

## **Marking a Shift**

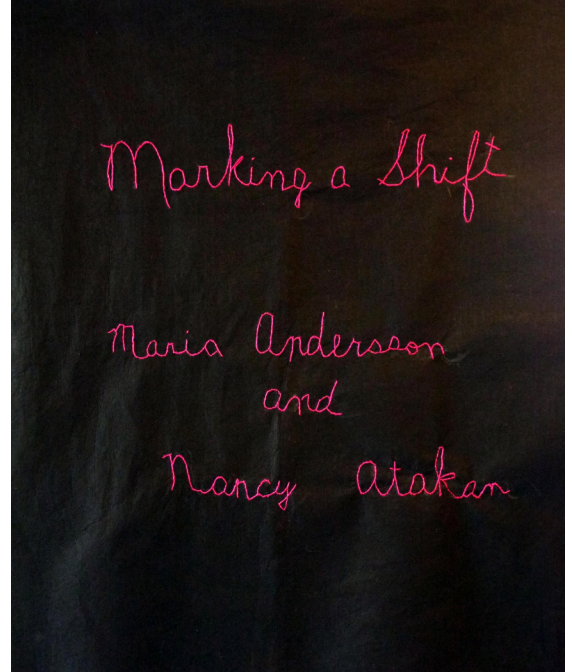
**Nancy Atakan and Maria Andersson**

**18 October, NKF, Stockholm**

The exhibition Marking a Shift looks for traces of past cultural exchange. It uses methods of serendipity while bringing the past to the present and anticipates the future through contextualized forms of collaboration.

The exhibition includes video, books, textile works and performance.

The artists started collaborating with collective research in 2012 when they discovered their shared interests in cultural transliteration and transcultural exchange. Their joint and individual research about Swedish Ling gymnastics as a modernist project in Sweden and Turkey has led to a series of separate works by each artist using their own modes of production. The work builds several parallel narratives directly and loosely connected to Selim Sirri (Tarcan), who brought Swedish Ling Gymnastics to Turkey. And his daughters Selma Sirri (Tarcan) and Azade Sirri (Tarcan) who, influenced by their fathers radical ideas and ideals of a society, became pioneers of modern dance in Turkey (Selma) and developed a therapeutic method of teaching gymnastics to everyone (Azade).



Between 2013 and 2017 the artists have met several times in Istanbul and Stockholm. In Istanbul they have met with researchers of Gazi University in Ankara and relatives of Tarcan family and made research at the SALT Galata archives. In Stockholm they have made research at the Swedish History Museum, The National Sports Museum in Stockholm, The Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences, Stockholm Olympic Stadium, various sports venues as well as the textile gallery at the Nordic Museum.

This exhibition includes work made in 2015 and 2016 from the artists individual art practices based on their shared research, as well as collaborative work completed during Nancy Atakan's residency at the guest studio at NKF, The Nordic art association, in October 2017.

The exhibition Marking a Shift and the collaborative works produced during Nancy Atakan's stay at NKF guest studio are supported by Swedish Arts Grants Committee's through a project grant for Maria Andersson's project *Anthems performed*.

The research trips have been supported by Iaspis, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee's International Programme for Visual and Applied Artists, through grants for International exchange and travel.

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## Works included in Marking a Shift

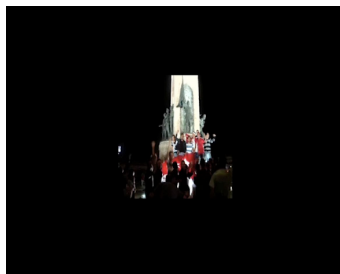
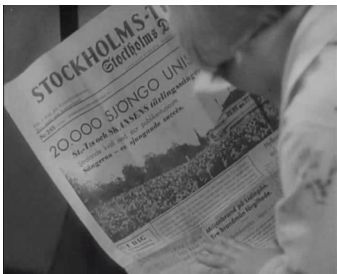
### *Traces and transformations*

Maria Andersson

2017 (Work in progress)

Single channel video

*Traces and transformations* looks into the transliteration made of the Gustaf Fröding poem "Tre trallande jantor" (1894), with music by Felix Körling, to what came in Turkey to be "Gençlik Marşı" ("Dağ Başını Duman Almış"), also known as "The Youth Anthem". Selim Sırrı (Tarcan) brought the music from Sweden to Turkey and Ali Ulvi Elöve wrote Turkish lyrics. First sung in 1916 at a physical education event, this song is still today one of the most popular and well-known Nationalistic songs in Turkey, often sung at sports events.



