

ART BOOK 2025

CONTEMPORARY MASTERSTROKES UNVEILED

Voices and Visions



by LUMEN ART GALLERY

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Voices and Visions

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Entering the Inner Studio

What lends this book its true significance is not merely the presentation of artworks or their art-historical framing, but the artists themselves. Through their interviews, they invite us beyond the visible surface into an inner atelier—into the spaces where ideas emerge, emotions take form, and visions are tested against doubt and experience. To engage with their words is to witness the unfolding of creative processes, to perceive the tensions between discipline and freedom, tradition and innovation. In this way, the book becomes more than a collection of works; it becomes an immersion into the very conditions of artistic existence.

We thank the Artists, each of whom, through the distinctiveness of their style and the authenticity of their voice, contributes to the singular richness of this book.

Content

Prolog: An Encounter of Fate – The Story of Lumen Art Gallery_____	1
Prelude: Language of Arts _____	3
Interview with Indira Das / Teravarna _____	5
Artists	
Front Cover Prize Winner: Kryštof Novotný (Czech Republic)_____	12
Back Cover Prize Winner: Sarah Hussein (Egypt)_____	19
Featured Artist: Zeynep Keklik (Turkey)_____	25
Matthias Krispien (Germany)_____	34
Matthew Morpheus (Ukraine / United Kingdom)_____	41
Sam Heydt (United States)_____	48
Seyi Odukoya (Nigeria)_____	55
Corina Melinte (Romania)_____	61
Mariaceleste Arena (Italy)_____	67
Kolawole Adediji Israel (Nigeria)_____	73
Amber Lee Olivier (United States)_____	80
Setsuko Chiba (Japan)_____	87
Anna Vladi Pantsireva (Hungary)_____	93
Brigitte B. Burckhardt (Switzerland)_____	99
Michel Jegerlehner (Switzerland)_____	105
Arya Kamalı (Turkey)_____	111
Triana (Mexico)_____	117
Beatrice Sartori (Switzerland)_____	123
Andrea Solanki (Germany)_____	129
Gülnur Çavuş (Turkey)_____	135
Nurşen Yener (Turkey)_____	141
Yasın Çiçek (Turkey)_____	146
Colin Kubarych (United States)_____	152
Habip Yanç (Turkey)_____	159
Victor Oyedele (Nigeria)_____	165
Nuray Aydoğdu (Turkey)_____	170
Faruk Olgaç (Turkey / Germany)_____	175
Norbert Tschirpke (Germany / Turkey)_____	181
Ayşe Akalın Yalçındağ (Turkey)_____	187
LUMEN ART GALLERY_____	193

Prolog

An Encounter of Fate

The Story of Lumen Art Gallery



Nasrah Nefer and Elke Lina Krüger

There are encounters in life that change everything. For me, one of these was meeting Nasrah Nefer at an exhibition marking the opening of the tourism season in Kuşadası. We were instantly connected – through our glances, our conversations, and our shared desire for a space where art can breathe freely. From this fateful meeting grew a friendship that laid the foundation for what would become the Lumen Art Gallery.

Art, for me, has always meant freedom: the freedom to let colors speak, to cross boundaries, and to render the invisible visible. It transcends nationality, religion, and borders; instead, it creates dialogue and fosters peace where words alone are not enough.

My own journey has always been shaped by intercultural experiences between Germany and Turkey. This perspective – to see differences not as obstacles but as opportunities – deeply informs both my artistic practice and my curatorial work. It reminds me that art flourishes most where exchange, openness, and dialogue are allowed to unfold.

The Lumen Art Gallery is therefore more than a platform. Each competition, each exhibition, and each conversation with artists worldwide adds another layer to a collective canvas – one that demonstrates how strongly art can connect us across geographies, languages, and traditions.

Looking back, I feel gratitude: for the artists who entrust us with their works, for the creative dialogues that grow from our shared projects, and for the chance to contribute to an international conversation on art and culture.

This Art Book 2025 “CONTEMPORARY MASTERSTROKES UNVEILED” is a reflection of that journey. It presents not only remarkable works, but also the voices and visions that transcend boundaries – a testament to what art can achieve when encounters turn into collaborations.

