvenirs) Based on the Example of the Hatay Archaeological Museum." She is currently pursuing her Proficiency in Art at the Department of Basic Art Education at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. Blending traces of cultural memory with diverse disciplines such as nature, craftsmanship, and archaeology, Aysever's productions emphasize hand-woven fabrics, women's labor, and the sustainability of local heritage.



ERIK HESSEL
invited artist

He graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam in 1975. Inspired by architectural spaces, he transforms waste materials into visual compositions, focusing on adding a third dimension to flat surfaces. Using color, texture, structure, and lines, he explores the transition from 2D to 3D, balancing form and space. His collage-like techniques and free-space works emphasize depth, with lines in drawings and color planes in paintings creating spatial dynamics. This ongoing exploration keeps his work contemporary. Alongside his art, Hessel works as an architect and draftsman, contributing to urban planning solutions.



IŞIL TÜFEKÇİ ARDIÇ

participating artist

*Knitted persona, 2024, Ceramic, stoneware,
1200 C, 23 x 12 x 11 cm*

She graduated from Hacettepe University Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Ceramics in 2006. In 2013, she received master degree with her thesis on “Game Objects in Art”. In 2013, she started to work as a Research Assistant in the same department. In 2019, she completed the Proficiency in Art Program. She became an Erasmus student at the Sopron University in Hungary with the 2018-2019 Academic Year Fall Semester study mobility scholarship. The artist has one solo exhibition and has participated in many group exhibitions at home and abroad. She still continues her academic and artistic studies at Hacettepe University Faculty of Fine Arts.



JOHANNA SCHWEIZER

invited artist

*Untitled, 2021, Photography print,
70 x 100 cm*

She completed her education at the AKI art academy in Enschede. She then went to St. Joost in Breda. She continued to live in this city. She specialised in ceramics at the academy. Initially, she worked figuratively, but over time she developed an abstract approach, later returning to figurative work. The sculptures in her back garden, especially those in the glass greenhouse, are reminiscent of this period. The sculptures outside are winter-proof. They are placed high enough that there is no risk of them freezing and breaking. He moved into the textile industry. 'I can tell my story much better with textiles.'



MELDA GENÇ
invited artist

*Utopia, 2024, Slip Casting,
15 x 15 x 15 cm*

She graduated from Hacettepe University, Department of Ceramics, in 2004. She received her M.A. from Middle East Technical Uni. in 2009 with the thesis "The Evolution of Toilets and its Current State" and her Proficiency in Art from Hacettepe University in 2013 with the thesis "Nature, Art and Biomimetic Science." Between 2009-2013, she worked as a Research Assistant at Hacettepe University. Since 2013, she has served at Ondokuz Mayıs Uni., Department of Architecture, becoming Associate Professor in 2024. She began teaching in the Department of Industrial Design in 2024 and has been Associate Professor since 2025. Her research focuses on industrial ceramic design and ceramic art.



MIRTA MORIGI

member of jury

*Twins, 2029, Ceramic with blue glaze,
25 x 25 x 9 cm.*

She graduated at the Art School of Ceramics "G. Ballardini", opens her studio in 1973. At first she proposes fragments of quotations from classical styles, artefacts of great instant success that look like refined "incomplete restoration". She cooperates with artists and designers and after that, she perceives the future of ceramic as a working dialogue between tradition and innovation which is strategic in this age of globalisation. It starts her "Dragon years", with ever longer study and working trips to Australia, China, Korea, India, Japan and with great awards. It is a rare event for someone who keeps doing all female art and business.



MUTLU BAŞKAYA

member of jury

*Untitled, 2012, Kiln reduction Raku firing,
14 x 15 x 11 cm.*

She graduated from the Department of Ceramic and Glass of Hacettepe University in 1992, She lived in Milan and continued her work in Gioella Suardi's studio in 1999 -2003. Başkaya has received 15 awards, organized international raku, paper kiln, and egyptian paste workshops. She is a member of the International Ceramics Academy. Since 2010, she has been the coordinator of the International Macsabal Wood Firing Symposiums in Korea, China, and Ankara. Başkaya curated the ceramics collections of the Turkish, Ukrainian, and Croatian museums for the Fuping FLICAM Museum in Xian, China. She currently serves as Head of the Ceramics and Glass Department at Hacettepe University.



