

CANAN

Born in 1970 and lives in Istanbul

An artist who has been continuing her art practices since 1998 and who defines herself as a feminist, CANAN examines symbols within the collective consciousness and the subconscious, and reflects on how these symbols shape human behaviors and relationships. Symbols are a timeless, non-geographical and common language that mark our daily lives and that define our relationship with each other and with history. Symbols are a common language, for which the meaning ranges from the "highest art" to daily objects, such as emojis in our phones, to those in politics, humanity and art history, but one that is mostly involved with the transfer of beauty, human feelings and thoughts. Through symbols, we often have an understanding and perception of past times from a contemporary perspective. In her most recent works, CANAN continues to work on the cognitive, intuitive and imaginative effects of images, which are at times frightening, and at times definitive of beauty, nurtured by nature and symbolized through perceived meanings. Although half human, half animal divine symbols remind us of the evolutionary process, these symbols can have shifting meanings in different time periods. During one period, Poseidon can be perceived as an angry god who causes famine, or as the protector of the seas in another one. In the progress of time, the witches turn into healers, or into mysterious women feared due to their power, wise woman in cartoons, to symbols of evil. How we perceive a symbol is dependent upon personal and social perspectives. The artist continues to employ symbols that have a negative perception, and to give them positive connotations in her works, in order to study the intuitive, emotional or intellectual purification of the human soul by means of images, in a similar way to letters and music, and to enable its communication with itself and with others.

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EDUCATION & WORK EXPERIENCE

- 1987-92 Studied Marmara University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Business Administration Dept.
- 1994-98 Marmara University Faculty of Fine Arts, Painting Dept.
- 1999 Painting Competition of Esbank Yunus Emre, Special Award of Jury, DKM, Istanbul
- 2003 Residency Künstlerhaus Schloß Balmoral, Germany
- 2004 Residency Stiftung Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, Germany
- 2006 Residency at The School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 "Endearment, Divinement, Contentment", Daire Gallery, Istanbul (2019)
- 2017 "Behind Mount Qaf" Arter Space of Arts,, Istanbul / Turkey
- 2016 "Shining Darkness", Rampa Gallery, Istanbul / Turkey
- 2014 "I beg you, please do not speak to me of love", Gallery Siyah Beyaz, Ankara
- 2011 "Turkish Delight", Gallery Xist, Istanbul
- 2010 "Even A Cat Has Mustache" Gallery Xist, Istanbul
"Segregate", Kibela Multimedia Center, Maribor
- 2007 Bahname" Masa Project, Istanbul
- 2006 "Behind the Curtains", Festival De Rode Loper, Amsterdam
- 2006 "Eyes cannot cognize" KBH Kunstall, Copenhagen
- 2005 "Behind the Curtains", 9th International Istanbul Biennial Paralel Project, Istanbul
- 2003 "Es war einmal", Laden No:5 Bad Ems, Germany
- 2000 "Finally you are in me", Tabela, Istanbul
- 1997 "Dreams, Faces, Plotters", Curator :Beral Madra, Rahmi Koç Museum, Istanbul
"Light up a Candle for the Light!" Performance, Istanbul

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 SHE WHO IS WATCHING, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 2019 "Re:Orient", Grassi Museum, Leipzig (2019);
"The Moon: A Voyage Through Time", Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 "Beyond Bliss", 1st Bankok Biennale, Thailand
"On the Shoulders of the Giant", Industrial Art Biennale, Croatia
4th Mardin Bienial, Beyond the words", Mardin
Banu-Hakan Carmikli Collection:First Round Galata Rum Okulu, İstanbul
"Home Strike, Letrangere gallery, Paris(2018)
- 2017 "A good Neighbour", , Pinakothek derModerne,München
"Jameel Prize 4" A. Kasteyev State Museum of Arts, Almaty, Kazakhstan
"Mother Tongue", ifö Center
"Mother Tongue" Museum of Oslo, Interkulturelt Musseum, Oslo
"Mother Tongue, A Visual Journey inside heritahe, gender,politics and wars", Sandnes
Kunstforening, Sandnes
Mother Tongue, A Visual Journey inside heritahe, gender,politics and wars", Bodo
Kunstforening, Bodo
"Jameel Prize" Asia Cultural Centre (ACC), Gwangju Korea
- 2016 Jameel Prize 4, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
'Les parfums de l'Intranquillité" Hotel Des Arts, Toulon, France
Freundschaftsspiel Istanbul : Freiburg, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg / Germany

