

İdil İlkin

Location: Hotel Bellevue-Terminus, attic

In Iceland, even the glacier tongues of Vatnajökull have their own names, so unique are they and so strongly are they experienced as part of the landscape. At 8100 square kilometers, Vatnajökull is not only the largest of Iceland's thirteen glaciers, but also the largest in Europe. "The land of fire and ice": this sounds as catchy as if it were an advertising agency slogan. But Vatnajökull actually sits on volcanic territory. Studies have shown that the more Iceland's glaciers melt, the more volcanic activity there is on the island. Everything is connected. The melting of the polar ice caps and the melting of the glaciers have become symbols of the climate crisis.

The chunks of ice in İdil İlkin's light boxes come from Vatnajökull. Due to the geological situation in Iceland, the situation of the glaciers there is also special. They move more frequently, which means that their ice is younger than that of the Titlis Glacier, for example, which formed 5,000 years ago. İlkin photographed the individual glacier fragments on the black volcanic sand so that their crystalline structure makes them look like precious jewels on dark velvet. And they look a bit like they would be good to hold and useful as tools. But we are aware of their fragility and are tempted to take them out of the light and carry them where it is cold and dark. The need to protect glaciers has long been evident on the Titlis: in 2023, the ski season started later than usual because there was simply not enough snow. *(ah)*

İdil İlkin was born, lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey. She studied in Glasgow, Scotland, in Istanbul and in London, Great Britain. Her works have been shown at the CIF Cocoon Art Space, Istanbul (2022), the Elgiz Museum, Istanbul (2014), and the Deutsches Filmmuseum, Frankfurt am Main (2008), among others.