

DIRIMART

PRESS RELEASE

CANAN TOLON'S EXHIBITION *REFRAIN* AT DİRİMART PERA

Refrain

Opening: 6 September 2025

Venue: Dirimart Pera

The exhibition can be visited from **6 to 28 September (except Mondays)**.

These are no gardens; these are dense, impenetrable, demanding terrains. And they are menacing. Nature is no longer confined to silence or submission: it approaches, encircles, and exerts pressure. What once appeared soft now carries force. The illusion of control begins to dissolve; nature no longer remains silent, nor does it yield.

With this exhibition, I wanted to reiterate my message more forcefully, as if within an echo chamber.

— Canan Tolon

ISTANBUL, 25 August 2025 — **Dirimart is pleased to announce *Refrain*, Canan Tolon's third solo exhibition at the gallery.**

Bringing together twelve recent large-scale abstract paintings, hung consecutively in a sequence that echoes through the space with a hollow insistence, the exhibition traces the imprint of an encirclement dominated by organic force and cyclical time, where the suppressed voices of nature refuse to let the viewer go.

Canan Tolon's artistic practice, shaped around the notions of chance and accident, engages with nature, time, memory, and architecture. Through pouring, erasing, and scraping paint into layered surfaces, her works embody the tension between construction and destruction, existence and disappearance. Tolon's canvases oscillate between abstraction and representation, establishing a language that is at once structural and intuitive.

The twelve abstract compositions presented in *Refrain* embody a revolt against the impossibility of painting in silence. Conceived as an immersive landscape, they offer visual continuity and atmosphere. Installed on a curved wall that envelops the viewer and eliminates all distance, the works deny any panoramic view or escape.



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Each canvas functions as a refrain—not only in image but in structure. Monumental in scale, identical in proportion, and hung edge to edge without interruption, the repetition they engender is neither decorative nor passive; it encircles, it insists.

In *Refrain*, the works confront humanity's urge to dominate nature and its disorientation within its own systems. Returning with a silence too heavy to ignore, they reveal what has been repressed. Nature is no longer a passive backdrop but a cycle of insistence, echoing a voice that refuses to be silenced.

Refrain will be on view at Dirimart Pera from 6 to 28 September 2025.

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 *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 Kabakçı 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*, Santrallstanbul, 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.