

PI ARTWORKS LONDON

Nancy Atakan

Remembering the Future

30 July – 26 September 2020

PI ARTWORKS LONDON

@ LONDON COLLECTIVE

on VORTIC COLLECT



Hand in Hand, 2020,
Embroidered panel from artist's collection,
needlework, cloth, lace, felt, 121 x 121 cm

Pi Artworks London is excited to announce Nancy Atakan's solo exhibition *Remembering the Future* as part of London Collective on Vortic Collect.

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* (2020), her use of a previously favoured technique, personification, gradually becomes obvious as 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* (2020) 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.

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