

SELEN ÖZUS

STATEMENT:

Everything begins with the beauty and imperfection that surround me: people, light, spaces, relationships, memories, nature, and the smallest details. These sensations spark the urge to create. As I observe closely, ideas take shape. I retreat into my inner world to translate what I see into feeling, merging thought and emotion. Drawings evolve into objects, and objects become jewellery. Once my thoughts and emotions align, the piece takes on its final expression.

My creative transformation deepened with motherhood. The arrival of my child brought immense joy, but also a sense of being trapped, caught in routine, weighed down by fear, and unable to create. The turning point came unexpectedly when a friend gave my daughter a shiny plastic toy. My first instinct was to iron it, to flatten, reshape, and impose weight. In that gesture, both destructive and curious, I found the starting point for reflection and creation.

Motherhood became both lens and material. Everyday objects such as toys and porcelain, fragile yet resilient, became extensions of my transformation, balancing vulnerability and strength. Through playfulness, care, and the reimagining of the ordinary, I reclaimed my creative energy, exploring the intersection of being a mother and creator.

This dialogue between the intimate, the everyday, and the playful shapes my work, where creation grows out of both reflection and experimentation. Motherhood also reshaped my sense of time, fragmented and nonlinear, often borrowed in small, precious moments. Instead of resisting it, I learned to work within its shifting rhythm. Ideas now unfold in pauses, during care, in the quiet between tasks. By embracing this altered tempo, I found a new way of progressing, one that honors both the demands of motherhood and the slow, steady persistence of making.

CV:

BORN:

1983, Istanbul, Turkey

EDUCATION:

2023 MFA, Trier University of Applied Arts, Gemstones and Jewelry in Idar Oberstein, Germany

2007 - 2010 3 Year Jewellery Program (Advanced Jewellery Course 2 with Prof. Peter Bauhuis, Jewellery Specialization 3 with Prof. Manfred Bischoff)
Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School, Florence, Italy

2000- 2005 BFA in Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Ceramic and Glass Design, Istanbul, Turkey

1996 - 1999 Akşehir High School, Akşehir, Konya

WORKSHOPS:

- 2014 'FACE NOW' with Ruudt Peters, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2010 Short workshop with Deganit Stern Schocken and Ruudt Peters, Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School, Florence, Italy
- 2009 Short workshop with Robert Smit, Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School, Florence, Italy

SYMPOSIUMS:

- 2017 16. Erfurter Schmucksymposium

WORK EXPERIENCES:

- 2012-2023 Maden Contemporary Jewellery Studio, Cofounder, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2019 Plates for Steinbeisser's dinners (Experimental Gastronomi), Chef Andre Chiang, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2009 Il Gufo (illustrations), Italy

SOLO EXHIBITION:

- 2017 Jewelers'Werk Galerie, Washington DC, United States

AWARDS:

- 2016 '2016 MARI FUNAKI AWARD FOR CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY', (Exhibition prize) Melbourne, Australia
- 2009 Rotary Club Firenze Contemporary Jewellery Competition (First prize), Florence, Italy
- 2008 - 2010 Full scholarship from Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School, Florence, Italy