DİRİMART

Canan Tolon presents '*Too early* Too late' at Dirimart London

***Too early* Too late**
Canan Tolon

Opening: 17 November 2026, 6pm
Venue: Dirimart London

This exhibition can be visited from 17 November to 19 December 2026.
(Mondays by appointment; Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm)

LONDON, 22 SEPTEMBER 2026 — Dirimart London presents ***Too early* Too late**, a solo exhibition by Turkish-American artist Canan Tolon, on view from 17 November to 19 December 2026. Bringing together works on Mylar from the 1980s and 1990s with new installations and large-scale paintings, the exhibition returns to concerns that have informed Tolon's practice for four decades: nature, time, the fragility of our constructed environment and humanity's relationship with the natural world.

These concerns first took shape in the artist's early work and became particularly evident in her *Still Lifes* installations following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area. At the time, Tolon believed that drawing attention to environmental destruction and the depletion of natural resources might contribute to a greater awareness of their consequences and, perhaps, to meaningful change. Thirty-seven years later, those concerns remain, but the hope that accompanied them has diminished.

The exhibition's title reflects this altered sense of time. What once appeared premature has become increasingly urgent, while the evidence of environmental destruction has become part of everyday life. The distance between recognising a threat and taking responsibility for it has widened. Yet familiarity with the evidence has not necessarily led to action.

Tolon works with natural and industrial materials whose properties continue to change over time. Rusting, germination and decay are not simply effects represented in the work; they are processes through which the work takes shape. Water, air and humidity act upon the materials, sometimes producing results that cannot be entirely anticipated or controlled. Rather than arresting these transformations, Tolon allows them to continue, making the passage of time an active part of the work.

This approach also questions the assumption that the natural world can be permanently controlled or contained. The built environment is no less subject to natural processes than the landscapes it occupies. Iron rusts, structures deteriorate and vegetation finds its way through the surfaces intended to contain it. In Tolon's work, growth and decay coexist, revealing the instability of arrangements that might otherwise appear permanent.

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Among the new installations are two works incorporating old suitcases that belonged to the artist's parents and grandparents. Mirrors positioned within the cases create the illusion of an infinite space, while living grass introduces an element of growth and change. The modest dimensions of these familiar objects contrast with the seemingly boundless landscapes they contain. The suitcases carry their own histories, but their mirrored interiors also unsettle the relationship between what is contained and what appears to extend beyond its limits.

The exhibition brings together works made at different moments in Tolon's career without presenting them as a retrospective. The earlier works and new installations share concerns that have persisted even as the world around them has changed. ***Too early*** **Too late** returns to questions that once seemed premature and now risk becoming so familiar that their urgency is overlooked.

Canan Tolon (b. 1955, Istanbul) studied Literature and Philosophy at the French Lycée in Istanbul. In 1976, she attended Edinburgh Napier University and Fachhochschule Trier for design, later studying interior architecture at A.A. Middlesex University in London. She completed her Master's degree in architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1983. Her selected solo exhibitions include *Too early* Too late, Dirimart London, London (2026); *Refrain*, Dirimart Pera, Istanbul (2025); *About the Weather*, Dirimart Dolapdere, Istanbul (2023); *Tunnel Vision*, Dirimart Pera, Istanbul (2022); *Limbo*, Cocoon by CIF, Fişekhane, Istanbul (2022); *You Tell Me*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2019); *Where were we*, Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco (2018); *I will not say I told you so*, Von Lintel Gallery, Los Angeles (2017); *Heavy, Galeri Nev*, Istanbul (2015); *LIKE*, Von Lintel Gallery, Los Angeles (2014); *Sidesteps*, Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art, London (2014) and *Then, and Then*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco (2012). Her selected group exhibitions are *Floating Islands*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2023); *Precaution*, ARTER, Istanbul (2021); *Memory and Continuity: A Selection from the Huma Kabakcı Collection*, Pera Museum, Istanbul (2016); *Before It Is Too Late*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2016); *Poetry and Exile*, The British Museum, London (2014); *Zwölf im Zwölfen*, Tanas, Berlin (2012); *Confessions of Dangerous Minds*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2011); *Istanbul Next Wave*, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2009); *Modern and Beyond*, SantralIstanbul, Istanbul (2007) and *2nd Yaya Exhibition*, Karaköy, Istanbul (2005). Her works are held in the collections of esteemed institutions such as The British Museum (London), ARTER (Istanbul), and Istanbul Modern (Istanbul). Canan Tolon lives and works between Istanbul and San Francisco.