

PI ARTWORKS ISTANBUL

PRESS RELEASE

Sweet Separation

Nancy Atakan & Dilek Aydın

17 September – 31 October 2026

Preview: Thursday 17 September, 18:00 - 20:00

Pi Artworks İstanbul



Nancy Atakan, Baby Blankets, 2026, knitting & embroidery

Pi Artworks Istanbul presents Sweet Separation, a joint exhibition by Nancy Atakan and Dilek Aydın, marking a new chapter in their longstanding artistic collaboration. On view from 17 September to 31 October 2026, the multidisciplinary exhibition;

Sweet Separation, explores the profound, transformative and paradoxical experience of childbirth through the eyes of women working in creative fields. Birth is, at its core, an act of separation — the moment when mother and child part physically. Yet this separation is not solely an ending; it marks a beginning, a tender division that opens the door to new life, new identities, and new creative pathways.

Through a video compilation of women's stories, an installation featuring knitted baby blankets with embroidered texts, a neon sign reading Bye Bye Baby, and two older video by Nancy Atakan (Homage to Myrna Lewis and Mersin Hospital), the exhibition brings together intimate personal narratives and artistic reflections, highlighting how the act of giving birth reverberates in both the personal and creative lives of women.

The exhibition space invites spectators into a warm, open, and contemplative environment. Installations will encourage slow reading, contemplative listening, and emotional engagement. The physical progression of the show, the fabric works and the personal testimonies together create a layered, sensory experience that honors the complexity of this deeply human yet often overlooked transition..

Exhibition Programme | Open Mic Sessions

Throughout the run of the exhibition, 2 to 3 Open Mic Days designed to activate the space and welcome direct audience participation will be organized. On these special days, pre-registered or invited women will each be given 10 minutes to share their own birth stories. Each session will host up to six women and last one hour. These open sessions aim to expand the dialogue beyond the artworks, creating space for spontaneous, real-time storytelling and emotional resonance.

Artists

Nancy Atakan

Artist, co-founder of Istanbul-based artist initiative, 5533, and internationally exhibited, focuses on memory, identity, and women's narratives.

Dilek Aydın

Filmmaker, producer and founder of heimatlos films focuses on international co-productions and Europe-based fiction and non-fiction projects.

Collaboration

Baby Blanket Design

Hülya Paker

Baby Blanket Knitting

Hülya Paker

Elena Nikolayeva

Kuşakk Women's Collective

Blanket Photographs

Esra Kent

Helpers

Elena Nikolayeva

Dilara Babajanova

Iris Ergül

Nehir Küçük

Project Concept

Dilek Aydın & Nancy Atakan

Cameraman

Grzeg Waszczuk

Project Assistant

Can Küçük

Neon Fabrication

Zafer

Participants

Elif Uras

Nancy Atakan

Dilek Aydın

Jale Kutadgobilik

Beral Madra

Ayşe Kulin

Ela Başak Atakan

Nazlı Paker

Merve Ünsal

CANAN

Çiğdem Selışık

Larissa Araz

Felekşan Onar

Melida Tüzünoğlu

Esra Dermancioğlu

Esra Karadeniz

Ayris Alptekin

Deniz Eyüboğlu Aydın

Nazlı Gürlek

Maria Sezer

** The dates and registration details for the Open Mic Sessions will be announced at a later date.*

**Sweet Seperation will be on view at Pi Artworks Istanbul until 31 October 2026*

Visiting hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00–18:30.

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