

PI ARTWORKS

Nancy Atakan

Remembering the Future

27 July – 26 September 2020

Exhibition Walkthrough

<https://vimeo.com/442205323>

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on VORTIC COLLECT



Exhibition Walkthrough
<https://vimeo.com/442205323>

Nancy Atakan

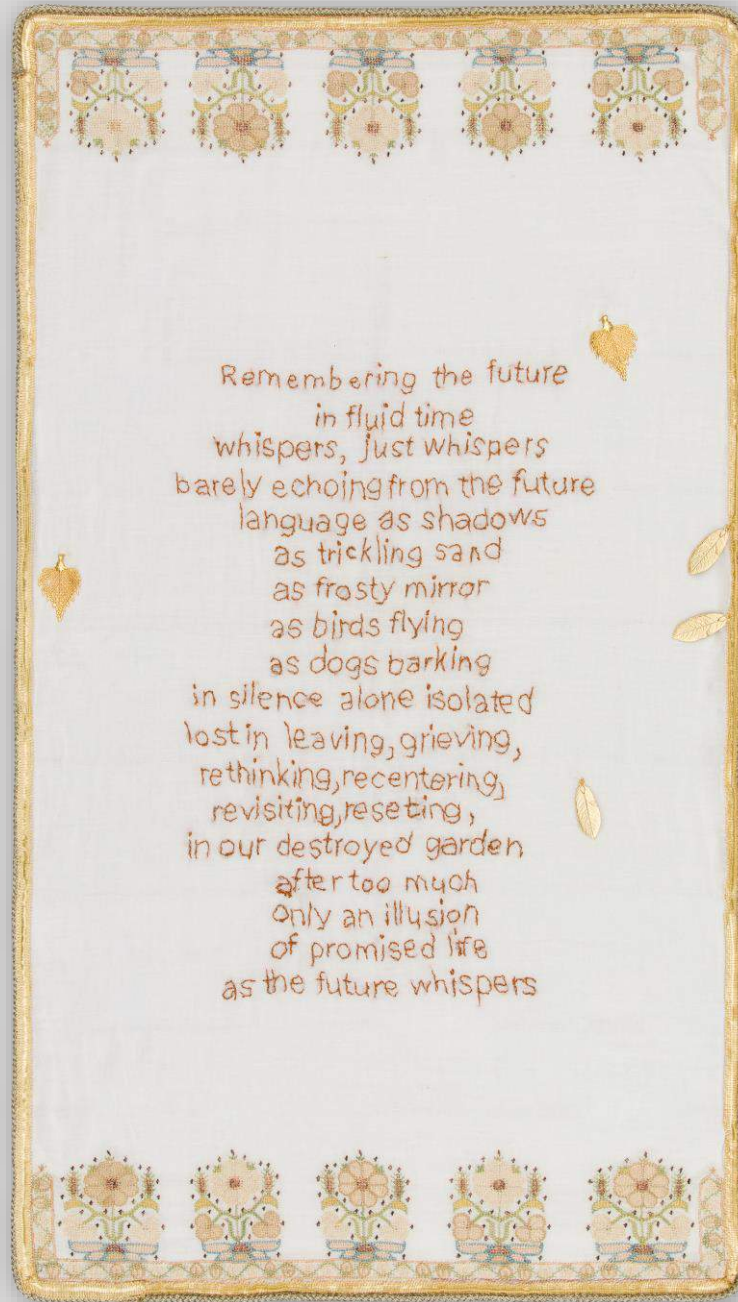
Remembering the Future

2020

Antique needlework, embroidered text,
metal leaves, cord
100 x 56 cm

Artist's view

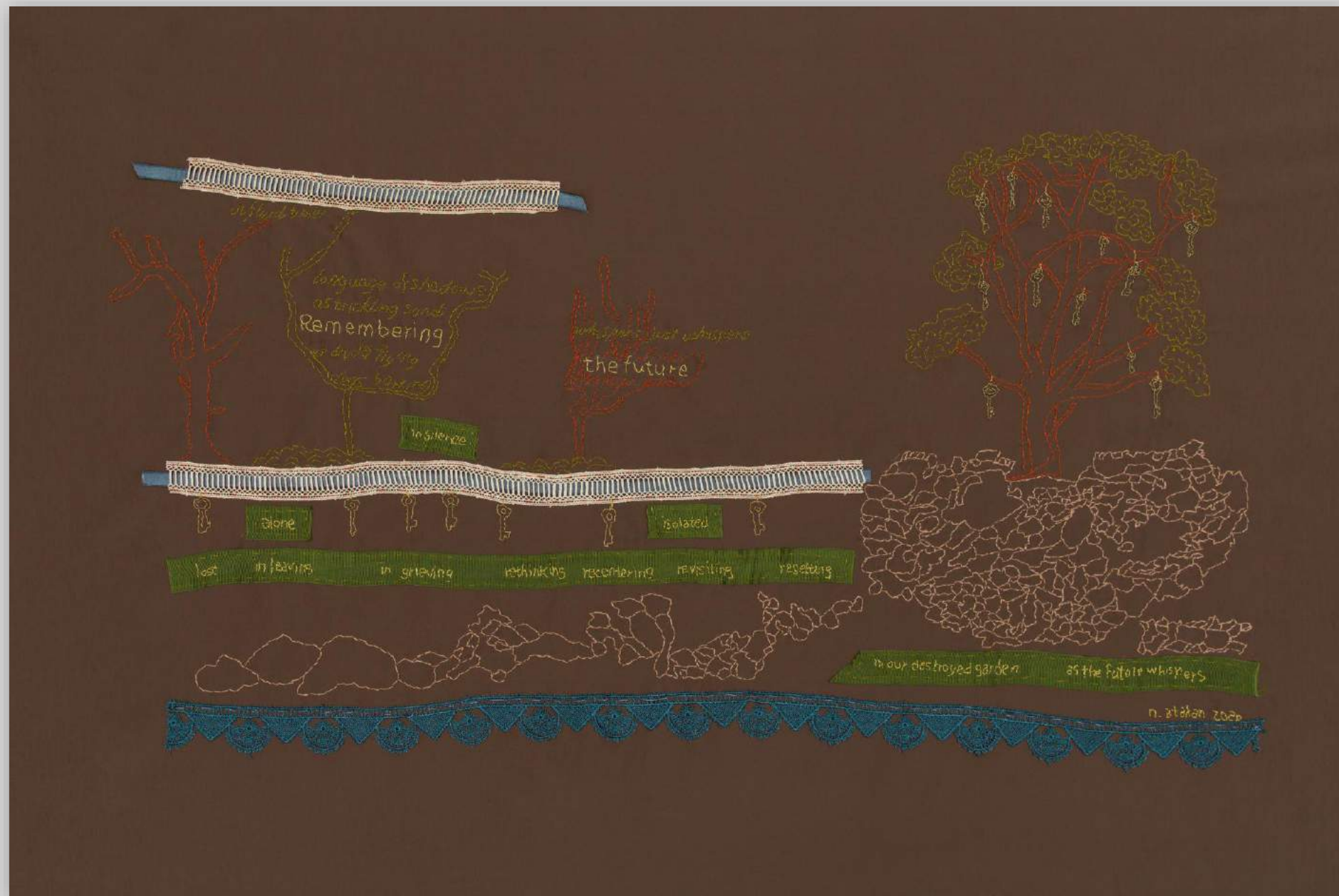
<https://vimeo.com/440696212>



in our destroyed garden
after too much
of promised life
the future wh.







