

Yüksel Arslan

Sui generis

MARCH 9–APRIL 2, 2023

DIRIMART DOLAPDERE



Arture 326, *Influences (B)-54* (Y. Ritsos)
1984
Mixed media on paper
30 x 21 cm

Sui generis is a Latin phrase that means “of its/their own kind”, “in a class by itself”, therefore “unique”. Creative arts, for artistic works that go beyond conventional genre boundaries.

It is futile to attempt to register Yüksel Arslan’s works in art historical methodologies; not by its contents nor its materials and neither their intentions. He found ways around classical categories to arrive at those that now come to be extremely personal to his works. He used words and materials that translated his understanding of the world and the large body of work which he arranged according to and in parallel with his life go beyond conventional genre boundaries.

To understand those categories, one must understand Arslan’s approach to artmaking. A skilled and absolute reader, in his student years Arslan sought refuge in world classics. His earliest drawings depicting curious animals and insects were exhibited in 1954 and the sales generated income which he then spent on more books. This would be repeated many times over in his 60 year long career. He would return to drawing to satisfy his thirst for reading. His readings were then transformed into his subjects and to categorize his knowledge, he sought to define these works on paper and combining the word “art” and the French affix “-ure,” they were named “arture” in 1961. As an artist by the book in the most literal sense, he referred to a book of painting from Anatolia to generate dyes by ancient recipes that lasted over centuries on paper. Contrary to technologies that advanced paints such as oil, the recipes called for soap flakes, herbs, tobacco, tea leaf juices, soil, honey, egg white, fat, bone marrow, urine and blood. Those tried-and-true materials allowed for his understanding of the world to be engraved on paper.

Arslan’s earliest works, before they had been named artures, attracted the attention of the surrealist painter André Breton and he was invited to participate in the International Surrealism Exhibition curated around the theme of eroticism. Arslan responded the call from Paris and moved in 1961 to live and work there until he passed in 2017. The content of the first of seven major arture series were laid by the readings of the *Capital* by Karl Marx; images chockablock with fat, grasping capitalists and lumpen factory workers. After his *Capital* and *Updating Capital* series, he began *Influences* and *New Influences* series based on his readings of philosophers such as René Descartes, Friedrich Nietzsche, Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and poets Walt Whitman, Charles Baudelaire, Samuel Beckett, and many others. *Man* series include pseudoscientific drawings of eyes, testicles, breasts and penises; various creatures copulating and hybrids of men and insects; dalliances with mysticism.



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At the time of his death Arslan had created than 700 artures in his lifetime, and will be remembered for his encyclopedic range of subject matter—botany, ethnology, economics, urban architecture, politics, autobiography, history, fantasy—in a genre uniquely his own, “between painting and writing, between painting and poetry.”

The exhibition bring together works from those distinct series and the memory of this great artist is recalled into the gallery space. Whether discovering the *Sui generis*, stone-cold-original Yüksel Arslan for the first time or a moment for reuniting, his extraordinary vision will be on view until the 2nd of April.

Yüksel Arslan (1933, Istanbul – 2017, Paris) studied Art History at Istanbul University, then started to paint. In 1961, he moved to Paris upon the invitation of art dealer Raymond Cordier, where he created the *Homunculus-cucus-palus* and the *Planus-phallus-micrococcus* series. In 1968, he settled in Paris for the second time; during this period, he focused on artures based on his readings on Marx, Engels, Nietzsche, and Freud. In 1975, he completed his *Capital* (1967) series. This was the first of his series to be compiled in a book; followed in the 1980's by *Influences*, *Auto-Artures*, and *Human*. Apart from Paris, his works were exhibited in various French cities such as Sarcelles, Rennes, and Nice, as well as Kunsthalle Wien, Kunsthalle Zürich, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Drawing Center New York, and Venice Biennale, to name few. In 2009, Yüksel Arslan Retrospective was held in Santralistanbul Energy Museum. *Human* was published as three volumes in 1990, 1995, and 1999. He was working on *Human*, the series he designated as his legacy, in his studio in Paris in his final days.