NELSON CARRILHO

invited artist

The Other Face, San Ferdinando, Italy

*He is a Curaçaoan sculptor trained in Utrecht. His works, rooted in his Black identity and Caribbean-African heritage, explore light, shadow, form, and space, both physically and spiritually. As a committed artist, he confronts injustice with optimism, creating powerful, timeless sculptures. Notable works include *Mama Baranka* (Vondelpark, against racism) and *Dragers van Verre* (Westerpark, symbolizing multicultural Amsterdam). In 2022, *The Other Face* in Italy honored murdered Malian migrant Soumaila Sacko, symbolizing social justice. Carrilho's art seeks connection in a divided world, prioritizing reflection over activism, with sculptures as iconic markers of hope and change.*



NİLÜFER NAZENDE ÖZKANLI

participating artist

*Hidden in Dreams, 2023, Hand-Shaping,
35 x 20 x 15 cm*

She graduated from Hacettepe University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Ceramics and Glass in 1993. She completed her MA in 1998 and her Proficiency in Art, in 2021. In 2011, he was appointed as a lecturer at Aksaray University, Güzelyurt Vocational School, Ceramics, Glass and Tile Making Vocational School. She worked as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Architectural Decorative Arts at the school, and in 2023, she became an Assoc. She currently works to Aksaray University, Faculty of Education, Fine Arts Education, Department of Painting Education since she was appointed in 2024. She opened 11 solo exhibitions and participated in many Group Exhibitions.



ÖDÜL İŞİTMAN
member of jury

*Dreams-4, 2019, Mixed media,
18 x 18 x 10 cm*

She received her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from Hacettepe University, Department of Ceramics and Glass. She has been teaching Ceramics, Drawing and Glass Art at Middle East Technical University, Department of Music and Fine Arts since 1991. She has participated in and directed numerous national and international exhibitions, symposiums, congresses, workshops, European Union and development projects and published numerous articles on art. She continues her writings on digital art, contemporary art and her research on ceramic-glass technology, producing works on change, transformation, especially the transformation of tradition and crisis.



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PAUL WIEGMAN

invited artist

*Geke, 2019, painting with charcoal
technique, 100 x 70 cm*

He is a draftsman, graphic artist, and creator of three-dimensional work. He produces medical illustrations, leads workshops on graphics and drawing, and teaches crafts in special education for visually impaired and blind students. Wiegman explores the illusion of perspective in his drawings, with distinct foreground and background separation. He experiments with space, form, lines, and volume, treating lines as independent elements and forms as having inside and outside. By manipulating perspective, color, and architectural space, he views drawings as objects and three-dimensional works as drawings in space, challenging conventional boundaries and spatial relationships.



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REFA EMRALI

member of jury

*Untitled, 2023, Mixed Media,
27 x 10 Ø cm*

She graduated from Gazi University in 1983. She received her MA in Sculpture in 1987 and her PhD in 1994. She became a professor in 2010. She has held five solo exhibitions in Turkey and one abroad. She has participated in numerous national and international group exhibitions, international art symposiums, and workshops. She has won three awards, including the State Painting and Sculpture Exhibition Outstanding Achievement Award and the Hacettepe University Art Award. She currently works as a professor in the Sculpture Department of Hacettepe University's Faculty of Fine Arts.



ABOUT LIFE...

international juried exhibition

RUTH TERWIEL

invited artist

*Amaryllis, 2021, White clay and
glazes, 4 x 14 x 9 cm*

She graduated from the St. Joost Art Academy in Breda, the Netherlands, with a degree in painting and design. Every year in December-January, she organizes workshops called "Neem nou klei (Take Clay)" in her studio. She has opened and participated in many exhibitions. Some of these are; Korte Vijverberg in The Hague in 2022; Razende stilstand at the Stedelijk Museum in 2021-2022; Blue and White exhibitions in Iznik in 2023 and in Ankara in 2024. She wrote the book "The World According to Marlous" in 2016; received the New Artists Award in 1984, and was nominated for the NAGELBIJTER National Ceramics Award in 2023.



