

An abstract artwork featuring a central area of textured, layered paint in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. This central area is surrounded by thick, tangled bundles of multi-colored threads (red, blue, green, yellow, and white) in the upper and left corners. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark, textured area with a grid-like pattern, possibly a woven fabric or a painted mesh. The overall composition is layered and textured, with a focus on color and materiality.

SOFT LANGUAGE

GROUP EXHIBITION

30.04.26 - 27.09.26

YAY GALLERY

**EXHIBITION OPENING: APRIL 30, TIME: 19:00
20:00 - DISCUSSION WITH THE ARTISTS:
TERESA PUIG AND JULIE PETER**

EXHIBITION CURATOR: LEYLI ALAKBAROVA

YARAT Contemporary Art Space is pleased to announce Soft Language, an exhibition curated by multidisciplinary artist Leyli Alakbarova at YAY Gallery. Bringing together local and international women artists, the exhibition explores the expressive intelligence of materials, how fiber, thread, and other materials communicate through softness, repetition, and touch rather than words.

Soft Language gathers textile, and mixed media works that form a quiet yet resonant dialogue through material. These pieces, some intimate in scale, draw the viewer inward, offering sensitivity as a form of strength. Their presence emerges through care, patience, and the physicality of the hand. The exhibition features women artists whose practices traverse tactile, earth-bound materiality and vivid expression. This interplay unfolds as a shifting field, tracing relationships between craft and contemporary art, tradition and immediacy, permanence and transformation. Historically gendered techniques - textile, repetition, and hand processes that are reimagined as sites of knowledge, inheritance, and renewal.

The exhibition unfolds through each room, where muted, earthy works - crafted from natural fibers and grounded in restrained tones - evoke a sense of land, memory, and slow, non-industrial making, while vivid colors and manufactured textures introduce a heightened intensity that reflects the excess and urgency of contemporary experience.

Throughout the exhibition, wool, silk, cotton, metal, paper, and manufactured materials intertwine, where each carrying traces of labor, geography, and cultural memory. Placed together, they create a network of quiet correspondences, offering material as a shared language connecting bodies, histories, and worlds.

Soft Language invites visitors into a space of listening: to sense how matters, feels, and remembers. It is an exhibition about the pressure of softness and the fragility of strength, where every thread, surface, and color hold both individuality and connection.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS - JALA AZIZ, LEYLI ALAKBAROVA, KIRRA KUSY, LEA SUN, CHARLOTTE NORDGREN SEWELL, BARBARA GARCIA, ALEXIA LLEONART, AGUSTINA FIORETTI, MADISON KATRINA FLOOD, NORA SARLAK, LISA MUR, PAULINA LAGOS BURGOS, SILKE SPITZER, ANNA ARIU, SARA HEIDARY, LENA BONSACK, JULIE PETER, FELICITAS WASNER, MELISSA DORN, TERESA PUIG, CRISTINA REID.

Leyli Alakbarova is a multidisciplinary artist based in Baku, Azerbaijan, working across textile, photography, film, and installation. She holds a Master's degree in Textile from Escola Massana in Barcelona. Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Baku, the Museum of Azerbaijani Painting XX–XXI Centuries, the Baku Railway Museum, and Gazelli Art House and her short films were screened at Loop Festival City Screen in Barcelona. Her curatorial approach extends her artistic practice, exploring women's narratives, fragility, and intergenerational memory through a dialogue between artists and materials.

ABOUT YAY GALLERY:

Established in 2012, YAY Gallery is located in the heart of Baku's Old City which sits amongst designated UNESCO world heritage sites. The gallery was founded by YARAT Contemporary Art Space, a non-profit organization committed to supporting the art infrastructure in Azerbaijan.

The primary activity of YAY Gallery is to organize exhibition-sales events featuring works by talented and promising young artists from Azerbaijan and other countries, as well as by renowned and experienced artists. The revenue generated from the sale of artworks is shared between the artists and the YARAT Contemporary Art Space organization.

Another priority of YAY Gallery is to serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences by organizing lectures, seminars, film screenings, and other events conducted by artists and professionals working in the field of art.

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