Elke Lina Krüger
Co-Founder of Lumen Art Gallery

Prelude

Language of Arts

Every Journey Begins with the First Step

The story of Lumen Art Gallery began two years ago, yet its vision had been carried in the heart for nearly three decades. To create a space where artists are supported on their path, where their voices are heard and their creations are shown to the world—this was the dream. Together with my partner, ****Elke Lina Krüger—artist, author, curator, and moderator—****this vision took form: a gallery that transcends boundaries and makes visible what often remains unseen. Our collaboration has been the foundation of Lumen Art Gallery: developing projects hand in hand, creating platforms that not only present art but also nurture it. From the very beginning, it was clear: this would not be a solitary endeavor, but a shared journey. Every artist who joins us adds their own step, their own rhythm, their own light to the path.

Where Art Speaks

Looking back, we see how much has already unfolded—competitions that brought forth astonishing voices, online exhibitions that revealed hidden treasures, and solo shows that opened intimate windows into an artist's world. Each of these moments was a reminder that creativity knows no borders, and that the world holds an inexhaustible potential for beauty and renewal. To witness these works has been to walk together through landscapes of imagination and emotion, where art itself becomes a companion, whispering in many languages yet always speaking to the soul.

Curators as Artists

No gallery can thrive without those who give it form, direction, and care. At Lumen Art Gallery, we are fortunate that all of our curators are themselves practicing artists. Who could understand an artist more profoundly than a fellow artist? Alongside Elke Lina Krüger, Faruk Olgaç, Dr. Norbert Tschirpke and Gülnur Çavuş have joined our curatorial team, enriching it with their own perspectives and experiences. Gülnur, who also serves as curator at the Arya Kamalı International Culture and Arts Center in Izmir, has been with us from the very beginning. The Arya Kamalı has since become our steadfast partner gallery, a place where we organize exhibitions, cultivate dialogue, and realize collaborative projects that link Izmir to the wider world.

The Inspiration – Teravarna, a Light on Our Path

Our journey has also been guided by lights we encountered along the way. Among them, Teravarna has shone brightly—an international gallery that, through sincerity and warmth, has shown how artists can feel truly supported, not merely displayed. Their commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and dialogue affirmed what we already knew in our hearts: that at the center of every great project must stand the artist and their voice.

Opening the Book

And so, as we open the pages of Art Book 2025 – CONTEMPORARY MASTERSTROKES UNVEILED: Voices and Visions, we invite you—dear artists, dear readers—to walk with us. This book is not only a collection of works but a continuation of a shared journey. It is therefore a special honor to begin with an interview with Indira Das, Head of Gallery Operations at Teravarna, whose vision of building bridges across cultures resonates deeply with our own. May her words be the gateway into a chorus of voices that follow—each unique, yet together forming a symphony of creativity that reaches beyond borders.

Nasrah Nefer

Founder of Lumen Art Gallery



The World's Leading Contemporary Art Gallery



Indira Das

is the **Head of Gallery Operations at TERAVARNA**

one of the most dynamic international art platforms today. With a deep passion for connecting artists to global audiences, she has been instrumental in curating exhibitions, organizing international competitions, and building bridges between diverse artistic communities. Guided by her belief that art is a universal language and a catalyst for cultural dialogue, Indira has dedicated her career to creating inclusive opportunities for both emerging and established artists. Her leadership at TERAVARNA has transformed the gallery into a vibrant space where creativity knows no borders, and where every artistic voice—regardless of medium, style, or origin—is celebrated.

With a Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and a career background in advertising and public relations, Indira has become one of the most recognizable faces at TERAVARNA. She is often the first point of contact for artists, fielding the initial line of communiqué and delivering the final morsel of information. Attending to and resolving queries from thousands of artists around the clock has been her forte—something she often accomplishes within minutes.

Her speed and efficiency have earned her wide recognition from artists and media professionals alike. Known for her commitment to authenticity and excellence, Indira continues to champion artists worldwide, ensuring their stories are heard, their work is seen, and their legacies are preserved for generations to come.

