

# PERES PROJECTS

# FRIEZE

## 5 Exhibitions to See During Art Cologne

To mark the opening of the 54th edition of the fair, we've put together a guide to the best shows in the  
Rheinland

BY SOFIE KROGH CHRISTENSEN IN CRITIC'S GUIDES | 17 NOV 21



Melike Kara

Kölnischer Kunstverein

13 November – 5 December 2021

'May all of our stories / fit into one sentence / rolled up / packed together,' muses Melike Kara in a poem accompanying her solo exhibition, 'Nothing Is Yours, Everything Is You', at Kölnischer Kunstverein. Moving through the upper-floor galleries, the institution's postwar architecture is transformed by red- and blue-tinted paintings inspired by Kurdish tribal patterns, video projections, soundscapes of Kurdish folk songs and poetry, and wallpaper photo collages – using images culled from her personal archive – all of which come together to make the spaces vibrate with the voices and resistance of the Kurdish diaspora. In the top-floor 'Studio', the cushion stacks bridge ties and collective memories (both 2021) lean against bleached, blueish family photographs and refer to furnishings traditionally used for social gatherings and prayer. Utilizing the institution's interior and exterior spaces, Kara weaves a narrative that captures a fading collective memory, tying a visual knot to the last sentences of the poem: 'so / that not much is left / except / a free and unwritten soul / suspecting nothing / wanting nothing / floating in a light void.'