

(Photo (Rakoczy): Tanya Ury. Title: With video presentations, readings and photos, Tanya Ury brings new facets to Jewish cultural life in Cologne.)

## PEOPLE IN COLOGNE

### Relevance with Palestinian Scarf and Star of David

Multimedia Artist Tanya Ury would like to see a Jewish culture with international character, in Cologne.

In her appearance at the Arkadas Theatre the versatile woman touches on her Cologne roots.

BY BEATRIX LAMPE

A beautifully decorated stone pitcher, with which her grandmother as a girl in Cologne brought beer to her chess-playing father stands in the kitchen on a sideboard – two seven-branched candelabras adorn the window ledge. Typically German and typically Jewish reminiscences – both belong to Tanya Ury's family history and play a large part in her art. Tanya Ury, who grew up in London and has been at home in Cologne since 1993, explores Cologne and Jewish history with images, stories and art actions, publicly. She wants to work towards bringing about the awareness of a Jewish culture with its independent stamp that had such a firm footing here before the Holocaust,

With this end in mind, the woman, who found her vocation in artistic creativity having studied in Great Britain and working as a cook and carer for many years, employs many disciplines. "I always love to pursue many projects and ideas concurrently – the choice of material is what best suits the subject", says the experimental-happy woman.

15 years ago, she caused a stir with an art action commemorating her murdered relatives, by getting herself tattooed with the "Eau de Cologne" number, 4711. Performances resulted, in which Tanya Ury drew correlations between the parallel worlds of Holocaust and pornography.

The artist first got to know Cologne as a young girl in the 50's, her grandfather being one of the first to be engaged in building a new cooperative spirit between the Christian and Jewish communities. She is now at home in the city. "When the Jewish Museum and moreover the "House of World Cultures" have been built in Cologne, something important and new might happen here, making this city a place that will attract artists", she hopes.

Till then, step by small step, Tanya Ury is working towards a Jewish culture in Cologne that s can also be experienced as something contemporary but also forward-looking. On Sunday she will be presenting at the Arkadas Theatre. With photography, for example, she demonstrates the rivalries and attempts at rapprochement between enemy cultures, here revealed in the jewellery and fashion styles worn by her two nieces – one wears a Palestinian scarf, the other a Star of David. And with short stories accompanied by photographic images, the artist, amongst other themes, resurrects the myth of a fabled Golem, with humour, in Cologne.

**Arkadas Theatre/ Bühne der Kulturen (Stages of Diverse Cultures), Platen Strasse 32, Sunday, 7. December, 18 hours Entry 12/reduced 10 Euros.  
(l) [www.arkadastheater.de](http://www.arkadastheater.de)**