

THE GOLDEN FLEECE

Nezaket Ekici and Shahar Marcus

@Artisterium 19 /2026



Tbilisi, Georgia
September 14-17, 2026

ARTISTERIUM is a Tbilisi annual International Contemporary Art Exhibition and Art Events. It features international exhibitions, individual art projects, and a variety of educational and cultural programs.

ARTISTERIUM brings together artists, artist groups, curators, and art critics from around the globe.

About the Project

In their latest video art project, *The Golden Fleece*, Nezaket Ekici and Shahar Marcus embark on a journey through Georgia to explore the enduring myth of the Golden Fleece and its place in the country's landscape, history, and collective memory. Following legendary rivers believed to contain traces of gold, the artists employ an ancient technique using sheep's wool as a natural sieve to capture gold particles carried by the current. Their expedition combines research, physical endurance, encounters with local communities, and a search that unfolds across Georgia's rugged terrain.

Blending documentary observation with artistic fiction, *The Golden Fleece* investigates themes of quest, transformation, and the construction of belief. It draws on the Greek myth of the sacred golden ram Chrysomallos and its connection to ancient Colchis, present-day Georgia. The project revisits a narrative that has long symbolized power, prosperity, and divine protection. By linking the legend to Georgia's rich natural resources and cultural heritage, Ekici and Marcus invite viewers to reflect on the shifting boundaries between myth and reality, history and imagination.

About the artists

Nezaket Ekici is the internationally renowned performance artist, (born 1970 in Kırşehir). Lives and works in Berlin and Stuttgart. At the age of three, she emigrates to Germany with her family. She studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich and earned a master's degree in art education at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. At the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig she was a master student of Marina Abramovic in the field of performance (MFA Degree and Meisterschülerin 2004).

She presented more than 300 different performances and installations in more than 70 countries on four continents, in more than 180 cities, in museums, galleries and biennials. In 2013/2014, she was a fellow at the Tarabya Cultural Academy in Istanbul for 10 months. In 2016/17, Ekici had received the Rome Prize of the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo for 10 months.

In 2018, she received the Paula Modersohn-Becker Art Prize. In 2020, she received the Cultural Exchange Fellowship of the State of Berlin - Visual Arts: ISCP New York. She was in the Artist in Residency Program Operndorf Afrika Schlingensief in Burkina Faso (2012/22) for 2.5 months. Most recently she was invited from FSA (Foundation for Spirituality and the Arts) for 6 weeks in Artist in Residency in April 2024 to Charleston SC/USA. In 2025, her work was featured at the Ostrale Biennale in Dresden and the Performance Festival in Gothenburg, among other venues. It was also included in the solo exhibition "Transformation of Daily Life" (an online exhibition by CIFRA), the

group exhibition “Cold as Ice” at the Weserburg, Museum für Moderne Kunst in Bremen, “Süsse Heimat” at the Kunstmuseum Ahlen, and the collection exhibition at the Istanbul Modern Museum.

In 2026, her work will be featured in the group exhibition “Beyond Arabian Nights” at the Louvre-Lens Museum, among other venues. She has been invited by the Goethe-Institut Estonia to participate in an art research project in Tallinn. She will present a new live performance at Schloß Neuhausen in Brandenburg, as well as many other projects. She was awarded the MO_Art Prize 2026 (Museum Ostwall Dortmund).

Shahar Marcus (b. 1971) is an Israeli based artist who primary works in the medium of performance and video art. His initial works dealt with the exploration of his own body and its limitations- incorporating various perishable materials, such as dough, juice and ice. His body served as an instrument, a platform on which various ‘experiments’ took place: lying on the operating table, set on fire, dressed in a ‘bread suit’ and more.

Food is also a major theme in Marcus’s works. For instance, his recurrent use of bread as a symbol of essentiality and survival is juxtaposed with military symbols. By working with food, a perishable, momentary substance and by turning it into a piece of clothing or a set, Marcus also flirts with art history; transforming arbitrary objects and materials into something immortal and everlasting.

His early video-performances feature himself along with other artists, with whom he had collaborated in the past. However, in his recent works, Marcus appears by himself, while embodying different roles and characters. ‘The man with the suit’ is a personage that was born from an intuitive desire to create a ‘clean-cut’ version of an artist, juxtaposed to the common visual stereotype of the artist as a laborer. Drawing influence from Magritte’s familiar figure- the headless suit, a symbol of *Petite bourgeoisie*, Marcus embodies this man with a suit as an artist who is in charge, a director.

His most recent works deal with local political issues, by approaching iconic Israeli landmarks with a critical and humorous point of view. Thus, Marcus reflects on his own heritage, environment and the creation of local historical narratives. His works are influenced by the visual language of cinematography along with familiar themes and tributes to art – history and artists, such as Ives Klein, Paul McCarthy, Peter Greenway and Jackson Pollack.

*Shahar Marcus is an active artist for over a decade and has exhibited at various art- institutions, both in Israel and around the world, including: The Tate Modern, The Israel Museum, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Charlottenburg, Copenhagen- Kunsthalle, Moscow Biennale, Poznan Biennale, Moscow Museum of Modern Art and at other art- venues in Poland, Italy, Germany, Georgia, Japan, the USA and Turkey.

Many of his works are a part of various important collections, such as The Israel Museum, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Petach Tikva Museum of Art as well as art- intuitions in Poland and Italy.

Nezaket Ekici and Shahar Marcus work together since 2012 in collaboration, calling their overall project „In Relation“. Within that time, several works have been realized and shown in exhibitions worldwide.

The Golden Fleece will be screened at the Tbilisi State Silk Museum on 15–16 September 2026. The presentation will be accompanied by artist talks (Nezaket Ekici and Shahar Marcus). Further details, including screening times, will be announced at a later date.

Organizing institution

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Project Information

Venue: State Silk Museum

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