

Welcome to the sculpture BIBLIOTHEK

I am delighted to introduce you to Yara Nasser, Fiona Amann, Kemal Habib and Darin Nasser. Over several months, we worked together to develop stories. During this time, I met regularly with each of them in the library to get to know one another and to talk about their ideas, experiences and dreams. During this time, we worked together to develop their individual stories. The aim was for their decisions – as well as their own aesthetic sensibilities – to be reflected in the process and, ultimately, in the large-scale drawings. And so here we are, standing before their works. I am still in awe of the sheer imagination and courage these young people demonstrate in sharing their stories with us all.

●Yara Nasser's (14) story is about a school prank: she and three classmates sneak into their school's sports hall. There, they discover a secret door. They open it and see two large legs. Suddenly, a voice shouts, "What are you doing here?!" from between the chairs. Yara and her friends run off and hide in the restroom, where the caretaker comes looking for them. He knocks on the door, but the girls stay as quiet as mice, so he goes away again. The four of them waited another 45 minutes until the coast was clear. Then they sneak out of the restroom and walk back to the classroom with broad grins, where the accomplices exchange mischievous glances.

●Fiona Amann's story (16) is about a rabbit. In his burrow, the rabbit is getting ready for an adventurous journey, packing his rucksack. After setting off, the rabbit encounters another rabbit. From a distance, they size each other up, and the adventurous rabbit discovers that the other rabbit has horns, fangs and wings. Their initial fright quickly turns to curiosity, and they introduce themselves. They realise that they both love eating salapao and chat about the different ways to prepare it. So the two rabbits become friends and decide to set off on an adventure together. With a new friend by their side, both rabbits feel at ease and their outlines slowly begin to merge into one another.

●21-year-old Kemal Habib wanted to tell his own story: how he came to Switzerland from Afghanistan. His story has been very much on my mind for the last few months, as it concerns a fate one usually only reads or hears about on the news. Together, we decided to tell it through a performance because Kemal believes it will help people better understand his journey. The process of creating his performance was probably as important to me as it was to him, especially since it showed me how trust could create a space in which he could share his story, simply because I was willing to listen. His performance is supported by two of his friends, who have also experienced life as refugees and who hold up large-scale drawings while Kemal tells his story.

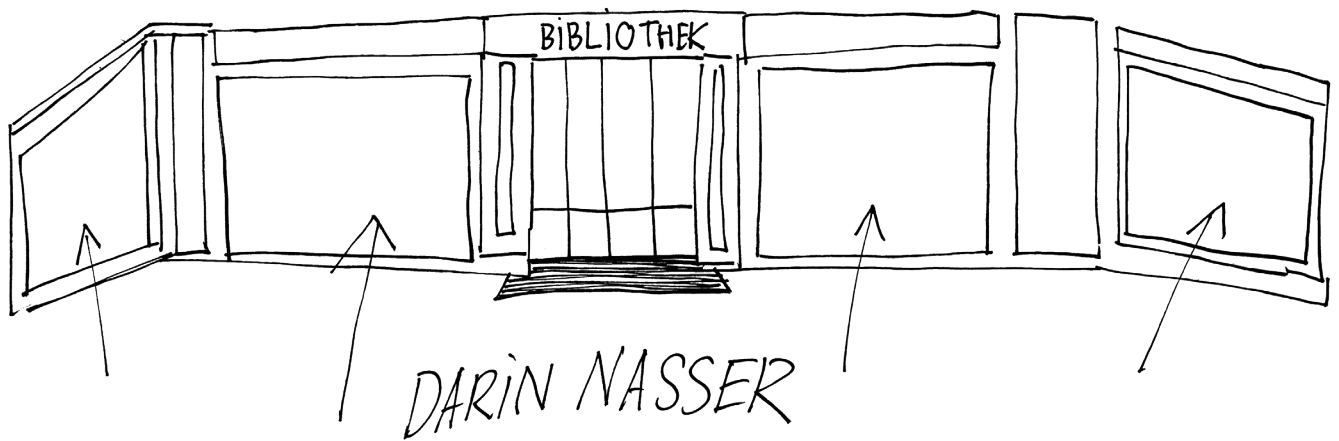
●Darin Nasser (11) can come up with a short story out of thin air. She thinks for ten seconds, then the words just bubble out of her as if she were a story machine. From all these stories, we chose one about a girl who sneaks into a secret library one evening. In this dark and dusty library, she finds a talking book. The next day, she tells her friend about it, but her friend doesn't believe her. Then something strange happens: everyone had always teased the girl, but now it suddenly stops. The book helps the girl, who had always had nothing but bad luck up until then. Relieved that the teasing has stopped, the girl wants to go back to the library with her friend. There, the two of them rummage around and find a secret section full of lost books. These books had all been hidden away by Mr Gary. To set the books free, the two girls run to the police and tell them about their discovery. The police act immediately and, together, free the hidden books, whereupon the library reopens, and everyone can read the previously hidden books again.

