

*We Who Have
Known Many Shores*

All Ages Exhibition Guide
by Selin Kahramanoğlu

Alize Zorlutuna

We Who Have Known Many Shores

Art Gallery of Burlington
May 10 - September 1, 2024



This notebook belongs to:



Hoş geldiniz, this is Selin (pronounced SE-lynn). I am so glad you decided to visit the Art Gallery of Burlington's exhibition, **We Who Have Known Many Shores**, by artist Alize Zorlutuna

Alize Zorlutuna (they/them) is a queer visual artist, writer, and educator. Living between Tkaron:to and Anatolia, Alize grew up with an identity that has been nourished by two different parts of the world. Immerse yourself in Alize's artwork to take part in their voyage of tradition, healing, and sense of belonging.

As a fan of Alize's work, and a fellow Turkish-Canadian person myself, I hope you enjoy my notebook on the exhibition. Maybe you'll pick up some Turkish words along the way too!

Feel free to write and draw in my notebook too. The more doodles the better!



Hoş geldiniz (pronounced HOSH gehl-DIN-iz) = plural greeting, meaning "Welcome, everyone!". Usually the other person replies Hoş bulduk which loosely translates to "We feel welcome."

Tkarón:to = roughly translates from Mohawk to "the place of the submerged tree, or trees" or "trees in the water" and is one of the many names for the place also called Toronto.
(Ange Loft and Toronto Biennale of Art, 2022)

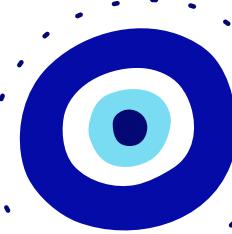
Gathering Around

In most Turkish households, you will find beautiful carpets to keep your feet warm and house nicely decorated. They provide a welcoming space and encourage people to share stories. Guests (like yourself) are always invited to sit by the carpet. It reminds us of home.

The fabric choice, design, and techniques behind carpet-making tell you a lot about the weaver, their family, where they lived, and how they learned their craft. Carpets are as unique as dialects.

Carpet symbols have their own meanings too:

- Tree of life = longevity
- **Nazar bead** = protection
- Hanging candle = eternity
- and so many more...



Take off your shoes and sit on Alize's carpets and pillows to relax with your friends and family.

Poems & Riddles

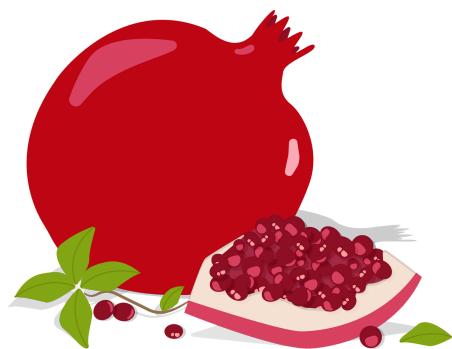
A Turkish riddle for you

On the outside, I am one.
On the inside, I am a thousand and one.
What am I?

Turkish is such a poetic language, but a lot of meaning can get lost in translation. Like many other cultures in the world, some words and traditions do not have an English equivalent.

How can we express ourselves fully if we are limited by words only?

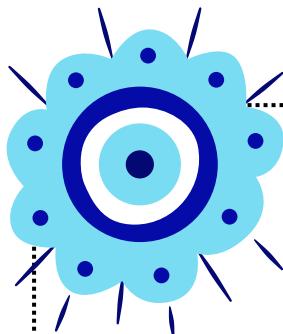
Like language, artwork, movement, food, and ritual can help express ourselves.



Answer: Pomegranate

Whenever we see something amazing, or someone does something impressive, we say **Maṣallah** (pronounced MAH-shah-LA). I feel like Alize's artwork deserves it because of how bravely they expressed their own stories through craft.

How do you express yourself?



Maṣallah - expresses excitement and appreciation for someone or something. It translates to "as God has willed it." We also say this expression to someone as a way to protect them from the bad energy of others (evil eye), or we give them an amulet (Nazar bead) to keep them safe.

Beloooooooong

Family, whether it is your biological family or your chosen family, are the ones that we cherish most. They are our inner community.



Nothing feels gentler than the embrace of those who love and care for you. Passing down objects that were important to your family (heirlooms) can help continue that feeling of belonging for many generations.

If you gifted a family **hatıra** to someone, what would it be? Draw or write it here.

A large, empty dotted oval frame, designed to look like a hand-drawn sketch, intended for children to draw or write about a gift they have given.

hatıra (pronounced HA-ter-ah), also called aile yadigarı - Heirloom. This word is also used to describe a souvenir or keepsake. A related word is hatıral which is the verb "to remember"

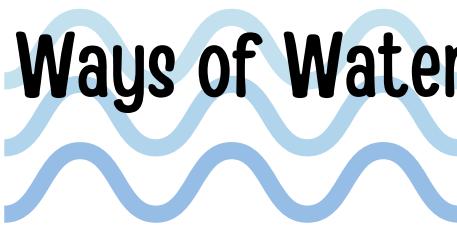
What reminds you of home?

