



# THE AVALANCHE

by Pinar Ögrenci



## SYNOPSIS

In Eastern Turkey, in the Kurdish region of Van, snowfalls frequently prevent the inhabitants from travelling. A thick and dangerous pristine layer of snow covers the mountain peaks, serving as a reminder of the double meaning of the Kurdish word "Aşîr": avalanche and risk. Loosely inspired by Stefan Zweig's novella *The Royal Game*, in which playing chess is depicted as a means to survive fascism, *The Avalanche* recounts the history of the Armenian genocide, a tragic event that is still contested by the Turkish state today. The filmmaker Pinar Ögrenci uses oral accounts, photographic archives, and present-day footage of the region to uncover the traces and traumas left by the Armenian people on their landscape, their habits and customs, and their memories. The seeming tranquillity of the scenery's icy beauty is disturbed only by the sublime songs of the Armenian exile Hayrik Muradian, which tell of his people's suffering and pay tribute to rugged landscapes of Van. The...

## FESTIVALS

2022

The *Avalanche* has been realized in the framework of *documenta fifteen*, Kassel

2023

54 *Vision du Réel*, Nyon

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Pinar Ögrenci

Germany, Turkey 2023

60 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

War/Peace, Human Rights, Politics

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Kurdish

PREMIERE

Switzerland (2023)

LINKS / REFERENCE

PRODUCTION

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<https://youtu.be/Wn0-ceDQVB>

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<https://documenta-fifteen.d...>