

Can Sayinli (b. Istanbul) is a London-based artist working with handwoven rugs and metal thread embroidery, reinterpreting traditional craft through contemporary political and social concerns.

He studied first at Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul before completing his degree at Central Saint Martins, London. The contrast between these two institutions, one rooted in classical training and the other in experimental approaches, shaped Sayinli's critical engagement with both tradition and innovation.

While at CSM he began collaborating with Norwegian artist Jørgen Evil Ekvoll, producing rugs, prints, and video works. Their war rug project, made with Hereke weavers and inspired by Afghan precedents, was acquired for the Ringier Collection in 2008 and represented by Galerist Istanbul.

In 2018, Sayinli presented *Rugs & Kilims*, a solo exhibition at Pilevneli Gallery in Istanbul. Alongside the handwoven rugs that had emerged from his independent practice, he also showed three handwoven kilims made in collaboration with artist Charlie Swan. The exhibition marked a significant moment, extending his engagement with weaving into both personal and collaborative directions.

The following year, in 2019, Sayinli exhibited a metal thread embroidery piece for the first time at Den Frie Udstilling's Annual Autumn Exhibition in Copenhagen, where it received an honorable mention. His work with *tel kırma*, a Turkish technique of weaving gold, silver, and copper threads into tulle-like fabrics, recasts this craft as "metal thread embroidery," pushing the medium beyond ornament into conceptual terrain.

Sayinli's work continues to merge heritage with contemporary critique, often pairing minimalist composition with irony, subversion, and political resonance. Drawing equally from Istanbul and London, he treats rugs and embroidery not as static craft objects but as living sites of memory, labor, and resistance.