Draw or write it here.



Turkish teacups
remind me of family

Ways of Water



Ebru is a traditional Turkish artform of creating patterns by blending pigment in oily water and transferring the colour onto paper or fabric. The end result can produce a pattern similar to marble or other kinds of stone.

Ebru artists are truly impressive for practicing a technique that is difficult to control. They typically have to apprentice with a teacher for a couple years to learn the skills to make their own style.

A Turkish proverb for you

Su Yolu Bulur

Alize has an artwork with this proverb as the title. Can you find it?

Su Yolu Bulur (pronounced SOO yo-LOO boo-LUR), sometimes said as Su Akar, Yolu Bulur = "Water (flows and) finds a way." A motivational expression that means that you do not have to force your way through hardship. Difficult times will be overcome. It is only a matter of time.

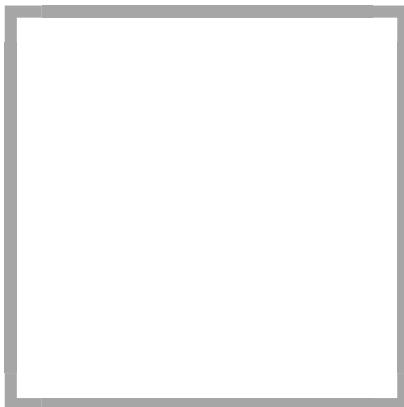
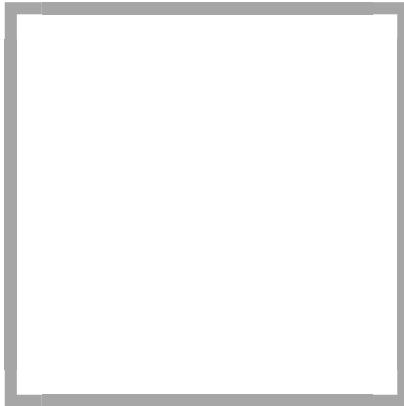
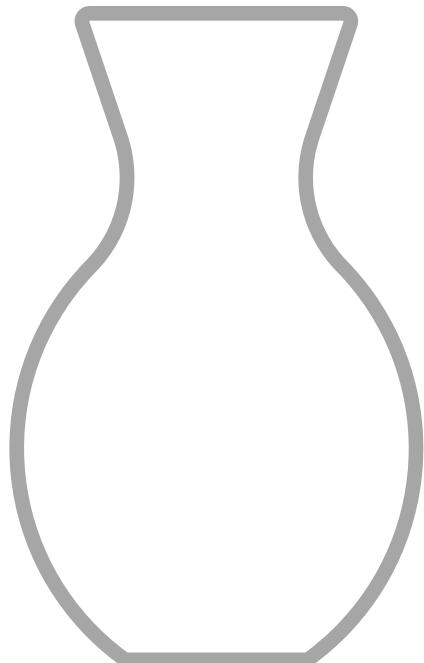
Basically, "You are capable. You will find a way. You always do!"



Design your own



tiles and vessels



Start by thinking about plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables you love!

FREE Family Days

Family Open Studios

Sundays May 12 – June 9, 1 – 4pm

These family-friendly **drop-in activities** encourage building, learning, and creating art together, inspired by our exhibitions. This intergenerational play allows families to investigate the themes and materials that inform or make up the featured artists' work, to explore all the AGB spaces, and to leave feeling empowered to continue creating artwork at home as a family.

Holiday Studio

Monday May 20, 1–4pm

Drop by the AGB on Victoria Day to learn a fun and accessible way to create your own paper marbling artworks in our Family Studio using materials readily available at home.

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We Who Have Known Many Shores has been generously sponsored by Alinea Group Holdings Inc. and supported by the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, and Canada Council for the Arts.

The AGB is supported by the City of Burlington, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Canada Council for the Arts. The AGB's learning programming has been sponsored by The Burlington Foundation and the Incite Foundation for the Arts.

Alize Zorlutuna would like to "express my gratitude to the land and waters where I live and work, to the visible and invisible networks of solidarity that together make life possible. I am grateful to live and practice on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Huron Wendat, Petun, Neutral, Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the Credit."

Selin Kahramanoğlu (she/her) is a Turkish-Canadian museum and archives professional, an independent researcher, artist, and writer. Selin's areas of interest are world history, languages, archaeology, interpretation, and material culture studies. Completing the Combined Degree Program from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information in 2020, Selin earned a Master of Museum Studies and a Master of Information. Selin is passionate about mentoring young professionals, on topics related to exploring professional development and protecting mental health. During her free time, Selin is often working on creative writing projects, or spending time with her family in Istanbul.



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