

## Panel A2

Sala delle Colonne 1

### Women in Animation: The Contemporary International Context



**Nazli Eda Noyan**

#### Women on the Verge of Animation

In October 2016, 10 best short animated films of past decade in Turkey has been selected by a jury of filmmakers, critics, academicians, writers, animators. Amongst the 10 films, 5 of them were from female directors'. As an academic and an animation director, I am fascinated with the creative work than women are putting forward in a discipline usually known as the male zone like so many other fields in Turkey (or shall say in the world). From the 1970's till today, animation in Turkey has been an outlet for women telling stories in a visual expressive form with pioneers such as director of *How Spring Ended* Meral Simer married to a well-known animator Tongu Yařar, Meral Birden Erez, writer and director of many shorts and commercial animation films with her husband Cemal Erez, Ayla Seyhan working at Filmar Advertising and Cultural Films Company in the 1970s with founder and animator Vedat Ar, and in the last decade there is a growing number of female creatives such as character designer and feature film co-director (with Ismet Kurtuluř) Nermin Er working with female film producer of feature and short animations Yonca Ertürk, feature film *Kötü Kedi řerafetin's* and many commercial films co-director (with Mehmet Kurtuluř) Ayře Ünal, feature films and many shorts' director Sinem Sakaođlu and a bit younger generation of animators Özgöl Gürbüz, Nurbanu Aseña, İdil Ar followed by Akile Nazlı Kay, Iřık Dikmen, Jordana Maurer, Fulya Tokaođlu, Sinem Vardarlı Schenato, animation scriptwriter Nefise Abalı and many more. It seems, the pioneers followed the tradition of co-directing with a male partner. This pattern may also be observed though diminishing in the recent years. And one other pattern is the fact that these women have studied graphic design or art then moved to animation. And it may be observed that although the subject matter and style of the films vary there is a growing number of women animators from the younger generation working with hybrid genres such as animated documentary to express rough topics related to women's lives or human rights in Turkey. The paper will be focusing on this phenomenon by carrying out interviews with the directors themselves.

#### Biography

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Born in İzmir in 1974, grew up in Aegean Turkey. She is currently the chair of Photography and Video Department at Bahcesehir University, Istanbul, Turkey. Besides her academic career, she's a full time artist. Like the different places she travels, she experiments with different mediums in her projects. She currently lives in Istanbul and she gets excited with creating, teaching, drawing, working with digital media and animating. She's a mother.