

UTKU VARLIK

ILLUSION

June 15th - August 28th, 2020

Bozlu Art Project Mongeri Building

The Bozlu Art Project Mongeri Building will host Utku Varlık's exhibition "Illusion" from June 15th - August 28th, 2020. Allowing his illusions to take charge, Varlık opens a window in his paintings to those who believe "True reality is only in dreams" as in Baudelaire. This exhibition by Varlık, who says "The window I slip through at night opens out to infinity, facing the North Star, with a view of a playground in the day, where children play..." is in fact a poem to escape a world "devoid of dreams".

Utku Varlık's exhibit titled "Illusion" is a nod to writers and poets who have left a mark on him. He starts out with a quote by Rilke: "And what a melancholy beauty came to women when they were pregnant, and stood, their slender hands involuntarily resting on their big bodies which bore two fruits: a child and a death. And that tight, almost nourishing smile that took over their faces, didn't it sometimes come from sensing that both were growing?"

Saying "Illusion is a phenomenon that defines my painting; a narrator of all 'spiritual' journeys I've undertaken in my life – like the many meanings of the mystery of humanity," Varlık invites his audience into his "garden of illusions" nourished by various fields ranging from poetry to prose to cinema.

Visitors of the exhibition to take place between June 15th - August 28th, 2020 shall also be able to view the exhibition video incorporating certain images from the short film Utku Varlık made in collaboration with Necati Ayden in 1964 based on Rilke's "The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge".

Utku Varlık

Utku Varlık was born in 1942 in Bolu, Turkey. He started the Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Painting in 1961. He studied painting in the studio of the Bedri Rahmi Eyuboglu and trained engraving and lithography in the workshop of the Sabri Berkel. Being graduated from the Academy in 1966, he went to Paris on a state scholarship in 1970. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris under George Dayez from 1971 to 1974 and he studied lithography in Cachan Studio. His first exhibition was in 1965 in Geneva, then Utku Varlık, opens exhibitions in Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Salzburg, Munich, Cologne, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Cannes, Lyon and Paris on regular basis. Studies in Paris since 1975, works of Utku Varlık represented in Istanbul and Ankara State Painting and Sculpture Museums, in the collections of the Central Bank and Türkiye İş Bank, United States of America Ben and Abey Gray Foundation, Mayor of Paris, and Paris National Library and Lyon Museum. Utku Varlık forms his figures with expressionist narrative format during the early life of art, although he has been inspired from political life of 1960s and 1970s, continued to use this form of expression. Artist, moved away from expressive narration and social issues after 1975, has been directed towards an imaginary form of expression. Figures for artist, a continuous and living element of nature which is one of the prime and, the reflection is found in nature.

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