

KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Berlin, 11th May 2018

Dear Colleagues,

we are pleased to invite you to the opening of the following exhibition:

VARTAN AVAKIAN

All That Is Seen and Unseen

Opening: THURSDAY, 24TH MAY 2018, 7 – 10 PM
Showroom at Kottbusser Straße 10

Exhibition: 25TH MAY – 17TH JUNE 2018
Tuesday – Sunday, 2 – 7 pm

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RECHTSFORM: Künstlerhaus Bethanien GmbH · SITZ: Berlin · AG Charlottenburg

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRUNG: Christoph Tannert · Andrea Boche · HANDELSREGISTER: HRG 8089

KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

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VARTAN AVAKIAN's work is based on the idea that all data exist in sculptural form and only appear as a 'fossil'. Consequently, memory too is seen as an activity of excavating and deciphering data from traces and remains. In order to explore practices of cultural production and commemoration, the artist employs different media such as video, installation, sculpture, and photography.

In his current project *All That is Seen and Unseen* at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Avakian examines printed books as sculptural objects which preserve information. These symbols of history, imbued with the weight of culture and authority, are both unique and reproducible. Avakian devises a series of protocols, procedures, and rituals to extract and bring to light their many hidden layers of incidental inscriptions and markings reminiscent of a palimpsest. Not only does he reveal these layers, but in his installations he separates them from their previous form and converts them into new sculptural fossils.

VARTAN AVAKIAN *1977 in Byblos, Lebanon, lives and works in Beirut. He studied Architecture and Urban Culture in Spain at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra and the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, as well as Communication Arts at the American University of Beirut. His work has been exhibited in Beirut, and in numerous international solo and group shows.

Vartan Avakian is currently receiving a grant from the **KfW Stiftung**, Frankfurt / Main, and is a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in the context of our International Studio Programme.

Grant-holders of the KfW Stiftung in Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2018 also include Elia Nurvista (Indonesia) and Andrés Pereira Paz (Bolivia).

The non-profit, independent foundation **KfW Stiftung** was founded in October 2012. One particular emphasis of the KfW Stiftung is a consolidation of cultural diversity. Aiming to advance intercultural dialogue, it enables artists from Latin America, Africa and Asia to spend twelve months working in Berlin by participating in the International Studio Programme of Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

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