Nancy Atakan

The Key

2020

Needlework on cloth, lace

65 x 110 cm

Artist's view

<https://vimeo.com/440821948>

in fluid time

language of shadows
as trickling sand
Remembering
or did I
does barking

in silence

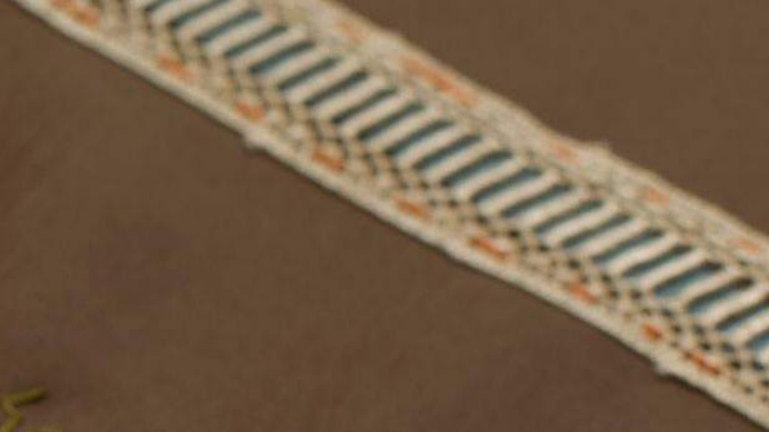
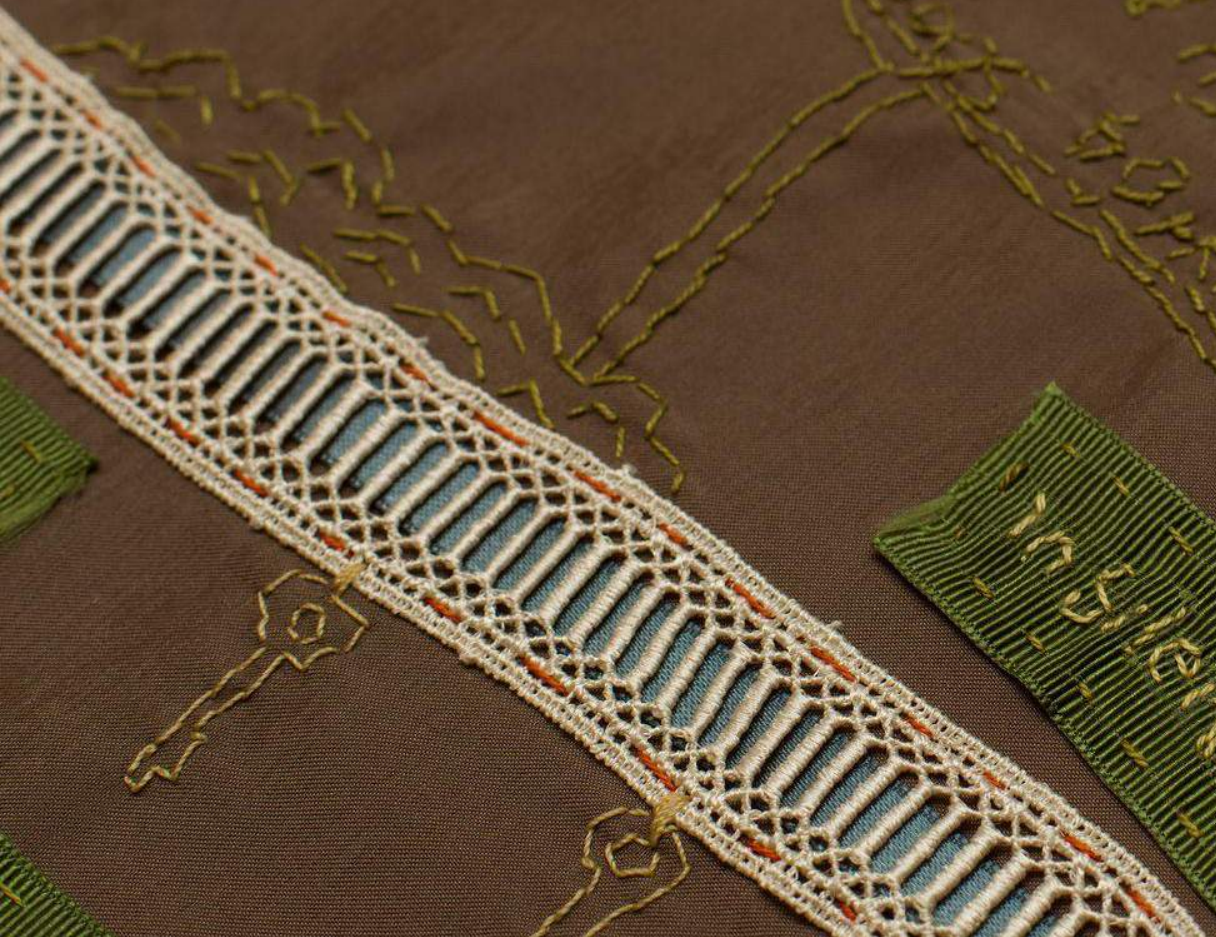
the future

