

Pi: Housewarming

15 October – 7 December 2013

Private View: Tuesday 15 October, 17:00-21:00

55 Eastcastle Street, London W1W 8EF

Volkan Aslan // Nezaket Ekici // Susan Hefuna // Horasan // Nejat Sati // Gülay Semerciöglu // Mehmet Ali Uysal

Marking its first foray onto the London art scene, pioneering Turkish gallery Pi Artworks is proud to announce **Pi: Housewarming**, its **inaugural exhibition** in the British capital. Opening on **55 Eastcastle Street**, in the heart of London's bustling **Fitzrovia** district, the exhibition will act as a sneak peek of the gallery's programme for the upcoming year and features works by both established and emerging Turkish and international artists, including **Volkan Aslan, Nezaket Ekici, Susan Hefuna, Horasan, Nejat Sati, Gulay Semercioglu** and **Mehmet Ali Uysal**.

Pi Artworks is one of Istanbul's foremost Contemporary art galleries. Established in 1998 by **Yesim Turanli**, it is currently located in the famous Misir Apartmani in Galatasaray, Beyoglu and is responsible in large for the establishment of Turkish artists on the international art circuit.

Says Pi Artworks Founder and Director, Turanli: *"Having run the Istanbul branch of Pi Artworks for 15 years, and taken part in international art fairs since 2004, it has been extremely gratifying to see the increased international recognition of Turkish Contemporary art and artists. Further, with the opening of Istanbul Modern as well, this interest has been rising at an exponential rate. Istanbul is an extremely dynamic and active arts hub, and I felt it was time to expand to another cultural crossroads, and London is the perfect platform. The synergy between London and Istanbul works well, and I hope to provide both provide access to Turkish and international artists to existing collectors here in London, as well as introduce British audiences to the rich, original and dynamic art that is coming out of Turkey."*

To this effect, internationally renowned German/Egyptian artist **Susan Hefuna** will present a series of drawings and silver bronze sculptures, while Turkish **Gulay Semercioglu** will show some of her iconic woven metal pieces, the sheen of hundreds of kilometres of thin metal wire reflects different plays of light. **Volkan Aslan's** metamorphosed and re-appropriated porcelain figures create a phantasmagorical world of their own, while **Mehmet Ali Uysal** continues his play with space and form through drooping, empty frames, reminiscent of meat hanging from a butcher's hook. Meanwhile, **Nejat Sati** creates ethereal colour palettes in acrylic, creating floating, serene works that are contrasted with **Horasan's** intricately detailed and yet smooth oils on canvas. Finally, performance artist **Nezaket Ekici** presents a series of stills from her performance, *Flesh (No Pig But Pork)*.

Mehmet Ali Uysal , Nezaket Ekici and Volkan Aslan will be present for the opening and available for interview from 11-18 October. For artist interviews or commentary from Pi Artworks Founder and Director Yesim Turanli, please contact

awt@piartworks.com or yt@piartworks.com

Notes to Editors:

Pi Artworks

Pi Artworks was founded by Yesim Turanli in 1998 in Istanbul and for the past 15 years, has been introducing Turkish and international artists to the primary market. Since its founding, Pi Artworks has been committed to showcasing the best of Contemporary Turkish and international art to Istanbul's growing art scene, alongside providing an international platform for its roster of artists to showcase their work. The gallery is located in the famous historical Misir Apartment in Istanbul and in October 2013 Pi Artworks London will open on 55 Eastcastle Street, in the heart of London's bustling Fitzrovia.

Volkan Aslan

Working in a range of media, Volkan Aslan's (1982, Ankara) interdisciplinary and inter-medial approach results in a poetic yet political oeuvre. Balancing aesthetics and concept, Aslan also reviews strategies used in the context of art or investigates the relationship between personal and social history. Early in his career, he ironically yet critically investigated structures within the art system in Turkey. Studying at the Mersin University Faculty of Fine Arts, Aslan graduated with an MA from Cukurova University in 2005. Recent solo exhibitions in Istanbul include Don't Forget to Remember at Arter (2013), Volkan at Macka Art Gallery (2011) and Unstable Repetition at Pi Artworks (2011). Group exhibitions have ranged as far and wide as Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, the UAE, the USA, Germany, France and Brazil and he is currently taking part in the 2013 Istanbul Biennial.

Nezaket Ekici

Nezaket Ekici (1970, Kirsehir) studied under Marina Abramovic at the Hochschule fur Bildende Kunste Braunschweig, from where she received her Degree in Fine Arts (2001-2003) and MFA Degree (2004) respectively. Prior to this, she studied sculpture at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich (1996-2000) and received an MA in Art Pedagogy and Art History in 2000 from the Ludwig-Maximilians Universität in Munich. Select solo exhibitions include Islamic Chapel at the Stadtische Galerie, Ostfildern Germany and Personal Map, to be continued... in cooperation with Marta Herford, De Bond, Cultuurcentrum Brugge, Belgium (both in 2013). Ekici is the recipient of numerous awards, including project grants from the Goethe Institut in Ghana (2012), Thessaloniki (2011) and Tbilisi (2009). Her work can be found in both public and private collections, including the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, Canada and the Koc Foundation Contemporary Art Collection, Istanbul.