Video stills *Traces and transformations*

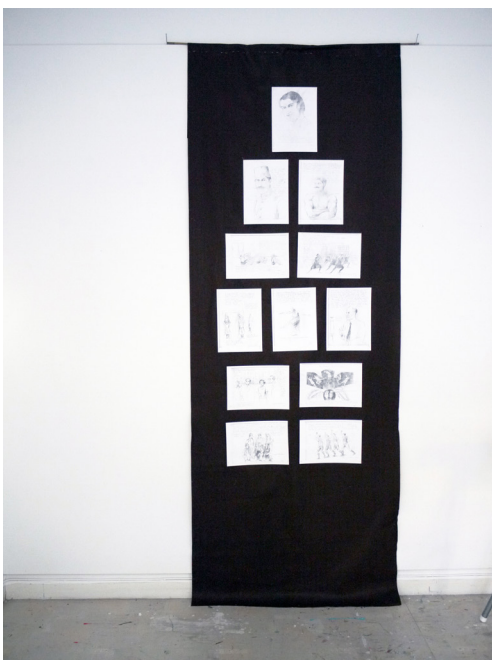
### *My Name is Azade (Freedom)*

Nancy Atakan

2014

23 pencil drawings with handwritten text (12 of 23 shown in the exhibition Marking a Shift)

The drawings with handwritten texts are the result of research on Azade, Nancy Atakan's first gymnastics teacher in Turkey who was the daughter of Selim Sırrı (Tarcan) who brought Ling gymnastics to the Ottoman Empire at the turn of the 20th century. The text, neither fact nor fiction, presented in Azade's voice, is based on interviews with and materials collected from a relative living in Istanbul and a professor at the Sports Department of Gazi University in Ankara. It continues the artist's investigation into professional women of the Turkish Republic, born during the Ottoman period and her search for female role models.



*My Name is Azade (Freedom)*

12 of 23 drawings presented in the exhibition.



## **Anthem**

**Maria Andersson**

**2015**

**Artist book. Box with 9 booklets and 4 loose sheets.**

*Anthem* is a book and a choreography; A narrative that circles around bodies as tools for societal changes. Its starting point is the bodily exercises of the Ling gymnastic system, created in Sweden in the beginning of the 19th Century. The exercises came to be implemented in Ottoman schools as a strategy to shape the new Turkish Republic. The work traces and captures not only the cultural exchange but also the collaborative process of the making of this work.



*Anthem* presented in the exhibition.

Digital version of *Anthem*:

[http://www.mariaandersson.net/main\\_anthem.html](http://www.mariaandersson.net/main_anthem.html)



## ***Beats (of Anthems)***

Maria Andersson

2017

Single channel video, 1'.

*Beats (of Anthems)* extracts and abstracts the titles given to each chapter in the book *Anthems*. It looks for meaning in the details of the narrative (Place, year and short descriptions of the chapters.).



*Beats (of Anthems)* presented in the exhibition.  
(E.g. Stockholm, 1909. Bent knees and popular tunes)

