

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

PROGRAMME

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

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

Friday, 11 July 2025

10–12h	Islamicate Cosmographies 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>
12–13h	Lunch

13–15h	Out of the Bestiary 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>
15–16h	Coffee Break
16–18h	Monsters of the Anthropocene Promises of Monsters: Those Haunting Turkish Feminist / Queer Literature <i>Ezgi Hamzaçebi</i>
	A Tale of Sahmaran: Mehtap Baydu <i>Didem Yâzıcı</i>
19h	Dinner

Saturday, 12 July 2025

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