Mission & Vision Statement

"As Head of Gallery Operations at TERAVARNA, my mission is to create a truly global stage where artists—regardless of geography, background, or artistic tradition—can present their voices, visions, and creative journeys to the world. I believe that art is not merely a visual experience, but a living dialogue—one with the power to connect cultures, evoke emotions, and inspire meaningful change.

My vision is rooted in the principles of inclusivity and diversity.

Every brushstroke, sculpture, and photograph tells a story, and it is my purpose to ensure these stories are heard, valued, and celebrated. By curating exhibitions that cross borders, hosting international competitions that welcome every style and medium, and creating spaces for meaningful engagement between artists and audiences, I strive to make the art world more open, accessible, and dynamic.

I see TERAVARNA as more than a gallery—it is a movement, a collective heartbeat of creativity where both emerging and established artists can thrive. We are not only showcasing art; we are preserving legacies, fostering collaborations, and ensuring that talent from even the most unexpected places can find its rightful place on the global stage.

At the core of my work lies a passion for building bridges—between artist and collector, tradition and innovation, local stories and global appreciation. My role is to guide this exchange, protect the authenticity of every creative voice, and give artists the platform and confidence to leave their mark on the cultural heritage of our time.”

Interview with Indira Das, Head of Teravarna Gallery Operations

Dear Indira, TERAVARNA is, for many – including us – a role model in its warm and artist-centered approach. What was your personal drive to promote art and artists in such an inclusive and global way?

“For me, art has never just been about what hangs on the wall—it’s about the human connection behind it. I grew up believing that creativity doesn’t recognize boundaries of geography, language, or culture; it flows freely and belongs to everyone. What really drives me is the courage it takes for an artist to share a part of their inner world with others. That act of vulnerability deserves not just recognition, but compassion and respect.

When I first began my journey with TERAVARNA, I wanted it to be more than a gallery. I wanted it to feel like a safe and welcoming space where every artist—no matter where they come from—could feel included, heard, and celebrated. Over time, it has grown into exactly that: a platform that doesn’t only showcase art, but honors the personal stories and voices that make each work meaningful.”

In your mission, you speak of art as a “living dialogue.” Can you share an example where this dialogue between artwork, artist, and audience was particularly powerful?

“One of the most powerful expressions of art as a “living dialogue” happens in physical exhibitions, where the space itself becomes a stage for connection. I think of moments when viewers stand before an artwork and you can almost see the silent exchange—someone leaning in closer, another person stepping back to take in the whole, each carrying away a different story.

When the artist is present, that dialogue transforms into something even more alive. I’ve witnessed artists who begin by explaining their intention, only to pause in wonder as the audience reflects back completely new interpretations—meanings the artist hadn’t consciously placed in the work, but which the audience discovered. That reciprocity is remarkable: the artwork shapes the audience, the audience reshapes the artwork, and the artist finds themselves in between, both guide and learner.

For me, those moments capture exactly why art is never static—it evolves every time it’s seen, felt, and spoken about. That shared energy, almost electric in its presence, is what makes art a true living dialogue.”

TERAVARNA succeeds in bringing together artists from vastly different cultures, styles, and media. How do you ensure that this diversity is not only visible but equally valued?

“It’s not enough to just “show” diversity—it has to be celebrated with equal dignity. We are mindful of giving the same attention, space, and narrative to each artist, whether they’re emerging or established, traditional or experimental. Our curatorial approach is rooted in fairness and storytelling: each work has its own context and voice, and we try to present it in a way that honors its uniqueness while letting it resonate within the global conversation.”

You emphasize building bridges between tradition and innovation. How do you balance these two poles when selecting and presenting artworks?

“I see tradition and innovation not as opposites, but as two threads of the same fabric. Tradition carries our roots, our identity; innovation keeps art alive and relevant. When curating, I look for works that either preserve cultural memory or push boundaries—or sometimes do both at once. The balance comes from creating exhibitions that honor heritage while welcoming fresh experimentation, allowing audiences to see that art’s evolution is continuous.”



Your work requires you to connect with artists from all over the world – often as their very first point of contact. How has this direct and personal exchange shaped your own understanding of art?

