

DIRIMART

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 23, 2014

**NURİ BİLGE
CEYLAN**

About Looking



Spider Man, 2011

Dirimart is delighted to host Nuri Bilge Ceylan with his solo exhibition of photography, *About Looking*, curated by Heinz Peter Schwerfel between 25 November – 23 December. There is a selection in the exhibition from the artist's works from 2003 until today.

When Nuri Bilge Ceylan portrays people by staging them inside a perfectly ordered, panoramic environment, they seem to look back into his camera – still it's him who decides how their look looks. Sometimes they seem curious, sometimes proud, sometimes sad or resigned. But it's always their look back at the camera that forces us to keep them in mind, to wonder who they might be, what they might think. But we will never know, for the expression on their face is ambivalent, a mixture of different moods and feelings – the human soul consists of many levels.

Art is all 'about looking', as John Berger wrote in his famous book, with the same title. So is photography. Ceylan celebrates the complexity of life and layers of meaning in his photographs -as well as his films- and his strong narrative in capturing his protagonists reveals his talent in being beyond any specific environment, culture or history. The selection in the exhibition depicts how Ceylan within a "frozen moment" looks at the world.

Born in Istanbul on January 26, 1959. Having graduated from the Department of Electrical Engineering at Boğaziçi University, İstanbul, he studied cinema at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University for two years. After a short film entitled Cocoon in 1995, his Small Town and Clouds of May were screened at the Berlin Film Festival. With his subsequent films Distant, Climates, Three Monkeys and Once Upon a Time in Anatolia, he won the Grand Jury Prize (twice), Best Director, Best Actor and the FIPRESCI Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. His latest film Winter Sleep (2014) received the Palme d'Or, the highest prize awarded at the festival. Ceylan, who started photography during his high school years had paused for about a decade after the university, until when he was in search of a location for his film, Climates. Ever since then, he began devoting his time to pursuing both cinema and photography with equal passion.

