

Şehlem Kaçar – Artistic Portfolio

EDUCATION

PhD in Communication – İstanbul Bilgi University (2013–2022)

Visiting PhD Student – University of Helsinki (2015–2016)

Visiting Scholar – Aalborg University, FREIA Gender Research Centre (2009)

MA in Radio, Television and Cinema – Ege University (2006–2008)

BA in Public Relations and Publicity – Ege University (2001–2006)

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

General Coordinator – İstanbul Gender Museum (2023–Present)

Leads the museum's participatory and feminist curatorial vision. Oversees interdisciplinary cultural programs, exhibitions, and public events focusing on gender equality and inclusive memory work.

Project Coordinator – İstanbul Women's Museum (2021–2023)

Managed curatorial projects, workshops, and exhibitions at the intersection of gender, memory, and visual culture. Coordinated international collaborations and feminist art programs.

Media and Advocacy Key Expert – Association for Struggle Against Sexual Violence (2019–Present)

Develops and implements advocacy and media strategies, produces rights-based communication campaigns, and contributes to international reports (CAT, CEDAW).

Organisation Team Member – İstanbul Women's Museum (2012–2013)

Part of the team that organized the "Semiha Es Women Photographers International Symposium" and the International Women's Museums Conference. Worked closely with Meral Akkent on feminist museology and gendered memory initiatives.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2020 – "Put Something On!" (*Git Üstüne Bir Şey Giy!*)

Curator: Günseli Baki, Participant: Şehlem Kaçar

Explores body politics and public visibility through performative and photographic works by women artists.

2018 – *Associations / Çağrışımlar*

Mecra, İstanbul – Group exhibition bringing together 72 women photographers and writers.

The show asked: "What are we searching for in every road we walk, in every face we meet, in every person we greet, and in every dream we imagine?"

2015 – *Untitled*

2nd Gender and Discrimination Workshop – Ali Akkanat High School Exhibition Hall, Istanbul/Türkiye

Photographic works addressing gender inequalities and body politics.

2013 – *Photonovel of Pınar Selek's "A Drop of Water"*

Cezayir Meeting Hall – Istanbul/Türkiye

A participatory reinterpretation of Pınar Selek's story as a collective visual narrative.

2012 – *Body and Politics*

Artist 2012 – 23rd International Istanbul Art Fair, Act of Art Collective – Istanbul/Türkiye
Group exhibition exploring corporeality, representation, and the gaze.

2011 – *One Day*

Danish Women's Museum, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Amargi Istanbul, Aalborg University – Solo Exhibition

Explored gender, temporality, and everyday life through photographic and textual installations.

2009 – *Identity and Obedience*

Çizgili Kedi Art Gallery – İzmir/Türkiye

Investigated conformity, social norms, and gender performance.

2009 – *8 Days*

Bashimi Art House – Salzburg, Austria

Examined shifting identities and emotional geographies through experimental photographic narratives.

2008 – *Women for Women*

The Hall – Istanbul/Türkiye

A collective exhibition featuring 111 women photographers from Türkiye and across the world. Organized as a visual act of solidarity against gender-based violence.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work focuses on exploring photography as more than a visual medium—an emotional and mental space that facilitates healing and introspection. Photography allows individuals to confront their memories, work through trauma, and create new meanings. Images serve as a starting point for processing and sharing personal narratives.

In my artistic practice, I view photography as a space for dialogue. By opening pathways for emotional processes at both individual and societal levels, it fosters the sharing of experiences and the development of new perspectives. Each frame offers an opportunity to question, transform, and reconstruct oneself and the world around them.

Photography brings together memory and emotion, creating a journey at the intersection of individual and collective stories. This journey aims to open space for transformation, make the invisible visible, and amplify diverse voices.