SAFİ AVCI
participating artist

*Family 5, 2020, Sculpture (Metal Relief)
60 x 45 x 6 cm*

He graduated from the Department of Art Education, Program of Sculpture, Buca Faculty of Education, Dokuz Eylül University In 1987, and taught at Köprübaşı. He completed his master's degree at DEU (1991), with a thesis titled "Sculpture Technology and Materials" in 2000; he had the doctorate degree at Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences with a thesis titled "Opinions and Recommendations on Art Education for Children Aged 3-12". He has participated in various national and international projects, as a project leader, trainer, and artist. His works have been acquired for personal collections. Safi Avcı currently works as a faculty member at Pamukkale University.



ABOUT LIFE...

international juried exhibition

SERAP YANGIN BUYURGAN

participating artist

*From the Canaries Series, 2025,
Photograph, 32 x 40 cm*

She received her BA degree from Gazi University, Faculty of Education, Painting Department in 1984. Her articles on art, art education, museum education, creativity, children paintings and Anatolian Fine Arts High Schools were published in various national and international academic journals. Serap Yangin Buyurgan's works are exhibited in various institutions and museums. She has seven solo exhibitions. She participated in various national and international group exhibitions, art festivals and workshop in Turkey and abroad. She continues her artistry works at her own studio. Currently, she is the Head of Graphic Design Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture at Başkent University.



SEDA ÖZCAN ÖZDEN

invited artist

*Earth's Scream, 2025, Chamotte Clay,
Hand Shaping, Slip, Oxide and Underglaze
Decoration, 1010 °C, 13 x 27 Ø cm, 34 cm Ø*

*She completed the Ceramics Department
at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Selçuk
University in 2010, her master's degree
in Archaeoceramics at the Institute of
Fine Arts, Süleyman Demirel University
in 2014, and her Proficiency in Art in the
Ceramics Department at the Institute of
Fine Arts, Hacettepe University in 2021.
Her artistic practice is generally based on
the relationship between the concepts of
subject and individual with life and art.
Currently, she is an Assistant Professor
in the Graphic Design Department at
Cappadocia University (KÜN) Faculty
of Architecture, Design and Fine Arts
(MTGSF).*



ABOUT LIFE...

