

Conversation with Hayal Incedođan¹ *Finansbankprivate.com* art page website and *Finansbankprivate* magazine for the month of November, in an interview with Didem Yazıcı

Your Paintings narrates their own modest stories with literal, restrained and fine aesthetic values. They have the elegance of ‘girl with the pearl earring’ and the responsibility of the conceptual art. What made you paint those abstracted minimal moments?

Painting is actually an attempt to validate your existence in a different way. I think that art can never be perceived apart from the life itself. Like most artists do, I see painting as a tool in order to express my living experiences. Regarding these experiences, I abstract concepts and forms and try to express them in the language of painting. There are always things that motivate me; the music that I listen to, lyrics of a song, the films that I see, a character or just an ordinary detail that I come across with in my daily life inspire my art works.

By setting specific moments, you design emotions that can be experienced by anyone and recreate them. Flying birds, heave of the sea, forest crowd, or water drops... Transforming emotions into an artistic practice through nature is a common approach in art history. It refers to the most pure state of art...

When you are in front of an empty canvas, with a desire of being there you become its master and slave at the same time. This process reminds me the attitude of romanticists towards the solitude of human being by the grace of nature. Paintings can turn upon themselves and become a separate existence as they get deepened. In my opinion, the tension between the point that you let the painting possess you and the point where you possess it qualifies whether it is good or not. To me that moment is sort of a ritual or a war however even if it's you who might get defeated, actually it doesn't mean that you lose it all the time.

Your watercolor paintings create more abstract and repetitive dialogues and series than the oil paintings and acrylic ones. Could you tell us about the effect of using different materials in your art?

Watercolor paintings are my first works that emerged during my bachelor years. They are abstracted and colorful paintings which are derived from some of the photographs that I took. I stopped painting, when I believed that they brought me to a certain period and selected 20 or 25 of them amongst and framed them. They have an importance in terms of leading me in my own progress. Every single material is an experience you gain for the sake of seeing the limits and the possibilities. It also shows me how to variously find a way to express the emotions or the ideas that I work on. The transitional and probabilistic structure of art has a side that supports my practice.

By 2007 you completed a residency program at one of the leading art institutions, New York School of Visual Arts, at the department of Painting and Mixed Media, along with an open studio exhibition. Could you tell us about this experience?

In a place like New York, colorful, multinational and having wide artistic expansion, It's very important just being there even if only to experience and observe. At the School of Visual Arts, I prepared some installations that I've never experienced before which I made references to canvas works. I had already designed the project before I went there. From the beginning of my journey, I took photographs every single day as if keeping a diary. I exhibited a led board with sound codes and an installation with photographs for the 'Open Studio'. The Form and content of this work has been an inspiration for my further projects.

¹ *Finansbankprivate.com* art page website and *Finansbankprivate* magazine for the month of November, in an interview with Didem Yazıcı
(<http://www.finansbankprivate.com.tr/en-IE/Content/Details/sanat/sanat-soylesi/300/hayal-incedogan>)

You told me about your working methods when I visited your studio. Sometimes you are inspired by a family souvenir or a vintage photograph that you come across...

Yes, my works derives from life and its particulars. For this reason, whether they belong to me or not, I can study a photograph for hours, or listen to a memory that might sound ordinary for others without getting bored. Sometimes I run into those things coincidentally... For instance, at the beginning of this summer, I was walking around the flea market in Berlin. While I was browsing some books in a Russian bookstore, I found couple of photos. Sometimes you hear a lyric of a song or a sentence from a book which defines something that you could never have put into words... It excites and calms you down... Those photographs had the similar effect on me, and corresponded my current reality then. I felt as if they already belonged to me... I bought them and I'm currently doing an artwork on those photographs.

Most of all, your canvas paintings are large scaled, eyeeful and pleasant to see. According to my researches so far you have no paintings that are haven't been sold. How does this attention of collectors and art lovers reflect your art?

Through a painting and personal experiences, everyone can come to a head where there are several different connotations. The fact that the paintings that are based on my personal history as well as conceptualised and interiorised by myself drawing interest shows that the audience finds something for themselves, and the things I like and care for are being shared and this soothes the solitude I feel when I paint. I can say that I'm on the right track if I can catch a similar state of mind or a perspective at some point along with the audience and I guess this means we can establish a dialogue with each other.

You're in the middle of a sophisticated working process.. What awaits us in your upcoming projects?

The exhibition that I am planning for the next year will be my first solo show. In a slow and spontaneous process, I think there is going to be an expansion about expressing myself and everything I built up until now. I continue to produce paintings mostly, however there will be an exhibition that I'll compose with different sets of materials that I haven't experienced before. I'm taking notes, observing and saving up, that's how it developes. It's going to be a surprise, even for me.

Translation by Didem Yazıcı