For detailed information please contact the gallery at info@dirimart.com or +90 212 232 66 66. All images are subject to copyright, gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.



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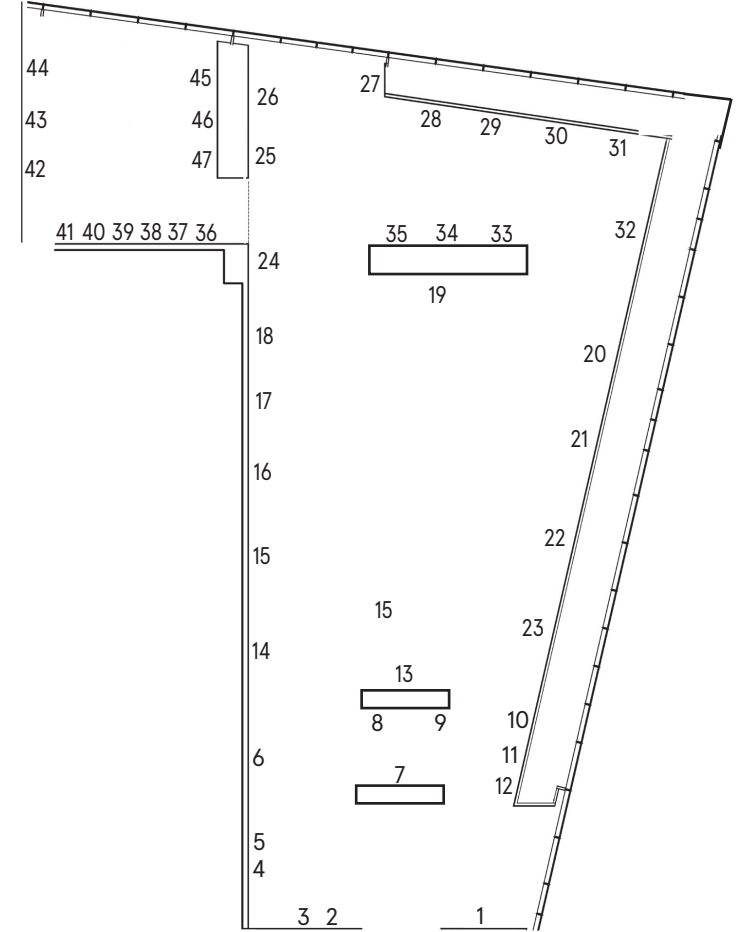
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Yüksel Arslan

Sui generis

March 9 Mart-April 2 Nisan

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1 İsimsiz
<i>Untitled</i>
1965
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
74 x 80 cm | 7 Arture 22
1969
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
62 x 68 cm | 13 Arture 128, MARX
1968
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
67 x 61.5 cm | | |
| 2 Fallizm
<i>Phallisme</i>
1958
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
52.5 x 37.5 cm | 8 Arture 25
1963
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
84.5 x 92 cm | 14 Arture 171, Kapital XX
<i>Arture 171, Capital XX</i>
1973
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
75 x 150 cm | | |
| 3
-
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
57 x 44 cm | 9 Nous Artslandrons
1962
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
65.5 x 101.5 cm | 15 Arture 150, Kapital II
<i>Arture 150, Capital II</i>
1970
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
96.5 x 141.5 cm | | |
| 4 Autoartures 142
-
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
47 x 37.5 | 10 Arture 347, Autoartures XVIII
1985
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
47 x 58 cm | 16 Arture 164, Kapital XIV
<i>Arture 164, Capital XIV</i>
1972
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
95.5 x 140 cm | | |
| 5 Arture 120
1968
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
60 x 90 cm | 11 Arture 339, Autoartures X
(Marquis de Sade ve Le Comte de Phallus)
1985
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i> | 17 Arture 177, Kapital XXIV A
<i>Arture 177, Capital XXIV A</i>
1974
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
85 x 89 cm | | |
| 6 Arture 110
1967
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
82 x 32 cm | 12 AutoArtures III 332,
Premiere souvenir
1984
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
62 x 133 x 6 cm | 18 Arture 182
1976
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
65 x 98.5 cm | 19 Arture 175, Kapital XXIII
<i>Arture 175, Capital XXIII</i>
1974
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
98.5 x 136 cm | 20 Arture 158, Kapital VI
<i>Arture 158, Capital VI</i>
1971
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
<i>Mixed media on paper</i>
102 x 136 cm |