Susan Hefuna

Susan Hefuna's (1962) artistic creation includes video work, an extensive series of drawings, multimedia installations, sculptures as well as digital photographs. Even though these techniques and materials differ greatly, the artist uses them to create specific contexts. Living and working in Egypt and Germany, solo exhibitions include Vantages at the MAD Museum in New York City (2012-13), Susan Hefuna at Rhona Hoffman Gallery in Chicago (2012) and I Love Egypt – A Temporary Learning Camp, commissioned by Serpentine Gallery, London and Townhouse, Cairo at London's Speaker's Corner in 2011. Group exhibitions include Safar/Voyage at the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver (2013) and Encounter at the Katara Arts Center in Doha (2012-13) as well as the Sydney Biennale in Australia (2012) among others. Hefuna was the recipient of the 2013 Contemporary Drawing Prize of the Daniel & Florence Guerlain Art Foundation and previously was shortlisted for the Jameel Prize in 2009 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and had her work exhibited at Fare Mondi as part of the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009.

Horasan

Horasan (1965) graduated from Marmara University's Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Graphics in 1986. Solo exhibitions include Labyrinth at Pi Artworks Istanbul (2012), the Izmir Konak Municipality Guzelyali Art Gallery Izmir (2011) and Group Sanat Gallery in Ankara (2011). Group exhibitions include Istanbul Modern – Bahrain, a selection of pieces from the Istanbul Modern collection in Bahrain (2013), as well as participation in numerous international art fairs, including Contemporary Istanbul, Art Dubai and Marrakesh Art Fair. Awards include First Place in the 1996 IMKB Arts Competition, the 1994 Mimar Sinan University New Inclinations Award, Third Place and First Place in the 1992 Esbank Yunus Emre Painting Competition, among others. He will have a solo show in September 2014 at the Yallay Center in Hong Kong.

Nejat Sati

Graduating from the Izmir's DEU Fine Arts Faculty in 2004, Nejat Sati (1982), recent solo exhibitions include Hot Spot Istanbul at Haus Konstruktiv in Zurich (2013), State of Mind (2012) and Hypoglottis (2010) both at Pi Artworks Istanbul. Group exhibitions range as far afield as Lebanon, the UAE, South Korea and Finland, including Contemporary

Istanbul (2012) with Pi Artworks, Encounters: Turkish Contemporary Art in Korea at Araart in Seoul (2012) as well as Self Portrait at Alanistanbul, Istanbul (2012). Art fair participation includes Contemporary Istanbul and Marrakech Art Fair.

Gulay Semercioğlu

By weaving thin coloured metal wires to create colour field abstractions, Gülay Semercioğlu (1968) creates the abstract works for which she has become famous. From a distance, her work looks like finely executed abstract, sometimes monochrome paintings, but as the spectator comes closer, he/she first feels and later sees something unexpected, eight kilometres of thin aluminium wire that fills the canvas to create different forms and rhythms. Receiving her Ma from the Mimar Sinan University Institute of Social Science (1998) and BA from the university's Fine Arts Department of Painting (1994), in 1997 Semercioğlu co-founded Atolye Sanat. Solo exhibitions include Variations on Line at Leila Heller Gallery, New York (2012) as well as The Line of Life at Gallery Etemad, Dubai (2012). Group exhibitions and art fairs include Sublime Porte: An Exhibition of Contemporary Turkish Art at the Dr MT Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery in New York (2013) as well as the India Art Fair, Art Miami, Contemporary Istanbul, Art Dubai and Scope Basel. Her work can be found in numerous public collections, including the Istanbul Modern Collection and Farhad Farjam Collection.

Mehmet Ali Uysal

Originally studying architecture in the mid to late 1990s, Mehmet Ali Uysal (1976) received his PhD from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Hacettepe University in 2009, and received his MFA in 2005 at the same institution in Sculpture. Solo exhibitions include Peel at the Nesrin Esirtgen Collection, Istanbul (2012), Malist at Q Contemporary, Beirut (2011) and Mist at Etemad Gallery, Dubai (2011). Group exhibitions and art fair participation includes Art Hong Kong Basel (2013), Eyeballing at the Ankara Contemporary Arts Center (2012) and Figure Out (2012) at Art Saw, Dubai, as well as Trade Routes at Pi Artworks Istanbul (2011). Speaking presentations have included the International Days of Philosophy (2009), during which Uysal presented 'Can 9/11 Be An Artwork', under the theme of 'Rebellion'. Other projects include Kaleidoscope Europe, Ankara, Lisbon (2009) and BAUHAUS IMPACT, Ankara, Weimar (2009) as well as the XVIIth International Congress of Aesthetics (2007). Uysal currently has a solo show at the Starke Foundation in Berlin, running until the end of October 2013.