

# Roswitha Haftmann Stiftung

## Media release

Zurich, 21 July 2021

### Gülsün Karamustafa receives the Roswitha Haftmann Prize

#### **Gülsün Karamustafa receives Europe's best endowed art award, worth CHF 150,000, from the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation.**

The Board of the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation has decided to award the Roswitha Haftmann Prize 2021, which is endowed with CHF 150,000, to the Turkish artist Gülsün Karamustafa. Karamustafa, whose work spans multiple genres including painting, installation, video and performance, is one of Turkey's leading artists. She is inspired by the aesthetic of Byzantine icons and reverse glass painting, but breaks with the traditions of canonical art. 'As one of the most artistically and indeed politically compelling voices of our time,' so the Board of the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation, 'Gülsün Karamustafa has more than earned the Roswitha Haftmann Prize.'

#### CV AND AWARDS

Born in Ankara in 1946, Gülsün Karamustafa studied at the State Academy of Fine Arts in Istanbul, where she still lives and works. Her career began in the 1970s and is an early contribution to the societal debate around migration, feminism, gender and the legacy of colonialism that is more relevant today than ever before. Her stance, which also draws on her own experiences, provoked the Turkish government. Her passport was revoked, rendering her unable to travel abroad for 16 years. In 1981 she obtained her doctorate from the State Academy of Fine Arts in Istanbul, where she had been lecturing since 1975, with a thesis on 'The Interaction Between Painting and Poster'. Thereafter, she devoted herself entirely to her art, with great success: her works have been acquired by prestigious institutions including Tate Modern, London, the Guggenheim, New York, the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, the mumok – Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, and major private collections. She attracted further attention with solo exhibitions in Europe and the US and participation in biennials in Istanbul, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Kiev and Seville. Since the turn of the millennium, Gülsün Karamustafa has inspired an entire generation of artists to contribute their works to a socio-political discourse. Her own commitment to that debate has earned her accolades including the Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands.

#### FOUNDATION, PRESENTATION AT THE KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

Gülsün Karamustafa is the twentieth artist to be honoured with Europe's best endowed award for art. She will receive the Roswitha Haftmann Prize on 3 December 2021 before an audience

c/o Kunsthaus Zürich  
Winkelwiese 4  
Postfach  
CH-8024 Zürich

Tel. 044 253 84 84  
Fax 044 253 84 33

of invited guests at the Kunsthaus Zürich. The Prize was originally the initiative of Roswitha Haftmann (1924–1998), whose Foundation has awarded it since 2001 to a living artist who has created an oeuvre of outstanding quality. The winner is chosen by the Foundation Board, which includes the directors of the Kunstmuseum Bern, the Kunstmuseum Basel, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne and the Kunsthaus Zürich as well as other members co-opted by the Board.

For further information see: [www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com](http://www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com).

Media contact for further information and illustrations:

Roswitha Haftmann Foundation, c/o Kunsthaus Zürich

Björn Quellenberg, +41 (0)44 253 84 11, [bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch](mailto:bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch)