

Interview Rula Ali, *My language is not my daughter's language*, 2024

My name is Rula Ali. My artwork is titled *My language is not my daughter's language*. This artwork highlights words and phrases created by Arabic speaking people living in Germany by applying Arabic grammar on German words and by combining Arabic and German together in one sentence. The artwork created several years ago by me collecting a lot of words and phrases created in this way and during this process there was a lot of stories coming out of this process and there were a lot of explanations why we created this kind of language, fit into this a new system and a new cultural context. The title of this artwork was created later on when I had my daughter and she started to speak fluent German. Although I speak Arabic with her and although we read a lot of stories in Arabic her German is much better than Arabic. That's when I realized my daughter's mother tongue is German, it's not Arabic, and that's how I created this artwork. The title sounds personal, but it is a personal artwork created out of my interaction with my Arabic-speaking community.

I asked a lot of questions about why we create this language, why we speak like this sometimes, why we like to speak these words. Then it came up to be this kind of pieces and installation.

And I printed all these words and phrases on fabric and created this artwork out of it.

This artwork related to my art practice, in that I use fabric a lot as a platform to tell certain narratives and to express my ideas, to see also my changing identities through this platform. I use also clothing besides fabric to criticize the dictatorship and the rigid system.

And this platform, it enabled me to criticize also the political system and also the dictatorship and to understand more different context or different experience I go through or I live within.

Also this artwork, I call it a community work and I use this usually to incorporate many voices in my artwork. This is not the only work where I work with people, I ask questions and then their voices within this artwork and their story can be shown also, not only my story and not only my perspective.

My favorite place, actually, there are many places, it depends where I want to go, if I am alone or with my daughter or something, but Körnerpark I love very much, especially the plants, the flowers and the nature side of it.