“Honestly, this is the part of my work that has changed me the most. When artists write to me, often it’s with so much vulnerability—they’re sharing not just their art, but a piece of their soul. Being that very first point of contact has taught me that art is never just about technique or style; it’s about

lived emotions, struggles, and dreams. I’ve spoken to artists who paint in tiny studios with almost no resources, and others who work in bustling cities with access to everything—and yet, the sincerity in their voices is the same. Every conversation has widened my own understanding of art as something deeply human, something that connects us beyond geography, culture, or language.

For me, art is no longer just something to be observed—it’s something to be felt, shared, and respected. And it’s these exchanges with artists that keep reminding me why I love what I do.”

Many artists say that through TERAVARNA they have gained not only visibility but also confidence. How do you nurture and strengthen that trust?

“That means so much to me, because trust is at the heart of everything we do at TERAVARNA. When an artist reaches out, I know they’re placing not just their work but their faith in us—and I never take that lightly. I try to nurture that trust by being approachable and transparent at every step, whether it’s guiding them through submissions, answering questions, or simply listening to their concerns.

Many artists come to us feeling uncertain or hesitant, and sometimes all they need is a reassuring word or the acknowledgment that their voice matters. I always make sure they know we see them as individuals, not just entries in a competition. Little gestures—personal replies, encouragement, or sharing their work with genuine excitement—often go a long way in helping them feel valued.

I think confidence grows when artists realize they’re not alone on this journey. At TERAVARNA, we’re not just offering visibility; we’re standing beside them, cheering for them, and reminding them that their creativity deserves to be celebrated.”

You describe TERAVARNA as a “movement” and a “collective heartbeat of creativity.” What does that mean in practical terms in your daily work?

“When I call TERAVARNA a “movement” or a ‘collective heartbeat,’ I really mean the people behind it. My daily work may look like a long chain of emails, calls, and messages, but for me, each interaction is a thread in a larger tapestry. I’m not just coordinating logistics—I’m connecting with artists who are often sitting in their studios, pouring their hearts into their work, sometimes wondering if anyone out there will truly see them. Creating that sense of belonging is what matters most. I want every artist to feel they’re not just sending their work into a void, but becoming part of something bigger—a family of voices that uplift one another. And when I see artists



inspired by each other, sharing encouragement, or even collaborating across continents because of TERAVARNA, that’s when I feel the “heartbeat” most strongly. It’s what keeps me motivated every day.”

Art can build bridges but also address difficult social issues. What role does social engagement play in your exhibitions and projects?

“For me, social engagement at TERAVARNA often happens in the most personal way—through the solo exhibitions we create for artists. These shows allow them to share not just their artworks but also their personal stories, the experiences and emotions that shaped their creativity. I’ve found that when an artist opens up about their journey—whether it’s about resilience, joy, healing, or discovery—the audience connects on a much deeper level.

It’s in those moments that an exhibition becomes more than a presentation of art; it becomes a dialogue between the artist and the world. I’ve seen viewers, and sometimes even our own team members, moved to tears or inspired to reflect on their own lives because they felt the honesty behind a work. That, to me, is the true role of social engagement in our projects: giving artists the space to be heard and giving audiences the chance to feel seen in return.”

With your background in journalism, advertising, and public relations, you have a unique gift for communication. How do you use this talent to not only showcase art but also tell its stories?

“For me, storytelling has always come naturally—it’s what drew me to journalism and mass communication in the first place. At TERAVARNA, I carry that same passion into my work with artists. I don’t look at an artwork as just an object on a wall; I see it as a story waiting to be shared.

When an artist trusts me with their words or experiences, I feel responsible for conveying it in a way that truly reflects their voice. Whether I’m writing an exhibition note, drafting a newsletter, or simply replying to an artist’s email, I try to capture the heart behind the work so audiences can feel what the artist felt.

What I love most is that this process makes me feel closer to the artists themselves. By telling their stories, I end up learning so much—about their journeys, cultures, and emotions. It’s not just about communication; it’s about building understanding, empathy, and connection through art.”

