

DIRIMART DOLAPDERE

SURFACE AND BEYOND

MAY 26 – JULY 30, 2016

Franz Ackermann

Haluk Akakçe

Autoban

Ayşe Erkmen

Bernard Frize

Isaac Julien

Sarah Morris

Shirin Neshat

Eva Rothschild

Tomás Saraceno

Ebru Uygun

Curator

Heinz Peter Schwerfel

Istanbul's contemporary art scene continues to flourish. New exhibition spaces, galleries, and museums continue to emerge. This May, Dirimart, one of the leading forces in the Turkish art scene has opened a second gallery in Istanbul's Dolapdere area. Designed by architect Markus Dochantschi, founder of Studio MDA, New York, this new space spreads over 1000 sqm, including the offices and an outdoor sculpture garden.

Surface and Beyond, the inaugural group exhibition on view through July 30 will present well-known international and Turkish contemporary artists. All artworks, be it painting, sculpture, or film, invite the viewer on a visual journey beyond the surface. Whereas the concept of the 'exposed surface' is investigated from various perspectives, the works feature political, social, and religious subtexts beneath their surface.

Franz Ackermann (b. 1963), combines photographic souvenirs and abstract forms into large-scale paintings, thus opening up a two-dimensional space on canvas, where the mind and the physical world can meet. **Bernard Frize** (b. 1954) a recent winner of the prestigious Käthe-Kollwitz Prize, seems to sculpt color in his radically abstract and flat paintings. On the other hand, New York-based artist **Sarah Morris** (b. 1967) translates urban life into geometric coloured fragments, which seem to deconstruct the flatness of the canvas. In addition, Morris's film *Rio* (2012) from the film series where she combines images of metropolises without a cohesive dialogue is also on view. **Ebru Uygun** (b. 1974) challenges the canvas too. The artist destroys the surface of the painted canvas by breaking it aggressively into plights, in a process that is physically strenuous, and creates a strong three-dimensional effect through wave-like yet indefinite, abstract structures.

Shirin Neshat's (b. 1957) triptych of photos, tells the moving stories of the people captured through meticulously written texts as well as the photography itself, conveying realism, immediacy, and a sense of drama. **Isaac Julien** (b. 1960) presents a highly conceptual formal language to evoke problematic issues in political or social realms, touching on topics such as migration and homosexuality, interlinking them with museology, popular cinema, and modernist architecture. A letter of the pioneering modernist architect Lina Bo Bardi, known for her research on stones and crystals, inspires the series that includes the large-scale photographs in the exhibition, *Echo* (2015), and *Stones Against Diamonds* (2015). Shot in ice caves of sub-zero temperature, Julien has the acting model Vanessa Myria in front of the camera as a spiritual guide. Integrating geometric and organic forms in his vibrant works, **Haluk Akakçe** (b. 1970) explicates the affect of technology on time and space, and occasionally on society.

London-based Irish artist **Eva Rothschild** (b. 1972) displays the use of unusual materials. In the two-meter sculpture, *The Xs and Ys* (2014), she combines resin and wool in a steel frame that, from a distance, resembles a black monochrome painting. Working across various media, **Ayşe Erkmen** (b. 1949) will present a large-scale floor piece and a relief from her *Pantone* series. Berlin-based Argentine artist **Tomás Saraceno's** (b. 1973) sculpture will be transporting reflective light into the grand gallery space. Finally, Istanbul-based designer duo **Autoban** (est. 2003), known for their artistic furniture, are presenting a voluminous marble sculpture designed for Dirimart Dolapdere.