- "Hidden Lost", Karşı Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
 Mother Tongue, Buskerud
 Kunstsenter, Drammen
- 2015 "Impenitent", Nazım Hikmet Kultur Evi, Bursa, Turkey
 Future Queer, Ark Kultur, Istanbul
 Every Inclusion Is An Exclusion Of Other Possibilities II - SALT, Istanbul
 Politische Kunst im Widerstand in der Türkei - Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende
 Kunst (NGBK), Berlin / Germany
 Mother Tongue - Turkish Contemporary Video Art - Stiftelsen 3,14, Bergen / Norway
 Too early, too late: Middle East and Modernity Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna -
 Bologna / Italy
- 2014 "Awakening Tales From CANAN", 20th Festival on Wheels, Ankara
 "Nesrin Esirtgen Collection No:4", Nesrin Esirtgen Gallery, Istanbul
 Art for Care - 11 Video Steps for Your Wellness" Videoinsight Center, Torino
 Neighbours" Contemporary Narratives from Turkey and Beyond, Istanbul Museum of
 Modern Art, Istanbul
 New Continent - A Selection From the Video Collection of the Istanbul Museum of
 Modern Art, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai / China
- 2013 "New Continent" A Selection From the video collection of the Istanbul Museum of
 Modern Art, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai
 "At the Bazaar of Gender: Feminine/Masculine", MUCEM, Marseille
 "Signs Taken in Wonder" Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover
 "Signs Taken in Wonder", MAK Museum Vienna,
 "Envy, Enmity, Embarrassment", Arter Space for Art, Istanbul
 "Laboratory of the Future: Together / Apart". Centre for Contemporary Art
 Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
- 2012 "Nesrin Esirtgen Collection No :2", Nesrin Esirtgen Gallery, Istanbul
 "Journey", Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris
 "In What Language Shall I Tell You My Story", Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Holland
 " Remue-ménage", MAM Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia, Brasil
 Scenerio 3, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig, Germany
 CONTRE L'HISTOIRE, , Centre d'art de Fribourg,Fribourg
- 2011 Choosing another strategy" Machine-RAUM, Vejle Art Museum, Denmark
 "Dream and Reality - Modern and Contemporary Women Artists from Turkey,
 Istanbul Modern Museum, Istanbul
 Kolaj Istanbul, .la Gaité Lyrique,Paris
 Confessions Of Dangerous Minds Contemporary Art from Turkey, @ Saatchi Gallery,
 London
- 2010 "Where Fire Has Stuck", DEPO, Istanbul
 "13 rd September", DKM, Diyarbakir
 "When ideas Become Crime", Depo, Istanbul
 "What Happens to the Hole When the Cheese Is Gone?" Museo d'Arte
 Contemporanea della Sicilia,
 "Istanbul Cool", Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller (LTMH) Gallery, NY
 "État D'âmes, une génération hors d'elle, Beaux-arts de Paris
 Video et Apres, Turquie et Alors, Centre Pompidou, Paris
 ACT V: Power Alone, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam
 'Like a dream... but not Yours, The National Museum of Women in the Arts,
 Washington
 Broken Down Walls of the Crimson Salon , Gallery Skuc, Ljubljana
- 2009 "Emploi Saisonnier", La Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille
 "for example" Gallery Nova, curators WHW, Zagreb
 City net Asia 2009- Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), Seoul

