

# PI ARTWORKS LONDON

**IPEK DUBEN**

*in via incognita*

**1 March - 7 April**

**Preview 28 February: 6.30pm-8.30pm**

*55 Eastcastle Street, W1W 8EG, London*



Pi Artworks London are pleased to present a new exhibition of work by New York and Istanbul based artist Ipek Duben. Duben has worked for over 30 years as a multi-media artist, focussing on documentary images which address individual subjectivities. *in via incognita* brings together sculptural art books and wall pieces based on documentary material that looks head on at one of the issues that is most pressing in our lives today – and has been for centuries – global migration. It will be Duben's first major show of works in London since the early 1980s.

*in via incognita* includes two art books; *Farewell My Homeland*, first shown in New York in 2006 as a multimedia installation and *No Name* (2017). *Farewell My Homeland* reflects on forced migration at the time of crossing borders, meanwhile in *No Name* the focus is now on a deep sense of loss and burnt out memories.

*"Millions of people have migrated over the ages. The 20<sup>th</sup> century was 100 years of forced migration and displacement all over the world and the 21st century has now become one. Farewell My Homeland is in memory of those who had to leave their homes behind forever."* - Ipek Duben, 2018.

In the exhibition the two books will be shown surrounded by a large scale new wall work *in via incognita* (2017), a frieze of images that will circle round the gallery. The frieze can be likened to a film strip; a cinematic view from the time of the Balkan Wars of 1912 to the present day; journeys of thousands of migrants lost on land and at sea around the world. This 12.5 metre long display of images are framed by barbed wire, trapping those featured inside. 10 further new pieces *Untitled Portraits* (2017) show small silk screen prints of individual portraits of the refugees with their names hand crocheted by Duben on each one. Seven further framed silk screens from a series the artist has created with imagery from Kosovo in 1999, taken from sources such as the *New York Times*, will sit alongside the new works. In her multimedia installations, paintings, art books and videos, Duben has focused on memory, identity, gender, prejudice, and migration. All of Duben's works are interactive; pushing the viewer to the psychological limit and requiring their participation.

Ipek was born in 1941. Recent solo exhibitions include *LOVEGAME*, Merdiven Art Space, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); *THEY/ONLAR* video installation, Fabrica, Brighton, (2017) and the Brighton Festival (2017); *THEY/ONLAR*, Salt Galata, Istanbul, Turkey (2015). Besides solo exhibitions she has participated in Evliyagil Museum, Ankara, Turkey (2017); the 13th Istanbul Biennial (2013); Poetry and Exile: British Museum (2014); 3rd European International Book Art Biennale, Moscow (2014); The Fourth and Fifth Bibliotheca Alexandrina International Biennale for the Artist's book (2010, 2004); Istanbul Modern (2009,2011); The National Museum of Women in the Arts (Washington D.C. 2010); King St. Stephen Museum, (Hungary 2013,2006); The Fifth Sharjah International Arts Biennial (2001). Collections include: Istanbul Modern, British Museum, Wien Museum as part of *Karamustapha Export-Import*, King St. Stephen Museum, The Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Koç and Zorlu Foundations.

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## About Pi Artworks:

Pi Artworks London/Istanbul was founded in Istanbul in 1998. In 2013, it expanded internationally and opened a space on Eastcastle Street, Fitzrovia, London. Pi Artworks continues to be one of Turkey's primary galleries and has now established a strong commercial market in London, as well as a range of institutional links in the past 5 years. Since opening the second, London venue, Pi Artworks has worked to enrich the UK art scene with their knowledge and has developed relationships with institutions, individuals and partners both within the capital and across the country.

The gallery has helped realise major institutional exhibitions in the UK such as Susan Hefuna at The Whitworth, Manchester (2017) and Ipek Duben at Fabrica, Brighton (2017). Meanwhile, it continues to forge a global path with exhibitions realised including Tayeba Begum Lipi at the Broad Museum (2016), Fatma Bucak's upcoming show in Fondazione Merz (2018) and in collaboration with the Sonje Center on Fahrettin Orenli's solo presentation *Money without Nationality* (2018).

Pi Artworks has initiated collaborations with universities and academics in London and beyond in the past 5 years, including a long-running *Curatorial Open*, arranged with the University of Goldsmiths (UAL) and which includes exhibition making, performances and curatorial guidance for aspiring art world employees studying in the capital. Pi Artworks has also commissioned a rich and varied range of new exhibitions in London - including a series initiated by curators such as Sacha Craddock, Oliver Sumner and Morgan Quaintance.

Meanwhile, in Istanbul, Pi Artworks continues to forge key relationships across the region and globally, working with institutions, arts festivals and biennials. A recent success has been the 2017 Istanbul Biennial, where the gallery's artist Volkan Aslan's presentation was lauded by visitors, the media and collectors. Pi Artworks is also one of three stakeholders who have recently created a brand-new exhibition space for Istanbul, encouraging a high footfall in a slowing market, with a fresh space for contemporary art in the city and region.

Founder and Director Jade Y. Turanli is based in London and currently sits on the Contemporary Istanbul selection committee and has been on the Tate Middle-East Acquisitions Committee since 2013. Turanli is also a member of AWITA, association of Women in the Arts.