

DEFNE TESAL (b. 1985, İstanbul)

Lives and works in İstanbul.

Education

2017-2019 MA in Fine Arts, Master Institute of Visual Cultures, AKV St.Joost, Den Bosch, Netherlands

2004-2010 BA in Stage and Costume Design, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, İstanbul, Turkey

2007-2008 Erasmus exchange at Accademia di Belle Arti di Carrara, Dept. of Scenography, Italy

Artist Residencies

2024 Dou Print Studio, Lithography Studio, Ankara, Turkey

2019 Kulttuuri Kauppila Art Center, Social Art Residency, Ii, Finland

2016 Kulttuuri Kauppila Art Center Artist in Residency, Ii, Finland

2015 SVA Summer Residency, Painting and Mixed Media - New York City, USA

Artist Collectives

since 2019 DREAM NEWS artist collective and publication initiative with Murat Yıldız

since 2020 HAH artist collective (Ahu Akgün, Gizem Karakaş, Ayça Telgeren, Murat Yıldız)

2018-2019 ADMIT ONE (Alireza Abbasy, Elena Chemerska, Annemée Dik, Raffaella Huizinga, Donglai Meng, Simon Oosterhuis, Angela Vidić and Murat Yıldız)

Solo and duo exhibitions

2023 'Talking with Water', Pilevneli Gallery, İstanbul, Turkey

'Just Like in a Dream', duo exhibition with Ferruh Başağa, curated by Derya Yücel, Nazım Hikmet Kültür Evi, Bursa, Turkey

2021 'Hesitation', Pilevneli Gallery, İstanbul, Turkey

2016 'Interval', Zilberman Gallery - Project Space, İstanbul, Turkey

'Keeping the Trace', duo exhibition with Murat Yıldız, KulttuuriKauppila Art Center, Finland

2015 'Cocoon', Gallery-5, İstanbul, Turkey

2013 'Window Seat', Gallery Artist Çukurcuma, İstanbul, Turkey

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024** 'Distilled From Scattered Blue', curated by Károly Aliotti, Galerist, Istanbul, Turkey
'Anima Nova', Istanbul'74, Clubhouse Bebek, Istanbul, Turkey
'Temas', curated by Volkan Kızıltunç, MSGSÜ, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022** 'I Am Nobody. Are You Nobody Too?', curated by Selen Ansen, Meşher, Istanbul, Turkey
'Rounded by Sleep', curated by Eda Berkmen, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2021** 'Atış Serbest – MECMU', Barın Han, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2020** Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation, Art solidarity online exhibition, Turkey
- 2019** 'Jong Talent', Den Bosch, Netherlands
'Atış Serbest 5', Tophane-i Amire, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2018** 'Moment of Trust'. Project of Tenthous Artist Collective (Oslo) Club Solo, Breda, Netherlands
'What Do We Dance For?', Gallery Nectar, Tbilisi, Georgia
'There is another possibility: about open space and artist collectives', participated as HAH collective, Kasa Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2017** 'Maybe, we will benefit from our neighbour's good fortune', participated as HAH collective, curated by Işıl Eğrikavuk, Halka Art Project, Istanbul, Turkey
'Vesile', by HAH collective members with guest artists Etem Sahin, Selim Birsnel, Lara Ogel, HAHmekan, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2016** 'Collective Memory (the past and future is ours)', curated by Anna Bauer and Benjamin Lee Sperry, New York City, USA and Glasgow, Scotland
Istanbul Rotary Art Competition – finalists exhibition, curated by Başak Şenova, Elgiz Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2015** SVA Summer Residency Open Studio Exhibition, New York City, USA
- 2014** 'Interception', International Textile Artists Group Exhibition, Gallery 5, Istanbul, Turkey

Scholarships

- 2017** Holland Scholarship, Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Netherlands
- 2015** Moon&Stars Scholarship for SVA Summer Residency Program from American Turkish Society, New York City, USA

2007 Erasmus Scholarship for bachelor in scenography education in Academia di Belle Arti di Carrara, Italy

Awards

- 2016** Istanbul Rotary Art Competition Award
2012 Ifsak Short Film Festival, Best Animation Award
2010 Yıldız Short Film Festival, Digital Film Academy Award

Workshops given

- 2023** 'Tunnels of Sleep / Scale model making workshop', workshop for adults, Nazım Hikmet Kültür Evi, Bursa, Turkey
2022 'Tunnels of Sleep / Scale model making workshop', workshop for adults, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey
2019 '1h 34' 07', workshop for fine arts bachelor students of St. Joost Art Academy. In collaboration with Ying Liu and Murat Yıldız. Master Institute of Visual Cultures, AKV St.Joost, Den Bosch, Netherlands
2018 'Absolute Rhythm, Indefinite Repetition', workshop for fine arts bachelor students of St. Joost Art Academy. In collaboration with Nicola Kirkaldy. Master Institute of Visual Cultures, AKV St.Joost, Den Bosch, Netherlands
2016 'Random Creation Project', workshop for high school students of Ii Upper Secondary School, International Art Course program. In collaboration with Murat Yıldız. Ii, Finland

Selected Performances and Projects

- 2021** 'Supposition' video performance, in collaboration with Ahu Akgün
2019 16. Istanbul Biennial, Public program – participation as HAH collective
2018 'Hah Hikaye' interactive online story writing project
2018 'Momentum' performance, in collaboration with Ying Liu. Master Institute of Visual Cultures, AKV St. Joost, Den Bosch, Netherlands
2018 'Meeting' interactive installation/exhibition. Master Institute of Visual Cultures, AKV St. Joost, Den Bosch, Netherlands

- 2018** 'Transition' video screening program / Eye Research Lab, Eye Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2018** 'HAHcalendar' project, in collaboration with HAH members and artists Sena Başöz, Lara Ögel, Romina Meriç, Sevgi Aka, Uzay Kere, Beste Topuz, Onur Ceritoğlu. Published by Art Unlimited, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2017** 'HAHasks' recording performance, MÇPS recording studio created by Can Altay and Saz Arkadaşları, produced by Amira Arzik at 5533, participated as HAH, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2011** 'Traitor Wolf', stop-motion animation film, 13'52", in collaboration with Murat Yıldız, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2010** 'A Tale', stop-motion animation film, 4'31", Istanbul, Turkey

Publications

- 2021** 'Dream News / Ambiguous', in collaboration with Murat Yıldız, issue 4, Turkey, published by Vision Art Platform
- 2021** 'Hesitation' Artist book, published by Pilevneli Gallery
- 2021** 'Dream News / Chains', in collaboration with Murat Yıldız, issue 3, Turkey, self-publication
- 2020** 'words 2016,7,8,9' Artist book series, self-publication
- 2019** 'Dream News / Unelma Uutiset', in collaboration with Murat Yıldız, issue 1, Finland, published by Lähde!
- 2019** 'Distractions turning into Landscapes', Artist book, self-publication
- 2018** HAHcalendar, calendar publication of HAH collective, published by Art Unlimited
- 2017** HAH "Vesile" exhibition catalogue, HAH publication