- 21 Arture 155, Kapital V
Arture 155, Capital V
1970
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
88 x 130 cm
- 22 Arture 131
1968
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
102 x 135 cm
- 23 Arture 1976, Kapital XXIV A
1974
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
50 x 46 cm
- 24 Arture 518, İnsan 159
Arture 518, Man 159
1998
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
56.5 x 49.5 cm
- 25 Arture 465, İnsan 106
Arture 465, Man 106
1996
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
98 x 136.5 cm
- 26 Arture 514, İnsan 155, Şizofreniler
Arture 514, Man 155, Schizophrenics
1995
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
51 x 57.5 cm
- 27 Arture 453, İnsan 94: Şizofreniler
Arture 453, Man 94: Schizophrenics
1995
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
51 x 57.5 cm
- 28 Arture 390, İnsan XXXI: Onanistan
Arture 390, Man XXXI: Onanistan
1988
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
72 x 111 cm
- 29 Arture 401 L'Homme XLII
1989
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
64 x 130 cm
- 30 Arture 500, İnsan 141
Arture 500, Man 141
1988
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
58.5 x 116 cm
- 31 Arture 528, İnsan 169
Arture 528, Man 169
1999
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
56 x 98.5 cm
- 32 Arture 380, İnsan XXI
Arture 380, Man XXI
1987
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
52 x 76 cm
- 33 Arture 464
1996
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
71.5 x 107 cm
- 34 Arture 471
1996
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
75 x 92.5 cm
- 35 Arture 407, İnsan XLVII: Sizofrenler
Arture 407, Man XLVII: Schizophrenics
1988
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
66 x 106 cm
- 36 Arture 289, Etkiler (B)
Arture 289, Influences (B)
1983
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
57 x 44 cm
- 37 Arture 231, Etkiler (A) - 10 İkincil Etkiler I
Arture 231, Influences (A) - Secondary Influences
1981
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
- 38 Arture 558, Torquato TASSO
2002
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
55.5 x 46.5 cm
- 39 Arture 563, A. Strindberg (Via dolorosa)
2022
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
56.5 x 51.5 cm
- 40 Arture 565, Thomas Bernhard
2002
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
56.5 x 61 cm
- 41 Arture 570, Bruno Schulz
2003
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
59 x 74
- 42 Arture 564, Georg Büchner ve J.M.
Reinhold Lenz
2002
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
56.5 x 76.5 cm
- 43 Arture 590, Allen Ginsberg
2004
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
33 x 56 cm
- 44 Arture 597, Walseries
2005
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
30 x 22.7 cm
- 45 Arture 238, Etkiler (A) 19 - Leoš Janáček
Arture 238, Influences (A) 19 - Leoš Janáček
2005
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
30 x 22.7 cm
- 46 Arture 262, Etkiler (B) 8c - Rabelais et les Agélastes
Arture 262, Influences (B) 8c - Rabelais et les Agélastes
2005
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
60 x 50 cm
- 47 Arture 278, Etki
Arture 278, Influence
1982
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
40 x 30 cm
- 48 Arture 326
1984
Kâğıt üzerine karışık teknik
Mixed media on paper
40 x 30.7 cm