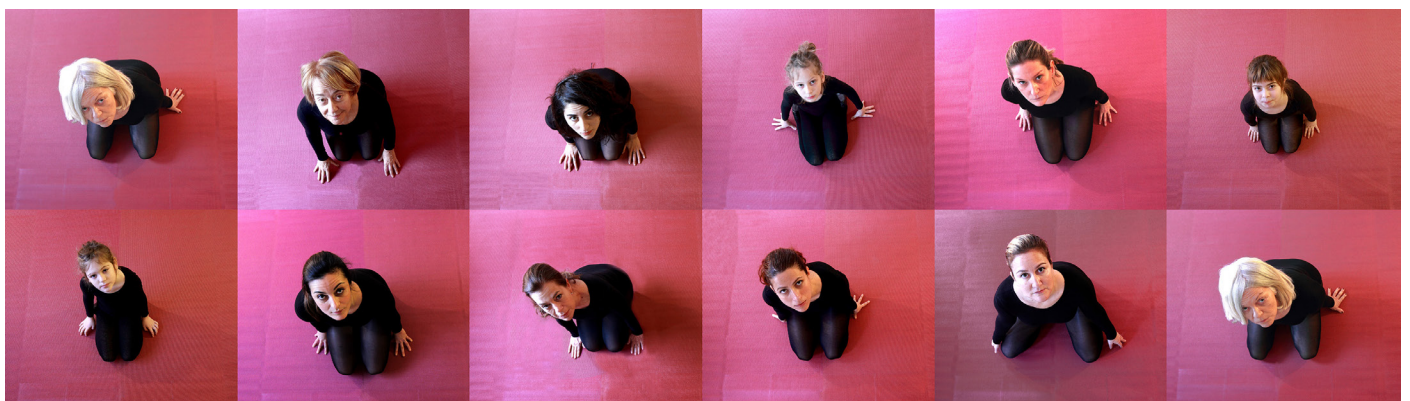
## ***Passing On II***

Nancy Atakan

2015

Double-channel video, 4'12".

For 35 years Nancy Atakan kept an exercise VHS tape made by her first Turkish gymnastic therapist, Azade. Even though Azade was influenced by the pedagogical philosophy of Ling Gymnastics as taught by her father, few of her movements are directly related. The artist selected four movements from Azade's original video to replicate together with other women and young girls as a metaphor for the female search for role models.



Video still *Passing On II*

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/139906272>

For full length version of the video, please contact Nancy Atakan..

# Learning From the Past Preparing for the Future

## ***Learning from the Past/Preparing for the Future***

Maria Andersson and Nancy Atakan in collaboration

2017

Single channel video, 22'15".

In the video *Learning from the Past/Preparing for the Future* the artists try to mimic positions from the Ling gymnastic system performed by a group of women pictured in a photograph taken at the Gymnastic Central Institute in Stockholm in the beginning of the 20th Century. With a projection of the photograph as a backdrop the artists, one by one, and together, practice the movements, while being taught by shadows.

Video still *Learning from the Past/Preparing for the Future*.





***Daglara Marş Marş, Testilerden Zeybek / March to Mountains, Zeybek from Jugs***

Cevdet Erek

2016

Sound, mono; looped; def, darbuka, drum programming, 3'30".

As a gift for Nancy Atakan's 2016 exhibition, Sporting Chances, Cevdet Erek created this sound piece to accompany her drawings, *My Name Is Azade*. The music references both the Zeybek tradition, and march music connecting to *Genclik Marsi*, influences present in both Nancy Atakan's and Maria Andersson's works.

***Overlapping***

Maria Andersson and Nancy Atakan in collaboration

2017

Performance

As an addition to the video *Learning from the Past/Preparing for the Future* a live performance activates the video. The specifically written text *Catching thoughts, losing track* is performed live, as layers on layers of bodies and movements overlap each other. The performance brings the past presented in the video to the present in the space.



*Catching thoughts, losing track*

Maria Andersson and Nancy Atakan in collaboration

2017

Text

referencing references

rhythm of colour

linking

dancing

stitching

circular movement

circular thought

noting notations

threads of time

sew and sew and sew just so

text on textile text on text

text on and on

cutting shapes

shaping cuts

passing the past

overlapping

over and over

losing track

catching thoughts

thoughts on track

thoughts on thoughts

thoughts on thought tracks

## *Many Unknown Things*

Maria Andersson and Nancy Atakan in collaboration

2017

Fabric wall panel, 340 cm x 200 cm.

*Many Unknown Things* is a collaborative textile based work made during the residency at NKF in October 2017. The work uses abstraced forms which reference Ling gymnastics, Azade and Selma Sirri (Tarcen)'s gymnastic and dance movements from the beginning of the 20th Century. Nancy Atakan brought examples of Turkish kilims and needlework made in Turkey, and together the artists visited the Nordic Textile Museum in Stockholm to search for cross-cultural similarities. The fabric wall panel is a thought track, a choreography and a search for models for collaboration and sharing.



*Many Unknown things*





## *Passing on I*

Nancy Atakan

2015

Single channel video, 10'

A woman born during the Ottoman period who became a professional in the Turkish Republic, Nancy Atakan's first Turkish gymnastic teacher was in her 70s while she was still in her late 20s. In the early 1980s, Azade moved to Austria, leaving behind a video of her exercises. For over 35 years, Nancy Atakan has kept this video. The video is an important part of this project, although not shown in the exhibition Marking a shift.



Video still *Passing On I*

Teaser: <https://vimeo.com/139910817>

For full length version of the video, please contact Nancy Atakan.

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Exhibition view: *Passing on II* and *Learning from the past/Preparing for the future*

