

**Workshop, University of Duisburg-Essen,**

**Institute for Art and Art History**

**July 10-12, 2025**

**Venue: Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI)**

**Goethestraße 31, 45128 Essen**

# **BESTIARIES**

**Of Human-Animal Creatures, Monsters and  
Strange Beings in Islamic Cosmology,  
Surrealist Mythologies and Contemporary Art**

UNIVERSITÄT  
DUISBURG  
ESSEN

*Offen im Denken*

The interdisciplinary workshop explores concepts of the bestiary in contemporary Turkish art through perspectives from art history, history, and literature. It focuses on the construction of human and non-human nature within the shifting boundaries of sacred and profane, myth and history. Against the backdrop of neo-Ottoman cultural politics and current debates on the role of Islam in public imagination, the workshop brings together scholars and artists to discuss transhistorical and transcultural strategies that unsettle dominant models of knowledge, religion, and identity.



## Thursday, 10 July 2025

15 h	Welcome and Get Together
15:30 – 16 h	Introduction <i>Gabriele Genge</i>
16 – 17 h	<b>Queer Mythologies Beyond Ottomania</b>  Queering Neo-Turcic Mythology: Counter-Images beyond Religio-Secular Binaries <i>Torsten Janson</i>
17 – 17:30 h	Coffee Break
17:30 – 18:30 h	<b>Surrealist Mythologies</b>  Heavenly and Heavy: the Siyah Kalem Demons in Turkish Art Historiography <i>Ambra D'Antone (online)</i>

## Friday, 11 July 2025

10 – 12 h	<b>Islamicate Cosmographies</b>  Perception of Nature in Pre-Modern Arabic Literature <i>Syrinx von Hees</i>
	Migration and Alienation: From the Simurgh to the Present Tense <i>Wendy Shaw</i>
12 – 13 h	Lunch

13 – 15 h	<b>Out of the Bestiary</b>  Navigating Liminal Spaces. Al Buraq and other Human-Animal Hybrids as a Space for Questioning and Critique in Contemporary Art of the Islamic World <i>Charlotte Bank</i>
	Where the Strange Creatures Live – CANAN's Stories from behind Mount Quaf <i>Eva Liedtjens</i>
15 – 16 h	Coffee Break
16 – 18 h	<b>Monsters of the Anthropocene</b>  Promises of Monsters: Those Haunting Turkish Feminist / Queer Literature <i>Ezgi Hamzaoğlu</i>
	A Tale of Sahmaran: Mehtap Baydu <i>Didem Yazıcı</i>
19 h	Dinner

## Saturday, 12 July 2025

10 – 12 h	Museum Visit, Folkwang Museum: Final Discussion at the Museum
-----------	---

The workshop is part of the DFG - funded research project „*Ambiguity and Distinction. Historical and Cultural Dynamics*“. It is organised by the sub-project based at the Institute of Art and Art History at the University of Duisburg-Essen (Prof. Dr. Gabriele Genge and Eva Liedtjens M.A.).

Supported by

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft