

# curated by

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## EXILE

curated by Pınar Öğrenci

### Interview

**Which aspect of „The Neutral“ is relevant for the exhibition you are curating?**

The exhibition I am working on for „Curated by“ at the EXILE is about the impossibility of neutrality. Instead of the neutral, balancing and silent character that is emphasized in this year's Curated by concept, through the theme of “play” we try to look at the possibility of taking an oppositional, critical, decisive and radical stance without being biased and provocative.

**How would you describe your curatorial practice?**

I am not a curator, I am an artist. However, I have curated an exhibition almost every year, collaborating with many local and international artists and curators in the initiative I founded, MARSistanbul, which was active between 2010 and 2018. For me, curating an exhibition means communicating, multiplying and enriching an idea that I strongly believe in by bringing together other artists and sharing this idea with the public to open a discussion about it.

**How did you decide on the artist(s) you invited?**

When I thought about the impossibility of neutrality especially in a country like Turkey, where human rights and freedom of expression are under pressure, I noticed that many artists in Turkey express the oppression by the state and the neoliberal capitalist economic system in general through the theme of “play”; I mean play in a broad concept that includes sportive activities. In order to bring together different voices, I made sure to select artists of different ethnic backgrounds and genders from Turkey, both from Istanbul, the center of the Turkish art world, and from outside the center.

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## What motivates you to curate exhibitions?

When I teach, I share and discuss ideas and works of other artists who deal with issues similar to mine, such as the relationship between state violence and space, migration, displacement, and so on with my students. And a similar method motivates me when I curate exhibitions.