- 11th International Istanbul Biennale, curators WHW, Istanbul
 "Red Thread", Curator WHW, Tanas Gallery, Berlin
 "Unfair Provocation", Curator Canan Senol, Hafriyat Karaköy, Istanbul
 2008 "Save As", Contemporary art from Turkey, Triennale Bovisa, Milan
 "Makul", Hafriyat Karakoy, Istanbul
 2007 "Sehir Hatları / Stadtverbindungen", Kunstmuseum Erlangen, Germany
 "Hicap", Performance, Platform Art Center, Istanbul
 "Here, There, Abroad" Ifa Galery Stuttgart, Germany
 "Here, There, Abroad" Ifa Gallery Berlin, Germany
 "Global Feminsms", Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley
 "Be a realist, demand the impossible", Curator Halil Altindere, Karşı Sanat İstanbul
 "IFCA 13th international Festival of Computer arts", Maribor
 "Global Feminisms" Brooklyn Museum, Newyork
 "Never From the Back but Face to Face" Radikal Art, Istanbul
 "without head", performance, MacArt Gallery, İstanbul
 2006 "All about lies", Apartman Project, Istanbul
 "Home and Away" Maribor Art Gallery, Slovenia
 2005 "Free Kick", Istanbul 9th International Istanbul Biennial Hospitably Zone, Istanbul
 "Secret and Time", Ankara
 "Werke der Stipendiaten in Privatbesitz", Emser Salon, Germany
 2004 "Metamorphosis", Darphane, Istanbul
 "K-ein Weg", Gallery Berkelkraftwerk Vreden, Germany
 "38. Paralel, Horizon", Skironio Centrum Kiffissia, Athens
 "Muslims in Cairo, Teheran, Istanbul, Paris, Dakar", Parc de la Villette, Paris
 2003 "I'm too sad to kill you" Proje 4L, Istanbul
 "Good, Bad, Ugly" Bilgi University, Istanbul
 "Bad Emser Medienkunsttage", Bad Ems, Germany
 "Art bytes" Künstlerhaus Schloß Balmoral, Bad Ems, Germany
 "Short & Sharp" Curator: Gulsen Bal, London Gallery 291, London
 2002 "VideoRom 4,0", Curator: Giacinto Di Pietrantonio Italia
 "VideoRom 2,0" Curator: Cristiana Perralla, Giancarla Zanutti Gallery Milan,
 "Video-Pool" Curator: Beral Madra, Contemporary Art Fair, Istanbul
 2001 "The Passions", 1st Valancia Biennial
 2000 "Young Art 3", Curator Vasif Kortun, Ankara
 "Resistance ", Istanbul Technical University, Curator: Beral Madra, Istanbul
 1999 "The picture in the hills" Dulcinea Art Gallery, Istanbul
 "Out from Nowhere" centrem Beeldende Kunst, Dordrecht, Schiedam, Lieden,
 Holland
 "Mixed Painting Exhibition", Galery Galetea, Curator; Vasif Kortun, Istanbul
 1998 "Reise Durh das Labyrinth", Galery Pozzo Pozzoza, Curator: Beral Madra, Berlin
 Art in The World, Critical Trends and Young Artists, Passage de Retz, Paris
 1997 18.Contemporary Istanbul Artists Exhibition, AKM Istanbul
 "Kaos" Youth Action 3, TUYAP, Istanbul
 "Varna'97" 9. International Print Biennial, Varna
 "Dungeon" Group 97, Anemas Dungeon, Istanbul
 1996 "Territory-Deterritorialisation" Youth Action 2, TUYAP, Istanbul

WORKSHOPS / LECTURES

- 2016 The artist's body as an instrument of struggle", Pera Museum, Istanbul
 2014 Artist Talk, Istanbul Modern Museum, Istanbul
 Artist Talk, Siyah Beyaz Gallery, Ankara

2012 Artist Talk, "Turkish Delight, Borusan Music House, Istanbul
2009 workshop at İstanbul Modern Museum
2008 Artist Talk, "Here, There, Abroad", rum46, Aarhus, Denmark
2007 Artist Talk, "Open Table", Platform art center, Istanbul
2006 Colloquium "Islam and Contemporary art" Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
2006 Artist Talk, The School of The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
2006 Lecture, workshop "Eyes Cannot Cognize" , Royal Academy of Fine Art, Copenhagen,
2006 Lecture "Eyes Cannot Cognize" , , KBH Kunstall, Copenhagen,
Lecture "If you do not deserve to be non-existent, you should better give up" ,
Marmara University, Ataturk Faculty of Education Department,