façade:

→ FIONA AMANN

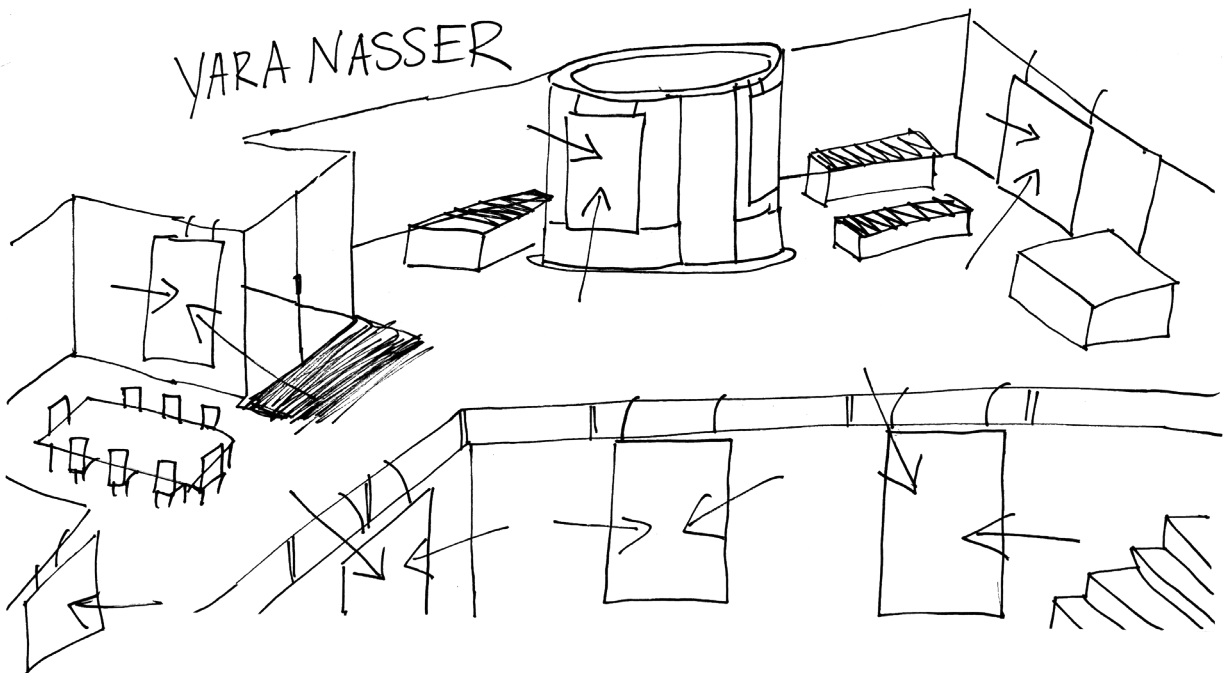


display window:



in the library:

VARA NASSER



The aim of this sculpture is to tell young people's stories, to listen to them and to bring their aesthetics into the everyday life of the neighbourhood. These guiding principles were the starting point and remained crucial throughout the entire process. As a neighbour of the GGG JUKIBU Library, I approached the JUKIBU association very early on. The library then became the starting point and home for the sculptures, where we could develop and carry out the project. The JUKIBU Intercultural Children's and Youth Library was open to this idea and allowed us to create the sculpture, which will become part of the daily life at the library and in the neighbourhood for the next month.

In the age of fake news, TikTok, internet and smartphone addiction, I felt it was important to listen to young people and give them a platform. In doing so, I saw it as my artistic work to support these young people in developing their own aesthetics, despite all the content on social media, and to bring this to life in four different stories: a performance, a large-scale banner on the library's façade, and two stories depicted on painted cloths inside the library. However, the aim was not to look to the future. Instead, we wanted to capture their current thoughts and imaginations. Thanks to JUKIBU, there is a space where we can see and experience their stories for a while. Especially in a place where multilingualism is central, it is important to show that young people too have their own stories to tell. Even if they start out very small, they can fill an entire space.

BIBLIOTHEK fulfils a long-cherished wish — showing these large-scale adolescents' stories in a public space like the library for a month might surprise at first, but eventually these stories will become part of the neighbourhood's daily life. I am convinced that projects like this must take place in places such as the JUKIBU Library. These spaces are part of our everyday lives and, because of that, we often do not associate them with art. That's where art should happen: in spaces where it attracts attention, settles, and invites us to look, impresses us, and shows that even such stories can become sculpture.

●I would like to express my sincere thanks to the JUKIBU Association for giving me the opportunity to bring BIBLIOTHEK to life.

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BIBLIOTHEK with Yara Nasser, Fiona Amann, Kemal Habib, Darin Nasser.
By Fabio Sonego

inner courtyard:

