

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Viron Erol Vert** **Garden of Ornaments**


Installation in the foyer and Café Kunsthalle  
from March 8, 2024

The artistic foyer design of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and Café Kunsthalle follows a long tradition. In 2024, the artist Viron Erol Vert takes over conceptualization and redesign of the rooms.

Viron Erol Vert grew up between the north of Germany, Istanbul and Athens in an intercultural family environment; he lives and works in Berlin and the Mediterranean region. His interest ranges between religious systems, cultural identity, linguistic experiences, cultural narratives and clichés. In his artistic work, Vert attempts to reveal and overcome abstract and theoretical boundaries in order to enrich life with acoustic, social and physical imaginary as well as pictorial and sculptural spaces.

During his extensive research in Baden-Baden that lasted several years, Viron Erol Vert explored the city and its socio-cultural characteristics: water is at the center of the city and plays a role as a remedy and connecting element. It is a place of coming together for people of many origins, a confluence of many cultures and languages since the beginning of its history and nature. Reflections of this can be found in the light, colors, form, architecture and ornamentation within Vert's installation.

Entitled *Garden of Ornaments*, the installation makes reference to this multi-cultural history of Baden-Baden, in particular the spa culture and its transcultural development. Vert's research comes from different directions, especially in order to gain a comprehensive view of the city's structure, its multi-layered and extensive history and to be able to analyze and understand the current atmosphere.



The result is a hybrid, site-specific spatial installation that reflects the various moments of the institution and the influence of different cultures, languages and traditions in the history of Baden-Baden. It offers the Kunsthalle's different visitors and generations a place to stay, of coming together and exchanging ideas.

With the artistic redesign of the foyer of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and Café Kunsthalle by Viron Erol Vert, the program by Misal Adnan Yıldız and Çağla İlk builds on earlier installative interventions such as those by Daniel Buren, Tobias Rehberger and Günther Förg.


### **Concept of the *Garden of Ornaments***

Viron Erol Vert's works deal with the confluence of different cultures and their formulations in architecture, design, drawing, painting and objects of use. In his artistic practice, he questions and examines constructions of identity and aspects of the familiar and the foreign. His own multicultural background plays a key role in his artistic research, as does his close connection to Berlin's club culture. Vert's artistic works are characterized by the state and atmosphere of being "in-between". The creation of communally usable and experienceable safe spaces is a central element of his artistic work.

*Garden of Ornaments* is an installation for the foyer of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and Café Kunsthalle that incorporates and unites the social, historical and cultural aspects of the institution and the city of Baden-Baden in its design concept. With its social, health and ritualistic functions, bathing culture has played an important part in its history from the very beginning. It was spread, shaped and constantly adapted by the development and movements of the Roman and Byzantine empires, among others. The history of Baden-Baden builds on its well of thermal water and use as a bathing and healing place since Roman times. The numerous cultural influences are still an important part of the region's cultural history to this day.

For Vert, Baden-Baden is a World Heritage Site, above all because it combines a multicultural global history and has remained a center of attraction for people from different cultural backgrounds to this day. Due to the city's connection to bathing culture, Vert combines the architectural structure and construction of a traditional bath with cold and warm areas with the architectural structure of the Kunsthalle in a close relationship as an inspirational framework.

*Garden of Ornaments* makes reference to the city's many influences and different cultures in terms of aesthetics, structure and content: the patterns on



the walls and floor show combinations of diverse ornaments, alphabets and signs from various cultural regions. The color scheme of the room is based on the four primary colors and their complementary colors; its orientation lies along the axes of the four geographical cardinal points. The furniture, in turn, offers various possibilities and moments for lingering, discussing and reflecting. Ornaments grow up from the multi-layered floor collage into the walls, the mirrored ceiling is a moment of reflection in the room installation.

The artistic elaboration of the space is intended to create a place of hospitality, dialog and open discourse. It reflects the multicultural hybrid curatorial practice of the museum. In this way, the foyer becomes a bridge between everyday life and culture, a place of transit and shelter, both for the history of the city and its many visitors and for the diverse exhibitions at the Kunsthalle Baden-Baden.

Further information at [www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de](http://www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de)

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Visual Viron Erol Vert – Garden of Ornaments, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, 2024 © Viron Erol Vert

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## Baden-Württemberg

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### Opening hours

Tuesday – sunday, 10 – 18 h

Open on all public holidays except december 24th and 31st.

### Prices

Adults 7€, discounted 5€, free entry on fridays

### Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

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