

Symmetry as a universal language in art  
A transcultural project by Cemile Camci

## Creative techniques

Symbols, ornaments and graphics of the five world religions are shown on five big-sized canvases, using different techniques out of print and painting.

Each picture can be looked at individually.

Brought together the five pictures show one big motive in which the symbols are shown with equal right and symmetrically arranged.

The artwork originated over a period of 1 ½ years.

The experimental approach has led to a shortcut of old and new creative techniques building a bridge from past to presence.

The templates have been created digitally and printed on canvas with modern technology.

After that they have been colored manually with different techniques.

Some of the geometric figures have been traditionally gold-plated with 24 karat gold.

The filigree religious symbols have been colored with golden ink in a shimmering nature, using a magnifying glass.

By that, they appear differently (shiny or frosted) depending on the position of the observer.

The visitors themselves can discover even the smallest details of the multifaceted ornaments, using magnifying glasses.

Some symbols have not been colored in order to underline that the artwork is not finished and to stress the process-character of the main theme: tolerance, believe and transculturality.



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## Art for contemplation

Artwork with all of its elements, facets and intricate ornamentation offers abundant visual inspiration.

However, in front of this same piece of artwork meditation is also possible.

The viewers are warmly invited to write their personal opinions and thoughts on the special board provided.

**Perhaps the following questions can offer inspiration:**

- what does tolerance mean to me personally?
- is there anything about this subject that annoys me?
- in which instances do I not want to be tolerant?  
 How do I show this to my fellow man?
- is my tolerance perhaps a sign to myself, that I have no formed opinion about a subject - am I (still) being tolerant or rather am I being ignorant?
- how important is tolerance to me in our society?



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## The Artist

CC was born in Heidelberg in 1970 to a turkish mother and an Albanian father. As a young girl she spent several years in Turkey, was then married there and had a son.

At 20 years old she returned to Germany. She completed her school education, then studied and did two apprenticeships, one of which became her occupation.

Since 2003 CC works as a free-lance communications designer and as an independent artist. Due to her chequered biography she is well acquainted with the feeling of being reliant upon the tolerance of others.

She has learned to consider this as an enrichment, to understand and to communicate - within and between cultures - and thereby to produce art.

Against this backdrop the project "Aktion Toleranz" has evolved.

Her language is hence the aesthetic. A universal language that bonds people together.



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## The idea for the project

Our society is facing major changes.

People from all different cultures and religions meet each other.  
We have to stand the differences and to find common ground.  
How can this intersection be displayed knowing neither culture nor language of the other.

One approach can be found in the desire of all mankind regarding aesthetic and harmony.

This unites all people regardless which culture or nation.  
This transcultural artwork visualizes a harmonic and aesthetic view of the collision of different worlds.

The oldest symbols of the world serve as a design basis.  
As a principal the natural balance of symmetry is being used.  
At the same time the original ornaments of the faith communities remain preserved.

The christians cross, the jewish star of David, the lotus flower of the Buddhist, the star and crescent of the Islam and the Om symbol of the Hindus.

They all exist with equal rights and next to each other.

Thereby a new picture arises.  
A new, transformed, unfinished whole is shown.  
Transculturality is being generated.



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## The Roadshow

Diversity is possible if tolerance offers the basis. To underline this, the pictures are being exhibited at different locations within the traveling exhibition. Where faith is at home, where tolerance should have its origin.

Churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples.  
As last stop, the artworks are exhibited together with the installation at a neutral location.

The complete program can be found under

**[www.aktiontoleranz.de](http://www.aktiontoleranz.de)**

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# Tolerance

## **Meaning:**

Tolerance also toleration or sufferance means that foreign beliefs, practices and customs are granted or considered to be valid.

In colloquial language, today it means the acceptance of equal rights which goes beyond the term sufferance.

## **Root word:**

The verb “to tolerate” is derived from the Latin term “tolerare”; to put up with, countenance or suffer.

The adjective “tolerant” with its meaning forgiving, generous, broad-minded is proved since the 18th century the Age of Enlightenment, just like its opposite “intolerant”, meaning that no other opinion or belief than the own, can be excepted as valid.

