

Jennifer İpekeli

Mother, Revolt!

MAY 26–JULY 18, 2021

OPENING MAY 26, 10:00–19:00



Jennifer İpekeli
Asefal
Pigment and linocut on paper
2021

Mother, Revolt! explores and plays with the powers of animism and asks “how Earth would dream of us?”

“The alchemy of emotions,” the complex psychology that defines the individual and philosophy of creation intertwines. As we walk through the inner world of the individual, we walk through the depth of the universe.

The relationship between human and nature is deep-rooted in history. Our body is our temple. We walk, sleep, fly, and migrate.

In our journey between birth and death, we recall our roots through the power of soil. To feel the metamorphosis of life we should first replace ourselves with Earth.

Mother teaches us a new language in communication with Earth, Fire, Water, Wind, and Space. We shed our old habits that are pieces of a broken order.

Mother’s revolt is a “collective” revolt.

She will open cracks in order, wanting us to move beyond ourselves.

We will start to breathe with the imprints of plants that are stamped to our breath.

Mother’s scream wakes us from our sleep and animates our roots deep in soil, erased from our memories.

She will first silence us and then remind us how to truly speak.

—Jennifer İpekeli

Dirimart is pleased to present the new body of work of Jennifer İpekeli. Intensely colored and intricately ornamented paintings and accompanying ceramic works bridge reality with the ethereal, the sacred, and the profane. *Mother, Revolt!* is rooted in Earth, a calling to the sleeping souls to listen to its radiating sounds, with animism in mind, it asks the question how the Earth imagines us.

İpekeli’s recent paintings are full of references to sensual and archeological themes, wandering around in landscape and mythology. And the ceramics, aligning with how objects have had a place in history for worship during difficult times, play on ideas of animism. These works show how the artist’s formal inventiveness and experimentation have developed into a distinctive iconography, drawing on plant life and psyche, rock culture, spirituality, folklore, and the natural world.



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Restless, self-questioning, ambitious for the voice of painting in contemporary culture, İpekkel consistently sets herself new challenges. Evolving from an experiment where she wholeheartedly seeks ways to communicate with plants; the series carries traces of plant-based dyes, linoleum print of flora and symbols of cultures that have long turned to plants. Electric, dazzling images packed with sexual and physical references of psychedelic culture give way to mythical and more elegiac subjects which grow from her own personal experience of love and the warmth and colors of the Earth.

The paintings are based on observation: representations of herself and others, in front of a mirror, looking out, watchful. The figures have a faltering air, like actors on a stage without a script. *Seeding, Wilderness, Study for Eternity* and *Spring* are guided by the ceramics; the formative sculptural manifestations that have names such as *Transit* or the *Cocoon*.

A roadmap unfolds, the movement begins, one step at a time. *Charge Foot, Sock* and *Wild Dagga* are characters from İpekkel's wild imagination that lead the way. An installation inspired by the settlements in Çatalhöyük goes to the core of how the idea of home came to be in the mind of humans. The connection to Earth by way of words and clay is uncanny and elemental for its survival. The depths of İpekkel's thinking are manifested in all the works and held together in their novelty.

Jennifer İpekkel (b. 1988, Istanbul). She studied her BFA in Integrated Design in 2007–2011 in Parsons, New School of Design. She completed her MFA at Chelsea School of Art in London in 2015. Recent exhibitions include *I was, but just awake*, Art Night (2019); *Text, Silence, Spectacle, Pose*, Istanbul (2019); *Painting Clubb*, Chaos Magic, Nottingham (2019); *Death Smells Acacia*, Set Studios, London (2018); *Atom Taxi*, Öktem Aykut Gallery, Istanbul (2017); *Dreaming the Land Dreaming Us* (Curated by Mint Works), United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP22, Marrakech (2016), *Meet Me by the Tree*, Öktem Aykut Gallery, Istanbul (2016); *Experimental Electronics*, New River Studios, London (2016); *Is it Eating You* (Curated by Mark Peter Wright), IMT Gallery, London (2016); *Close Encounters with the Threptikon: A Symposium About the Soul of Plants and Us*, 5 Years Gallery, London (2015); *Night Tales*, Adahan Hotel, Istanbul (2014). She lives and works in Bodrum.

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