alone

isolated

Language of shadows
a striking song
Remembering
a world of
dancing

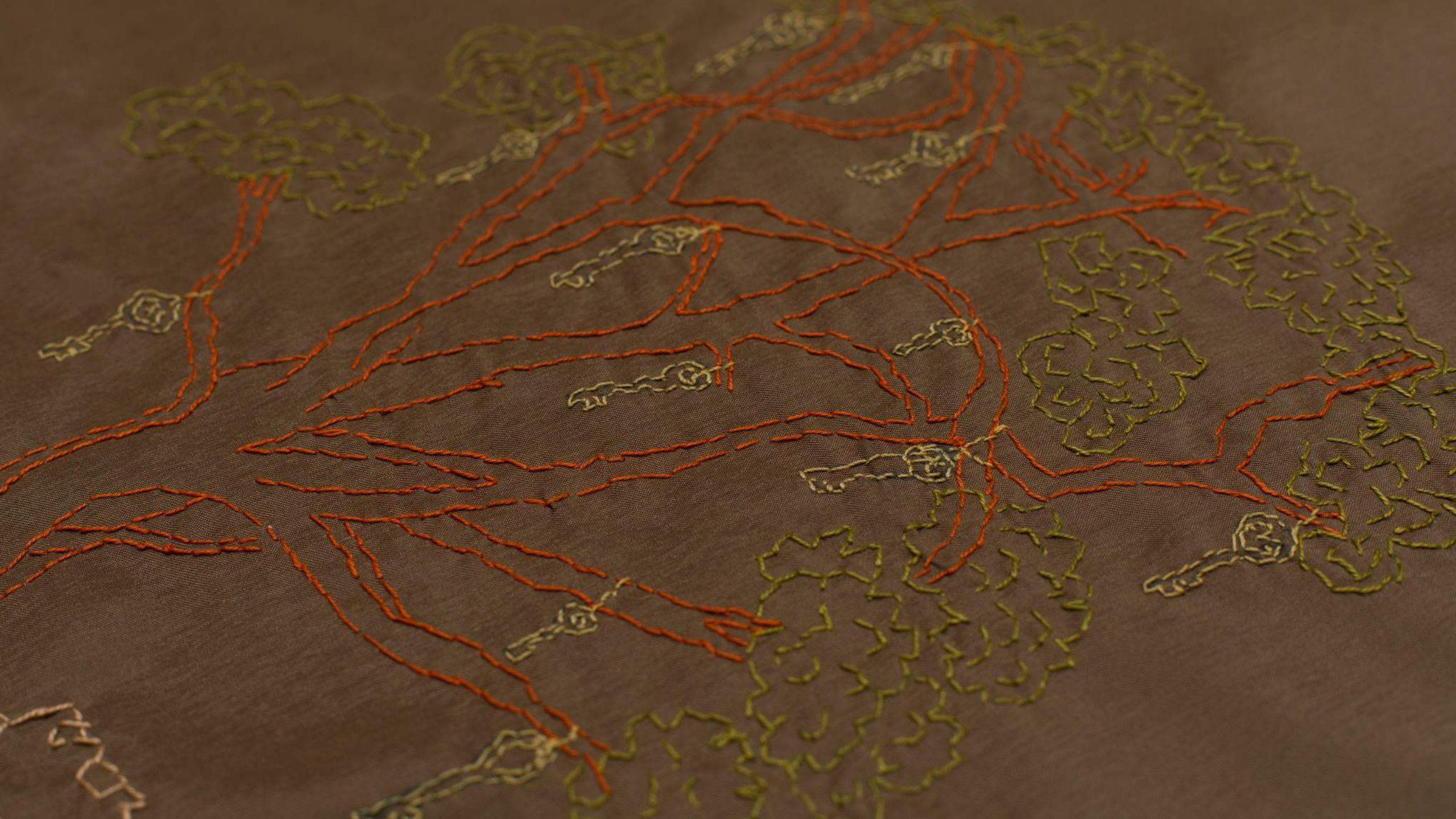
reeling





In our destroyed garden

of the



Nancy Atakan

Hand in Hand

2020

Embroidered pattern from the artist's
collection, needlework, cloth, lace, felt
121 x 121 cm

Artist's View:

<http://vimeo.com/440862038>









Nancy Atakan

Our Endless Dept to Plants

2020

Needlework, crocheted flowers, paper, felt
100 x 84 cm

Artist's View

<https://vimeo.com/441559547>



Our

Endless

Debt

to

Plants





Spring



Nancy Atakan

Rootedness

2020

Cloth, needlework, turquoise stones

105 x 63 cm

Artist's View

<https://vimeo.com/441561516>







Rooted

unrooted

unrootedness

Rooted

unrootedness



Nancy Atakan

Secret Gardens 1 and 2

2020

Needleworks, metal leaves, cloth

78 x 30 cm

Artist's view

<http://vimeo.com/441619048>













Nancy Atakan

Challenging Cliché 3

2019

American patchwork quilt (made in 1940 by Myrtle Rector and Mary Payne - the artist's grandmother and great aunt - as a wedding gift for her parents), pictorial patches (made from family snapshots and words from wedding vows made by the artist), cloth, lace, fake jewels and needlework
187 x 173 cm



Pi ARTWORKS



Nancy Atakan

Oleander

2020

5"43"

Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/437365826>



Pi Artworks London is excited to announce Nancy Atakan's solo exhibition *Remembering the Future* as part of London Collective with a series of new work by the artist who has established her reputation over the past forty years as a pioneer in the Turkish art scene.

