

Kurdish artists come together for joint exhibition in Washington, D.C.

'Speaking Across Mountains' highlights 10 contemporary artists



The work of 10 contemporary [Kurdish artists](#) will be highlighted in an upcoming exhibition in Washington, D.C., US, entitled *Speaking Across*

Mountains. Featuring a range of media, including painting, video, photography, textile, sculpture and assembled constructions, the showcase aims to explore and reflect the trans-national reality of the global [Kurdish community](#).



Kani Kamil's 'My Mom's Dream Secret'

The artworks further examine subjects that touch on history, geography and politics, as well as broader cultural themes of language, exile, gender and displacement, which have long dominated the Kurdish experience.

The artists, who are diverse in their backgrounds, narratives and aesthetic approaches, include Sherko Abbas, [Serwan Baran](#), Hayv Kahraman, Kani Kamil, and Walid Siti of [Iraq](#); Savas Boyraz, Zehra Dogen and Şener Özmen of [Turkey](#); and Khadija Baker and Bahram Hajou of [Syria](#). [Iranian](#) Kurds will be represented in a programme of films accompanying the exhibition.



Still from 'All Names' by Şener Özmen

Speaking Across Mountains will also host panel discussions and film screenings, which will offer audiences the opportunity to engage in conversation about the diversity of Kurdish experiences.

Curated by Heba Elkayal, an independent curator and writer based between [New York and Cairo](#), the exhibition will run from 6 December, 2019 to 20 February, 2020 at MEI Art Gallery – the Middle East Institute's new non-commercial art space and the first of its kind in Washington, D.C.



Khadija Baker's 'Coffin Nest'. Image by Jean Théberge