

# DIRIMART

## ÇİĞDEM AKY'S EXHIBITION *SANTOSHA* AT DIRIMART PERA

*Santosh*  
Çiğdem Aky

**Opening:** 8 January 2026

**Venue:** Dirimart Pera

**The exhibition can be visited from 8 January to 22 February (except Mondays).**

**ISTANBUL, 25 DECEMBER 2025** – Dirimart is delighted to present *Santosh*, Çiğdem Aky's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

This exhibition by Çiğdem Aky represents a new phase in her practice. By surrendering control to the painting's own internal flow, the artist consciously sets aside established formal boundaries and traditional aesthetic goals. In this process, colour emerges as an autonomous presence, giving rise to a soft and intuitive visual language that provides the artist with a sense of inner liberation. *Santosh* showcases the calm and inner freedom that Aky has achieved through her practice, sharing it with viewers.

The exhibition takes its title from the Sanskrit concept of '*santosh*', that refers to 'contentment' and finding ease with what already is. In yogic philosophy, this concept describes the ability to cultivate calm and fulfilment regardless of external conditions and it is expressed through an abstract visual vocabulary in Aky's recent works. These works have developed in parallel with her personal transformation. This exhibition presents a selection that reveals the artist's search for inner balance and acceptance in a coherent manner for the first time.

In her practice, Çiğdem Aky combines geometric precision with spontaneous brushwork to create unique and dynamic colour fields through recurring forms. These forms gradually evolve to become the visual 'body' of the image. By applying paint in different ways, the artist creates dynamic fields of colour, which she frames with strong contrasts, gestural marks, and geometric pillars. This allows her to move away from figurative readings and create an abstract language.

The works presented in the exhibition reveal traces of a new artistic pursuit that has emerged alongside the artist's inner transformation. Adopting a soft and delicate visual language, Aky focuses on subtle states such as calm, openness, clarity, and gratitude rather than on clear boundaries. Drawing inspiration from Eastern philosophies, this series invites viewers to experience these visual elements within their own inner stillness, rather than offering an explanatory narrative. Each painting becomes a step in an inward journey that moves from idea to presence and from limitation to expansiveness.

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**Çiğdem Aky** (b. 1989, Munich) studied painting and graphic design at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste München from 2009 to 2013. She later completed her studies at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe in 2016, earning a Master's degree between 2016–17 from Prof Helmut Dorner's atelier. Aky's solo exhibitions include *Santosh*, Dirimart Pera, Istanbul (2025); *Capturing the Day*, Dirimart Pera, Istanbul (2023); *Rhythmus*, Bernhard Knaus Fine Art, Frankfurt am Main (2022); *Im Schatten der Baume*, Kunstmuseum Reutlingen Galerie, Reutlingen (2022); *Eine Pustelblume im Wind*, Evelyn Drewes, Hamburg (2022); *Auf Wolke Sieben*, Kunststiftung BW, Stuttgart (2021); *Ein blauer Himmel*, MEWO Kunsthalle, Memmingen (2020); *Step by Step*, Super + Centercourt Galerie, Munich (2020); *CIGDEM AKY*, Zweisieben, Karlsruhe (2018); *Einzelausstellung*, Galerie Tristan Lorenz, Frankfurt am Main (2017); *Das Flechtwerk der Farbe*, Studio Rose, Schondorf am Ammersee (2015) and *Kolorit*, Geschwisterraum, Karlsruhe (2015). Aky's selected group exhibitions include *Ostrale Biennale 025*, Dresden (2025); *Wasserstoff*, Memu Essing, Essing (2024); *HIDDEN FUTURE*, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, Munich (2023); *Chain Letter*, LRRH\_ Art Edition, Cologne (2023); Münchener Secession: Verein für Originalradierung München eV, Munich (2022); *Ohne Titel*, Museum zu Allerheiligen, Schaffhausen (2022); *Schön genau*, Sammlung Kunstmuseum Heidenheim, Heidenheim (2022); *MISA Discoveries*, König Galerie, Berlin (2021); *WABI-SABI*, Kristinhjellegjerde Galerie, London (2021) and *Dirimart Presents VIII*, Dirimart, Izmir (2021). Aky's works are included in significant collections such as Kunstmuseum Heidenheim in Heidenheim an der Brenz, Bauverein AG in Darmstadt, and Regierungspräsidium in Karlsruhe. Çiğdem Aky lives and works in Düsseldorf.