

Ether Schipper

Neu Cöln

with works by Cemile Sahin

November 5 – November 9, 2025



Cemile Sahin, **Forever in your heart**, 2025, fine art inkjet print mounted on aluminum, 125 x 150 cm (49 1/4 x 59 in)
Photo image © Andrea Rossetti

Cemile Sahin's participation at Neu Cöln includes the work **Forever in your heart** and a new series of wall-mounted panels.

Forever in your heart (2025) belongs to a series relating to Sahin's film **ROAD RUNNER** (2025), recently acquired by Museum Ludwig and currently on view at Art Cologne, presented by the Junger Ankauf initiative of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst. A unique work, **Forever in your heart's** motif—a red rose set against a light blue sky—was created by the artist with an AI image tool. Sahin first trained the AI on her body of work and then used verbal prompts to generate a specific picture. In effect employing AI to realize the image she imagined, Sahin fine-tuned the generated composition to match her characteristic in pop-cultural aesthetic. Printed on pearly-white photographic paper and mounted on aluminum, the panel displays the short sentence "Forever in your heart but never in your life." Along the lines we discover a deliberately ambiguous subtext: the phrase can be read as ironic, profound or simply meme-like and nonsensical. **Forever in your heart** exemplifies Sahin's extraordinary agility in moving between still and moving image, between text as form, sign, or symbol. Reflecting on a world of loudly competing stimuli, for this presentation, the work is installed above an eye-catching, all caps, and bright red vinyl wall text that reads "NOW WE WAIT FOR IT TO SPEAK." Underscoring the synchronicity of image- and text-based communication in contemporary culture, Sahin fashioned such flashy wall texts to spell out a signature feature of her exhibition design.

A new series of panels, among them **YOU MEASURE HEIGHT, YOU KNOW DEPTH** and **YOU KNOW DIFFERENCE** (all 2025), features acrylic flowers encased in epoxy resin. Bright colors, artificiality, glossy surfaces, and sparkly motifs are stylistic elements that Sahin uses to address complex themes through a pop-cultural lens. With these panels, the artist plays with the aesthetics of oversized nail art and the stereotypical ideas which might consider flowers and extra-long gel nails devalued attributes of femininity. Flowers and their cultural associations have also been a topic addressed in Sahin's film installation **BB — Born to Bloom** (2025), produced for her recent solo exhibition at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen. The video work juxtaposes the metaphorical quality of two flowers: on the one hand, Gula Xemgîn, translating to "sad flower," represents the Kurdish myth that one can only be truly free in the mountains. And on the other, the Geranium, adorning balconies and

gardens throughout Switzerland, where the flowers are such a familiar feature of the Swiss landscape that their red color was incorporated into the TAZ 83 camouflage suit.

The presented works, or, more to the point, their relation to Sahin's ambitious film projects, are representative of her artistic practice's situatedness in-between film, photography, sculpture, and literature. Deliberately elliptical and fragmentary, her work's narrative strategies draw on an episodic format of narration established by contemporary TV series and internet videos. Sahin's work speaks about family and loss, as well as about the technologies facilitating digital disembodiment and political oppression. She not only comments on these defining technologies, such as drones and AI, but uses them as tools in her cutting-edge artistic process.

Cemile Sahin was born in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1990. She studied Fine Arts at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London and at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. She lives and works in Berlin.

Texts and narratives are an integral part of her artistic practice. In parallel, and in conversation, to her exhibitions she has published three novels: her debut in 2019, **TAXI** followed by **ALLE HUNDE STERBEN (ALL DOGS DIE)** in 2020, and most recently **KOMMANDO AJAX**. For **TAXI** Sahin was awarded the Alfred Döblin-Medaille. For **KOMMANDO AJAX** she was selected for the Vienna Literature Prize and shortlisted for the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair.

In 2019 she was awarded the ars viva 2020 prize for Visual Arts. The same year she was a fellow of the JUNGE AKADEMIE at the Akademie der Künste Berlin. In 2021 Sahin received the AArtist in Residence-Stipend, awarded by the German Foreign Ministry in cooperation with the LVBG, the Association of Berlin Galleries. In 2023, she received the London-based CIRCA Prize (2023). In 2025 Cemile Sahin's video work **ROAD RUNNER** (2025) was acquired by Museum Ludwig, made possible through the Junger Ankauf initiative of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst.

The artist's exhibitions and projects include: **BB – BORN TO BLOOM**, Kunsthalle Sankt Gallen (2025); **Cemile Sahin. ROAD RUNNER**, Fondazione ICA Milano (2025); **Cemile Sahin. ROAD RUNNER**, Esther Schipper, Berlin (2025); **Sieh Dir die Menschen an!**, Kunstsammlung Chemnitz, Chemnitz (2024); **white sea olive groves**, Malta Art Biennale, Valletta (2024); **Sieh dir die Menschen an!**, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2023); **Gewehr im Schrank – Rifle in the closet**, Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden (2023); **A Song of Tigris and Euphrates**, Kunsthalle Osnabrück (2022); **manifesto of fragility**, 16th Lyon Biennale, Lyon (2022); **Identität nicht nachgewiesen**, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn (2022); **Arbeit am Gedächtnis – Transforming Archives**, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (2021); **ars viva 2020**, Kunstverein, Hamburg (2020); **Where the Story Unfolds**, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (2020); **ars viva 2020**, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig (2019) and **Tell me about yesterday tomorrow**, NS-Dokumentationszentrum, Munich (2019).

Her works are included in the collections of Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Kunstmuseum Stuttgart; Kunsthaus Zürich; Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin/Düsseldorf; Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin; Servais Family Collection, Brussels; and Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (The Federal Collection of Contemporary Art, Germany).

If you wish to receive further information about our presentation at Neu Cöln, please contact Jonas Kriszeleit at: kriszeleit@estherschipper.com or +49 (0) 162 4165 793

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