

PI ARTWORKS

Scent of Time

Nancy Atakan

10 December 2022 - 31 January 2023

Pi Artworks ISTANBUL

Opening: 10 December 2022 4-8 pm

Pi Artworks is pleased to present *Scent of Time*, Nancy Atakan's 8th solo exhibition with the gallery, featuring her watercolour paintings inspiring her needlework that touches upon revisiting, rethinking and reimagining in light of a subjective experience of time.

Atakan's visual language draws on the repercussions of historical, cultural and societal transformations which are fostered in the mind and legible on the body, creating a juxtaposition of images belonging to a past and in the making of a future. The act of remembering is definitive of her works and carried out through her poems either embroidered on cloth or heard over video works.

Scent of Time revolves around the construction of time in individual consciousness, an amalgam of our perception, memory and imagination defying the irrevocable passage of time by the arbitrary numbers on a clock while forming a unity of all experiences for the self. This unique construction, born out of insight, is explored throughout the exhibition mimicking a cyclical structure of time, "thoughts on thoughts" overlapping and lingering just like scent does.

For this exhibition, watercolour paintings made several decades earlier - fragmented images of a personal history - are brought together on the background cloth of needlework, some of the materials of which were presented as a gift or collected throughout the years. Such as the one, "Window of Time", a cloth collage composed of gifted Turkish embroidery on a fabric bought in an Indian market was inspired by a watercolour made by Atakan in 1983 that she named "Window".

Forming the backbone of the exhibition, "Searching for the Scent of Time" made in 2022 is a revisit to the time when Nancy was collecting antique table clocks from flea markets while being followed through the lens of filmmaker Dilek Aydın, for a documentary in the making about the artist. Throughout the show, those clocks appear in different mediums - on handkerchiefs, in a video, as a part of a sculpture - as symbolic and material objects, each opening an illusory window in time to the intangible place of memories.



Nancy Atakan, Searching for the Scent of Time, 2022
Mixed media: antique cloth, felt, embroidery
150x150

Atakan has incorporated flowers into her artistic vocabulary in recent years as a delicate symbol of the cycle of nature in which our bodies and consciousness are a part of its workings and appearances and as a metaphor for our own delicate memory. In the search for the threads of the distinguishable but inseparable moments of life, she often makes use of collages in an attempt to disclose time, disguised in many roles, ever-mutating the meanings attached to personal experiences and leaving the one in the act of remembering to incessantly shift their perception and judgement. All in all, it isn't an attempt to find a direction toward the source but to stand on the pieces surfacing above. To quote Marcel Proust: "Remembrance of things past is not necessarily the remembrance of things as they were."

Biography

Nancy Atakan, (b. 1946, USA) lives and works in Istanbul. Atakan holds the degree of PhD in History of Art, Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Turkey (1995), MA in Educational Psychology, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey (1982) and BA in Fine Arts and History of Art, Mary Washington College, Virginia, USA (1968).

Selected solo exhibitions; Remembering the Future, London Collective on Vortic Collect (2020); 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); Incomprehensible World, IKSU - Istanbul Culture and Art Foundation, Hamlet Theatre Festival, Istanbul, Turkey (2014); Mirror Mirror on the Wall, Pi Artworks Istanbul, Turkey (2013); How Do We Know We Are Not Impostors?, Pi Artworks Istanbul, Turkey (2011); From Here 1970-2011, Pi Artworks Istanbul, Turkey (2011); Holding On, Apartment Project, Istanbul, Turkey (2009); I Believe/I Don't Believe, Pi Artworks Istanbul, Turkey (2009). **Selected group exhibitions;** Weave Braid Attach, Textile Pioneers and Contemporary Expressions, Vasteras Konstmuseum (Vasteras Art Museum), Vasteras, Sweden (2019); Marking a Shift, with Maria Andersson, Galleri Box, Göteborg, Germany (2019); Arcadia Mundi, Macroasilo, Rome, Italy (2019); Shores, Open Club, Moscow, Russia (2019); Kek sever misiniz?, K.E.K, Istanbul, Turkey (2019); At the Borderline of Vitality, Corridor Project Space, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2018); Before the Past - After the Future, 6th Canakkale Biennial, Turkey; The Compiler Screenings 'Our Stories', curated by Susann Wintsch and Chantal Molleur, presented by White Frame, Stadtkino, Basel, Switzerland (2017); Even My Mum Can Make A Book, Corridor Project Space, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2017); Whose Art History?, Uniq Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); You and I, 5533 Artist Run Initiative, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); A Room of Our Own, Ark Kultur Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); Small 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); Under My Feet I Want the World Not Heaven, Istanbul Next Wave, Akademie der Kunst, Berlin, Germany (2009-2010).