

Can Altay

Location: Ochsenmatt Gadä, Ground floor

A midsummer sunbath on a lush green lawn, a quick dip in the pool and then a quick shower—is this how we want to live? The gut says: Yes, of course! But the head knows that this life is only possible at the expense of others. After all, water is a valuable resource over which wars are already being fought.

For over 20 years, Can Altay's art has dealt with the question of how we live together in the built environment of our cities and what social, political and ecological conflicts arise from this. Art and everyday life often go hand in hand. “The feeling that we cannot change the world we currently live in should not prevent us from imagining a different one,” he says. The suggestions that Altay makes with his works only provide answers at first glance. In fact, they raise further questions and thus open our eyes to the complexity of the utopia of a better life. Like the installation *Been Waiting for the Rain to Fall*, which he is showing in the Erlen Saal of the Hotel Bellevue-Terminus. Designed as a communal drinking fountain with funnels and hoses to collect rainwater, the work addresses the dramatic water shortage caused by climate change, the problem of private ownership of vital resources and the need to provide free access to drinking water for all. A green-and-yellow wine gum worm, which he lets crawl with quiet humor over an aluminum strip hanging from the ceiling, looks like a mutant from a future in which the world has been turned upside down by human encroachment. (roe)

Can Altay, born in 1975 in Ankara, Turkey, lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey. His works and public projects have been shown at Flat Time House, London, Great Britain (2024), Basement Roma, Italy (2022), open recording studio MÇPS, Istanbul (2017), and numerous biennials, including Istanbul, Havana (Cuba), Busan and Gwangju (South Korea), and Marrakech (Morocco). Further information: can-altay.com/Can_Altay/artist.html