

Of Dice and Men

A video essay by Didem Pekün

Exhibition dates: 03/03-01/04, Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm
Opening reception: 02/03, 7-9pm (following the In Conversation)
In Conversation: 02/03, 6-7pm artist with curator Nick Aikens

Delfina Foundation is delighted to present Turkish artist Didem Pekün's first solo exhibition in London, *Of Dice and Men*.



Of Dice and Men 2011 - ongoing, HD, 43 minutes 2 screen video installation

A throw of the dice acts as a metaphor for individual existence, where the patterns of everyday life are driven by chance and our actions are a choice. The throw affirms a sense of urgency, as well as an awareness of how our lives and history are in a perpetual state of repetition, yet with paradoxical variations.

Of Dice and Men is an essayistic video diary punctuated by moments of subjective consequence. Presented in dialogue across two screens, the footage captures London and Istanbul, the two cities that Pekün's life straddles and is torn between. It includes footage of the Occupy movements that began in London in 2011 as well as Istanbul's Gezi protests in 2013, interlaced with more joyful and elusive experiences: boys diving into the Bosphorus or a first encounter with a feat of nature.

Attuned to the differing neoliberal conditions, dynamics and pressures of these contexts, Pekün mediates moments of rupture and violence in day-to-day life. In making this work, Pekün was driven by a desire to capture and make sense of a present that she felt was shifting around her, palpable in the unfolding events and the emergence of a new political subjectivity. *Of Dice and Men* is a reflection on how we react to and negotiate the unfolding present, where subjectivity and political agency are brought to bear.

Through its cyclical composition, and meditative, rhythmic temperament, *Of Dice and Men* speaks to the repetitive flow of history. Here history appears as a play, the same play performed anew across generations but with different directors, actors, and sets. The play is performed in different languages, with different audiences, each experiencing the script in new ways.

Generously supported by:



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Notes to Editors:

Didem Pekün's work explores both research and practice; conceptually it deals with the production of subjectivities within violent geographies, displacement, and contemporary border politics. Her studio practice includes documentaries and video installations, and her work have screened internationally at festivals and galleries, (Berlinale, Arnolfini, Oberhausen, Punto de Vista, WOMEX, MUSAC, SALT Istanbul) have received and been nominated to awards, (British Council), and attended residencies (Delfina and Greenhouse). Following a BA in Music at SOAS, and an MA on Screen Documentary at Goldsmiths, she is currently a practice-based PhD candidate in Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths and a faculty member at Media and Visual Arts Department at Koc University.

Nick Aikens is a curator at the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven. Current projects include the exhibition 'The 1980s. Today's Beginnings?', opening in April and the publication 'What's the Use? Constellations of Art, History and Knowledge' (Valiz 2016), of which he is a co-editor and contributor. He is the curator of 'Through the Fog. Describing the Present' at State of Concept, Athens (February - April 2016), which include's Didem Pekun's Of Dice and Men. He is part of the editorial board of internationaleonline.org and teaches at the Dutch Art Institute, Arnhem and the Design Academy, Eindhoven.

About Delfina Foundation:

Founded in 2007, Delfina Foundation (DF) is an independent, non-profit foundation dedicated to facilitating artistic exchange and developing creative practice through residencies, partnerships and public programming. In January 2014, Delfina Foundation expanded into London's largest international residency programme and developed a thematic approach to its residency and public programme. Delfina Foundation has hosted over 200 artists, curators and writers in residence from 30 different countries to date, partnering with institutions such as Tate Modern, V&A Museum, Frieze Art Fair Projects, Art Dubai and Chisenhale Gallery. Founding patron, Delfina Entrecanales CBE, generously provides a rent-free space and 40% of the Foundation's annual funding which is complemented by individual supporters, foundations, public funding and partnerships.

Delfina Foundation's public programme of events and exhibitions fosters critical discourse on the contemporary arts in relation to everyday life. Through seasonal themes, DF brings together salient issues and common ideas to be explored via research residencies and related public programmes. This winter is our curatorial research season. Spring DF stages the second iteration of *Performance as Process*, followed by *The Politics of Food* (Season 3) in the summer focusing on *Markets and Movements*.

Delfina Foundation

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