

4. September 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Samer Kozah | Damascene Dialogue

Photographies spanning over 40 Years

Exhibition at the HOUSE OF SYRIAN ART in Bremen | Curated by Frizzi Krella

September 8 – November 25, 2023

Opening: September 7, 2023 at 6 pm

With the opening of the exhibition **Damascene Dialogue** we are celebrating not only the first anniversary of the House of Syrian Art in Bremen but are also looking forward to dive into rich history of the city of Damascus both in black and white and in colour. The showing of Samer Kozah's photographs are accompanied by a photo essay by Frizzi Krella.

Over the span of 40 years, photographer and gallerist Samer Kozah portrays his city. With great dedication, a tender eye and deep respect he depicts people and captures their essence and character in his photographs.

Through his lens, pairing knowledge with sensitivity, we are looking upon Damascus as he allows us to view this unique city's aesthetic melancholy at the foot of the mountain Kassioun as it oscillates between tradition and modern times.

Kozah shows us stunning views over the roofs of Damascus, lets us partake in the everyday life of the people of his city and leads us to the magic stillness of the snow covered shores of the river Barada in winter.

With exceptional diligence he works with black and white contrasts as well as all shades of grey. Through the lens of his camera he not only uses his work to write a chapter about Damascene history but also lends her a moment of eternity.

What a contrast can also be found outside the gates of the city. There, during the war, parts of the new Damascus have been bombed and destroyed to ashes; a landscape of ruins and war. In a short video, Frizzi Krella documents these impressions, since there, too, so far as houses remain standing, people continue to live and an artist continues to have his studio. All that is Damascus, moments of the past and the presence.

TAKLA

In every portrait of a person there is a hidden secret, in every corner and every street there can be found poetry, beauty and the unusual. While Samer Kozah sees his mission in making all this accessible to the observer – at times as a colourist using colour photography, other times as a drawer of lights using black and white – Frizzi Krella also embarked on a quiet photographic dialogue with the city, her vulnerability and her beauty.

Samer Kozah was born in Damascus in 1957, where he continues to live and work as a photographer and gallerist.

After his training as a goldsmith in his father's family workshop he went to Aleppo to attend university and graduated as a mechanical engineer. Early on he developed an interest for the arts and began taking photographs of his birth city in 1982. As early as 1983 he started partaking in collective exhibitions with Syrian photo clubs for art photography both in Damascus and abroad, 1989 and 1991 at the V. and VI. International photo art exhibition in Beijing (China), 2010 at a group exhibition of Syrian photographs and artists at the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA) in Paris and in 2021 at the art exhibition Ashens in Damascus. In 1994, he founded the Gallery Kozah for Contemporary Art and Design.

Accompanying the opening of the exhibition, the Takla Foundation will publish the catalogue **Samer Kozah | DAMASCENER DIALOGUE** | *Photographies panning over 40 Years with an interview, a text and a photo essay by Frizzi Krella.* (ISBN 978-3-00-070771-5 | 10,00 €)

PROGRAM

Opening | September 7, 2023 | 6 pm

Introduction: Frizzi Krella, Director House of Syrian Art

Tour guided by Curator | TBA.

With Frizzi Krella

Further Events will be announced shortly

Press Pictures available for download at www.takla-stiftung.org >Presse

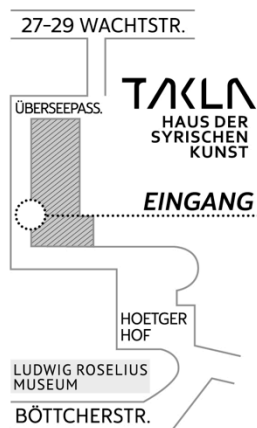
TAKLA

TAKLA HAUS DER
SYRISCHEN
KUNST

Open: Tuesday to Friday 3-5.30 pm
Saturday 12am – 5pm
Sunday and Monday closed

The entrance is free.

Guided Tours upon Request: info@takla-stiftung.org



Haus der Syrischen Kunst

Wachtstraße 27-29

Zugang Böttcherstraße/ Hoetger-Hof

28195 Bremen

Germany

+ 49 (0)421 178 89 91 14

PRESS PHOTOS



Samer Kozah, Damascus, 2012



Samer Kozah, Damascus, 1991



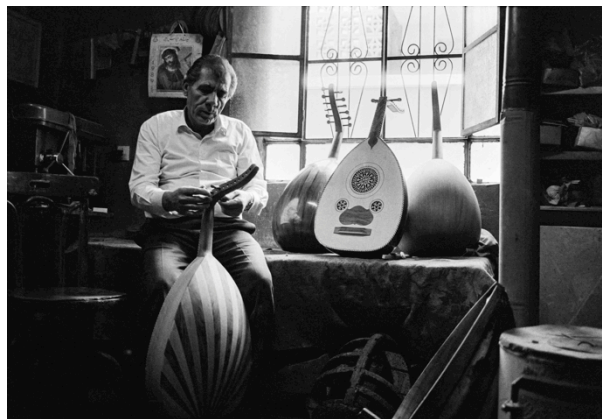
Damascus, 1988



Damascus, 1993



Samer Kozah, Damascus, 1990



Damascus, 1991

TAKLA



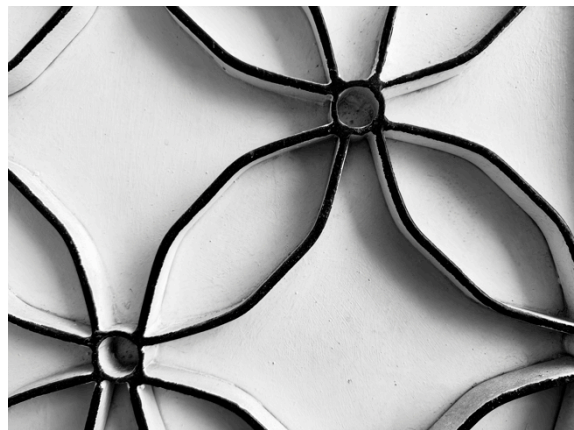
Samer Kozah, Damascus, 1998



Damascus 1992



Frizzi Krella, Damascus, 2023



Frizzi Krella, Damascus 2023