Using lace, cloth cut outs, thread drawings, photographs, and antique textiles from her personal collection, in a new series of needlework pieces Atakan continues with and expands upon the topics of the relationship between word and image, storytelling, female experiences, globalization and gentrification.

Atakan used her small home studio to produce this body of work during the three and a half month 2020 Covid-19 lockdown. As she read, wrote, sewed, imagined and looked out onto the flowers on her terrace and the trees in Macka Park in Istanbul, she became convinced that the key to the survival of future generations rested with learning from the vegetal world.

In her film, *Oleander*, her use of a previously favored technique, personification, gradually becomes obvious as her voice narrates a part fact - part fictional story.

her voice narrates a part fact - part fictional story.

In her needlework panels, she continues to investigate the relationship between word and image as she embroiders images alone in some works, while including sentences she has written in others. On an antique cloth, she stitched a text entitled *Remembering the Future* which describes her feelings, fears, hopes, and reflections during the lockdown.

As a background for *Hand in Hand* (2020), the artist has used an intricately sown antique fabric with a design passed down from generation to generation. On this background, she has made two overlapping cloth collages that tell a visual story about her belief that the female must lead the next generation forward by giving a guiding hand and by sharing her strength, energy, and experience.

Many of her previous works have dealt with belonging and with observations of gentrification and globalization in her neighborhood. In the needlework *Rootedness* (2020), she also brings into play her desire to show overlapping historical methods of depiction, the bird's eye view of miniature paintings with

western perspective by combining a sown drawing showing a tree with strong roots standing amidst destruction and the Google Maps aerial view of the shape of her neighborhood's periphery.

In her art practice, Atakan has always encouraged collaboration and sharing, but here her collaboration is with plants rather than people. In this series that is permeated with hope, she also took inspiration from philosophers Luce Irigaray and Michael Marder's 2016 book, *Through Vegetal Being: Two Philosophical Perspectives*, in their book they say;

"It is....the issue of acknowledging the unplayable debt we owe to plants, of partaking of the generosity in which plants excel, and of drawing inspiration from this generosity with every breath we take...Our task is to develop a culture through which we come to view the plants, ourselves, and the air between us as the participants in the ensemble of life...The cultivation of sharing instead of division, is perhaps the sole practical and theoretical trend that can still make a positive difference in the disastrous environmental situation we find ourselves in." (ed. Columbia University Press, 2016, p.133)

Nancy Atakan, (b. 1946, USA) lives and works in Istanbul.

Selected solo exhibitions include; It still is as it always was, with Kalliopi Lemos, Pi Artworks London, UK (2020); Translation in Motion, with Maria Andersson, Riksidrottsmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden (2020); Forward, March!, with Maria Andersson, Salt Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey (2019); Under the Radar: 5533, with Volkan Aslan, ISCP - International Studio & Curatorial Program, New York, USA (2018); Making a Shift, (with Maria Andersson), Nordic Art Association, NFK, Stockholm, Sweden (2017); A Community of Lines, Pi Artworks Istanbul, Turkey (2017); Sporting Chances, Pi Artworks London, UK (2016).

Selected group exhibitions include; Weave Braid Attach, Textile Pioneers and Contemporary Expressions, Vasteras Konstmuseum, Vasteras, Sweden (2019); Marking a Shift, with Maria Andersson, Galleri Box, Göteborg, Germany (2019); Arcadia Mundi, Macro Asilo, Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, Italy (2019); The Compiler Screenings 'Our Stories', curated by Susann Wintsch and Chantal Molleur, presented by White Frame, Stadtkino, Basel, Switzerland (2017); Faces, Large Sizes, Elgiz Museum of Contemporary Art, Istanbul, Turkey (2015);

Stay with Me, Wesenburg Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, Germany (2015); 40 Videos from 40 Years of Video Art in Turkey, 25th Ankara International Film Festival, Goethe Institute, Turkey (2014); Me, Myself and I, Me as a Dilemma, CerModern, Ankara, Turkey (2013); Dream and Reality - Modern and Contemporary Women Artists from Turkey, Istanbul Modern Museum, Istanbul, Turkey (2011). In 2015, *Passing On*, a full colour monograph on works by the artist, edited by Art Critic and Curator Nat Muller from Netherlands, has been published by the art publisher Kehrer Verlag from Heidelberg and Berlin, Germany.