

Press Release

Divine Violence / Jin, Jîyan, Azadî (ژن، ژيان، ئازادى)

Curated by **Gülistan Kenanoğlu**

On view:

September 13 - October 26, 2024

Tues. - Sat., 11am - 6pm

Opening Reception: **Sep. 13th 2024, 6 - 8pm EST**

Location:

291 Church Street, NYC, and 3D Online

Featuring work by:

Çağlar Hanaylı, SB Arch Lab, Gülistan Kenanoğlu

Divine Violence is conceived around “Jin, Jîyan, Azadî (ژن، ژيان، ئازادى),” or “Women, Life, Freedom.” Not just a slogan; “Jin, Jîyan, Azadî (ژن، ژيان، ئازادى),” is the discourse that came to light following the killing of a woman, Mahsa Amini, at the age of 22 by morality police in Iran. The phrase defines the actions taken by women toward freedom and gender equality in the Islamic state. The death of Amini, was the sacrifice of the woman, which is both sanctified and cursed. In other words, the finger cut by the Sharia doesn't hurt. The action ignited the feminist revolutionary struggle in Iran.

This exhibition seeks to investigate the ordinary and extraordinary emancipatory actions for women's lives and freedom in the Middle East from post-revolutionary Iran to today. Moreover, this exhibition will provide an alternative reading of Middle Eastern history through the lens of Islamic feminism and feminist solidarity. The controversial role of Middle Eastern women in the Islamic world will be critiqued. The geography of violence will be reinterpreted through the narratives, realities, testimonies, and distorted memories in Islamic feminist history.

The exhibition brings together an artist/lawyer SB Arch Lab, a researcher/curator Gülistan Kenanoğlu, and an artist/architect Çağlar Hanaylı who stand opposite the feudal, sexist, and patriarchal system. Through their similar stories and the stories they have witnessed they will reinterpret Islamic feminist history through the lens of women's liberation.

Divine Violence / Jin, Jîyan, Azadî was selected through apexart's Open Call. For more information and images visit <https://apexart.org/kenanoglu.php> or contact ash.hagerstrand@apexart.org.

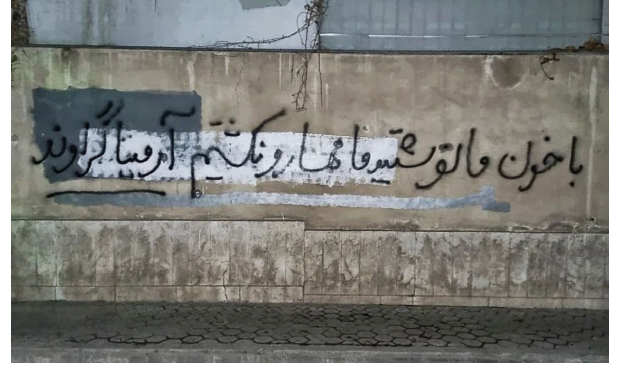
Gülistan Kenanoğlu is a Kurdish independent curator and architectural researcher. She works under SBArchLab, of which she is the co-founder, and specializes in exhibition practices around postcolonial art and architecture history and the effects of conflicts/wars on cities' public realm.

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#DivineViolence

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Anonymous, Graffiti on a wall in Iran (reads as; You wrote with our blood that you didn't kill Mahsa), October, 2023