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## ANKEBUT (FEMALE SPIDER) PERFORMANCE AND INSTALLATION BY ZEHRA DOĞAN

Curator: Francesca Ceccherini

With *ANKEBUT (Female Spider)*, Zehra Doğan presents a new performance that embodies the female resistance weaving a web of human hair on spokes of barbed wires. The action is accompanied by a female chant that returns the persecution of the Yazidi Kurds.

Through the performance act *ANKEBUT (Female Spider)*, artist Zehra Doğan presents a new work that brings the theme of female resistance to the center interrogating the relationship that women develop with their bodies and the earth. *ANKEBUT* – a word that designates the female spider in a surah (apportionment) of the Qur'ān – is realized in a site-specific intervention that finds space between the columns of the industrial architecture of oxyd. The work is composed by a web of human hair on spokes of barbed wires, the same wires that constitute walls and barriers in numerous geographies around the world, still erected with the aim of dividing lands and making it illegal for human beings to be present. As a Kurdish woman, Doğan has often found herself living among these territories among these wires – divided by the regimes' exercise of geo-political, racial and gender control – building and re-building her own home each time someone arrived to destroy it. As a form of opposition to the dominant male power system, spider web weaving becomes an existential metaphor for the resistance and generative power of which women, like female spiders, are capable. „Our solitary, subtle, invisible, delicate but strong, nest-building nests“, Doğan says: „to connect and defend, and to create the space necessary for survival and life expression.“ The action unfolds with the broadcast of a song by a Yazidi woman named Sorgul: recognized as a love song that has been passed down in different languages for many years, it is actually a lament describing the persecution and massacre of Yazidi Kurds.

### ZEHRA DOĞAN (\*1989, DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY)

Zehra Doğan is a Kurdish artist and journalist. She graduated at the Dicle University's (Diyarbakir, Turkey) Fine Arts Programme, and is the co-founder of JINHA, the first all-women press agency. During the war in Iraq and Syria, she reported from both fronts and was one of the first journalists to give account of the Êzidî women who were enslaved by ISIS in Northern Iraq. During the conflicts in the Kurdish areas of Turkey, Doğan tried to report from Cizre and Nusaybin. In July 2016, the day after she left Nusaybin, Zehra Doğan was incarcerated in Mardin. Following a trial, in March 2017 she was sentenced to 2 years, 9 months and 22 days under the charge of "terrorist propaganda" based on the articles she had written and a digital drawing depicting the destruction of Nusaybin by the Turkish army. Over the years Zehra Doğan has been awarded several prizes, including the Carol Rama Prize (2020), Exceptional Courage in Journalism Award from the May Chidiac Foundation (2019), the Freedom of Expression Award in the Arts category from Index on Censorship (2019), the Courage in Journalism Award from the International Women's Media Foundation (2018), the Rebellion's Artist in the World Prize (2017), the Freethinker Prize (2017) from the Freidenker-Vereinigung Schweiz and the Metin Göktepe Journalism Award (2015). As an artist and writer, she lives and works in Europe in "nomadic" mode.  
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