When you envision the future of TERAVARNA – what dreams, visions, or new paths would you like to pursue in the years ahead?

“I dream of expanding TERAVARNA’s reach even further—both digitally and physically. I’d love to create more immersive, cross-border collaborations, including residencies and artist exchange programs. Another dream is to build a foundation that directly supports underrepresented voices with resources, mentorship, and global exposure. The vision is simple but ambitious: to ensure that no voice gets lost, and every story finds its audience.”

As LUMEN ART Gallery shares your belief in art’s power to connect cultures, your journey with TERAVARNA has been deeply inspiring to us. In your view, how can galleries like ours collaborate across borders to amplify artists’ voices even further?

I truly believe collaboration is one of the most powerful ways we can serve artists. When galleries come together across borders, we create opportunities that no single platform could achieve on its own. Joint exhibitions, shared digital spaces, and cultural exchange projects all have the potential to amplify voices and introduce artists to entirely new audiences.

More than that, collaboration builds dialogue—not just between artists and viewers, but between cultures themselves. Every partnership adds a new layer of richness to the global art conversation. If we approach it with openness rather than competition, we can create a worldwide network where creativity flows freely and every artist feels part of something bigger.

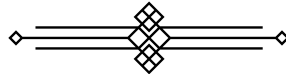
Indira Das

Head of Gallery Operations at TERAVARNA



We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to
Indira Das
for this inspiring interview.

Her words resonate deeply with our conviction: when diverse potentials,
dedication, passion for Art, creative ideas and processes, and cultures from
around the world come together,
it is like having countless colors and materials at hand to create a magnificent
Artwork.



In this spirit, we now open the doors to the Artists themselves, inviting them to
guide us into their inner studios and creative worlds.

Participating Artists – A Global Panorama

Across fifteen countries, a constellation of artists opens the doors to their inner worlds,
each offering a distinct language of form and vision.

Painting unfolds in vibrant dialogues from Turkey, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Nigeria,
Belarus, and Spain, reflecting the shared pulse of color and emotion.

Digital Art takes shape in Japan, where technology becomes a canvas for imagination.

Illustration finds poetic precision in Switzerland, where line and story intertwine.

Ceramics speaks through earth and fire in Turkey, merging ancient craft with
contemporary sensibility.

Photography captures silent revelations in Germany and Switzerland, transforming
light into narrative.

Together, they compose a living tapestry of

Contemporary Art

—a space where borders dissolve, materials converse,
and creative visions converge.

Each work contributes a vital voice to this ongoing dialogue, unveiling not only what is
made, but the consciousness and soul from which creation emerges.



Kryštof Novotný /Czech Republic

Contemporary Self-Portraiture exploring identity, memory, and transformation

“The Mirror Becomes the Journey”

Between mirror and canvas, Kryštof Novotný has cultivated a body of work that blends autobiography with universal symbolism. Born in 1993 in the Czech Republic, he first studied fashion design at the Secondary School of Art, Style and Fashion in Brno before earning a degree in art history at Masaryk University. This dual education informs his painting, uniting precise craftsmanship with a reflective, conceptual dimension.

Since 2017, Novotný has committed to an annual self-portrait, a project that has grown into a visual diary spanning nearly a decade. These works are less about likeness and more about transformation—moments of struggle and renewal distilled into symbolic form. His canvases often feature motifs such as flowers, mirrors, or celestial landscapes, creating a poetic language through which personal stories become universally resonant.

Exhibited in London, Athens, Brno, and Blansko, his paintings invite viewers to pause, reflect, and recognize their own inner journeys mirrored in his. For Novotný, art is a process of becoming: not a performance of ego, but an honest path toward resilience and self-love.

Artist Statement

“For me, painting is not about creating a likeness, but about creating a dialogue with myself. Since 2017 I have committed to one self-portrait every year. This rhythm has become more than a project—it is a diary of images, a way of confronting who I am, who I was, and who I am becoming.

The canvas allows me to hold emotions that words cannot contain: doubt, vulnerability, strength, resilience. Each painting becomes a reflection of the year lived, distilled into color and form. Through symbols - whether flowers, mirrors, or landscapes -