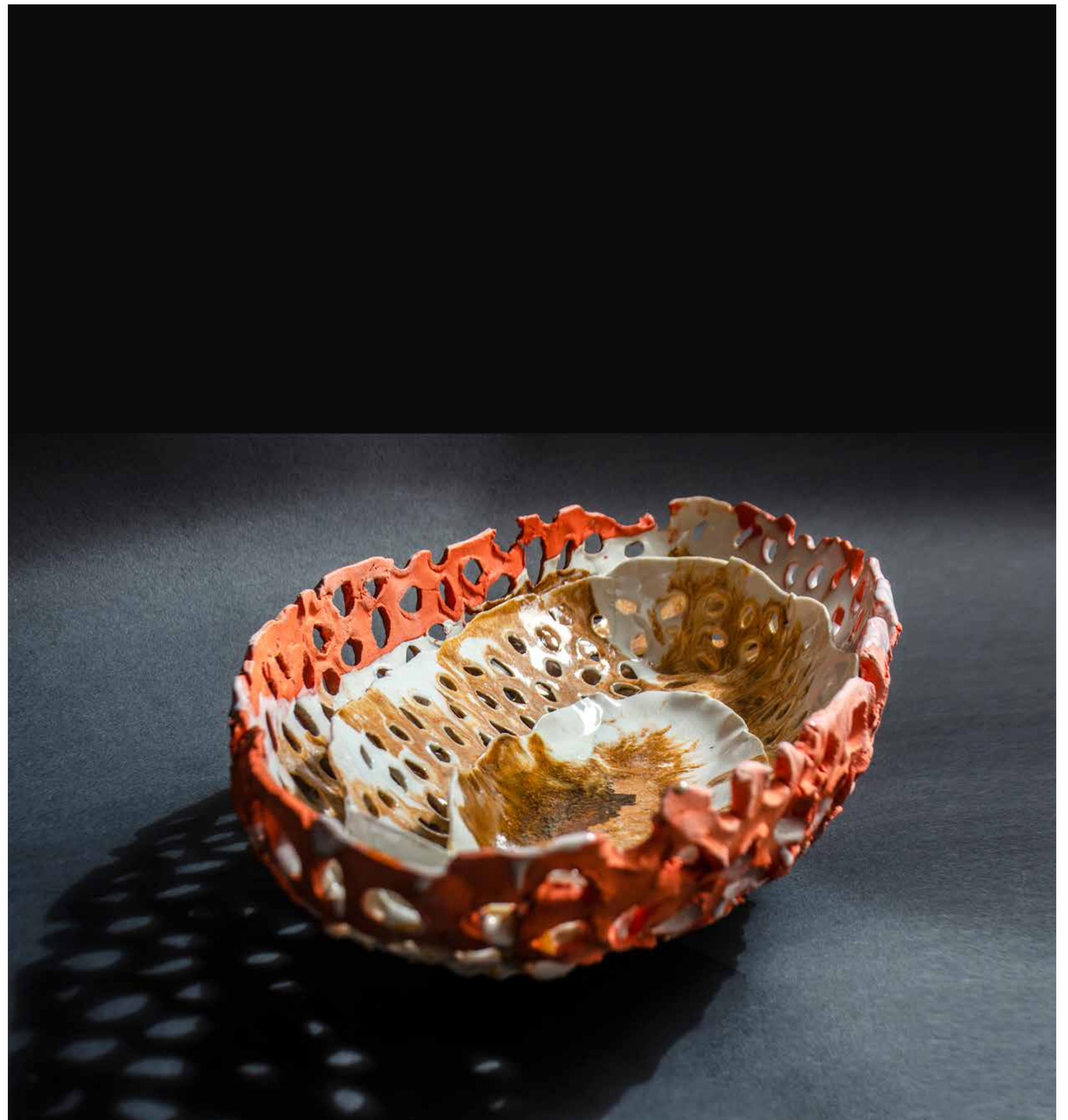
international juried exhibition

SONIA CÉSPEDES ROSSEL

member of jury

*Roses, 2020, Triple bowl, porcelain 1300 C,
12 x 34 x 23 cm*

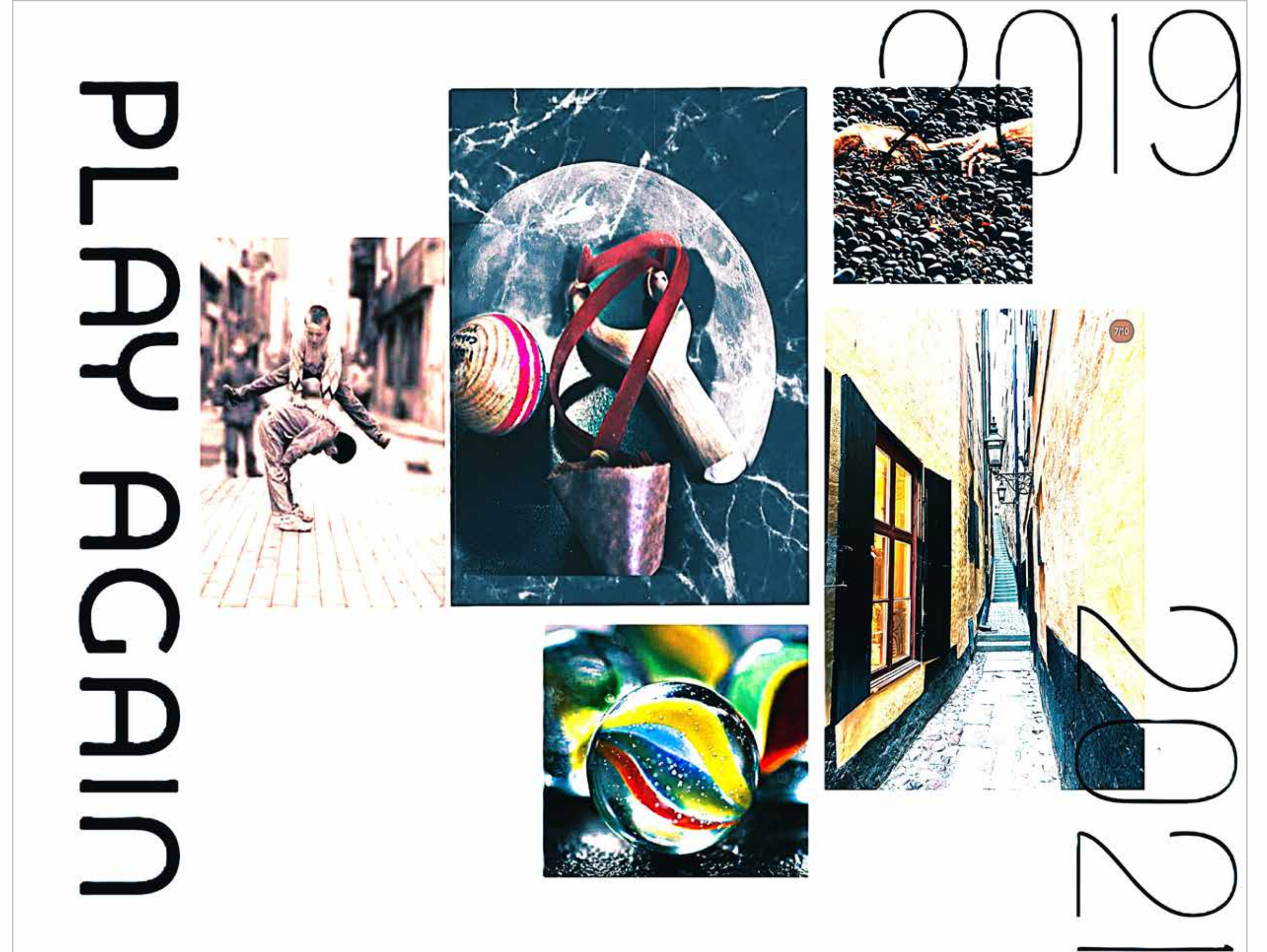
She graduated in Drawing and Painting at the Royal Academy of Arts in London; History of Art at the Santa Maria de la Reina School, Barcelona, Spain. Studies in anthropology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP); she worked with pottery communities throughout most of Peru. She is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics AIC-IAC. UNESCO, Switzerland (2017) . As an artist, she includes the technique of formulation different stoneware, porcelain and special effect glazes with temperatures above 1250 degrees to 1300 degrees. She is inspired by nature, its cycles, seasons and growth. Since 2004, Sonia Cespedes Rossel with a 5-year curriculum, in the Professional Training of Ceramists.



ZEKİYE ÇILDİR
invited artist

*Play Again, 2025, Photo, Digital Collage,
24 x 34 cm*

She completed her Bachelor's degree, and her Ph. D. in Ankara University. She researched about visual culture at Museums in England. She is the writer of "İngiltere'de Müze Eğitimi: Londra'dan İzlenimler" (Museum Education in England: Impressions from London) with Ceren Karadeniz. She still works about anthropology, art education, museum education, museum studies, visual culture, cultural heritage and drama. She has two solo exhibitions. She has participated in various national, international exhibitions and festivals. She carries out her academic studies as a faculty member at Artvin Çoruh University, Faculty of Art and Design, Department of Visual Arts and design. She has one daughter.



EXHIBITION; ABOUT LIFE...

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This catalog, titled “About Life,” has been prepared digitally for the juried exhibition organized by the Art Educators Association (SEDER) as part of the 13th World Conference on Art and Design (WCDA-2025) held in Nevşehir, Cappadocia, on September 25-27, 2025. All visual materials, including this catalog, web pages, posters, certificates, were designed by Ödül Işıtman on behalf of SEDER.

The catalog is available at
<http://www.sanategitimcileridernegi.com/tr/>

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