

GALERIE PARIS-BEIJING

# MEHMET ALI UYSAL

*CONCRETE SOLUTIONS (to your most abstract problems)*

CURATED BY YANN PERREAU

Exhibition 08.09 | 29.10.16

Opening 08.09.16

# MEHMET ALI UYSAL

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS (to your most abstract problems)

CURATED BY YANN PERREAU

Solo exhibition from September 8<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

Opening on Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm in the presence of the artist and the curator

Press preview from 4:00 pm

Over the last few years, Galerie Paris-Beijing has been exploring the axis linking Europe to Asia, Paris to Beijing. On its way it knew precisely where to stop: Turkey, a country where the two continents meet. Since the beginning of the century, Istanbul has become a platform for a both innovating and dynamic art scene, of which Mehmet Ali Uysal is undoubtedly one of the most respected figures.

Can we represent time? Can we stop it, freeze it in an instant? Do we perceive space correctly? These unsolvable, metaphysical questions often cross our minds when facing a work of art. Uysal's artistic practice gives perceptible existence to those thoughts. What role exactly does the artist play, in the process of creating an artwork? Such as Don Quixote facing the windmills, he defies the laws of nature through his sculptures, videos and installations. He materializes notions that are theoretically impossible to represent. He twists, shapes, distorts reality, bringing it beyond its boundaries. He offers concrete solutions to abstract problems.

The artist is renowned for his ability to subvert time and space : "Space, as we perceive it, is an illusion, he says. Our eyes only allow us to reconstitute reality in two dimensions, and it is through movement that we grasp the third one. Space is not really something we can see. We feel it".

His large-scale installations are shaped from the specificity of each environment they are created for, hence deconstructing our preconceptions. Starting with an allegory, a crashed airplane, this exhibition takes us on another planet, defies our perception of the world, its weight, gravitation, matter, finally revealing itself for what it truly is. We are no longer lured by our senses, as if this well-known sixth one (kinesthesia as scientists call it) was added to the five canonical ones. This more suitable form of sensitivity that the artist creates allows us to feel everything around us.

With the *Peel* series (2012) the gallery walls became the artwork. Here Uysal goes one step further: the gallery space becomes the author. The artist steps aside to let the walls, their materials, the specific setting of the space express themselves.

This exhibition is also a tribute to the artist's relationship with France, a country he knows well. It can be seen as a subtle and irreverent homage to Cartesianism. In 2008, Mehmet Ali Uysal was artist-in-residence at the Cité International des Arts. He exhibited a large-scale installation in Lorraine (*Skin, Vent des forêts*).

Yann Perreau

*Yann Perreau is a French art critic, author and curator. After being fascinated by the Young British Artists in London, he moved to California, where he founded the gallery Here is Elsewhere exhibiting artists such as Niki de Saint Phalle, Larry Bell, Théo Mercier, etc... and taking part of L.A. bustling art scene. In 2014, he literally and figuratively became infatuated with Turkey, where he married. In 2015, he organized Mehmet Ali Uysal's solo show in Ankara (Specific Gravity, M1886 Gallery). Yann Perreau is a regular contributor to Art Press, Beaux-Arts magazine, Les Inrockuptibles, Libération, France Culture, etc... He is also the author of three books, among which, the upcoming Incognito Ergo Sum (Grasset 2017).*



*Peel, 2012*  
*Views of Peel exhibition at Nesrin Esirtgen Collection*



*Untitled, 2015*  
*Video, variable dimensions*



*Peel, 2016*  
*Digital mock-up, Installation for Galerie Paris-Beijing*

# MEHMET ALI UYSAL

Born in 1976, lives and works in Ankara, where he teaches at the Middle Eastern Technical University

2009 Hacettepe University, PhD, Department of Sculpture, Faculty of Fine Arts, Ankara

2008 Exchange Programm, Ecole Nationale Superieure d'Art de Bourges



## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016

Hi!, Sapar Contemporary, New-York, USA

2015

Specific Gravity, M 1886, Ankara, Turkey

BLOCK, Pi Artworks, London, United Kingdom

2014

The Past, Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China

2013

Pinch me awake, Stiftung Starke, Berlin, Germany

Painting, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey

Art Basel Hong Kong, Pi Artworks, Hong Kong

2012

Peel, Nesrin Esirtgen Collection, Istanbul, Turkey

2011

Malist, Q Contemporary, Beirut, Lebanon

Mist, Etemad Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2010

Tebdilibeden, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey

Suspended, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey

2008

Ex-libris, Galerie Eigenheim, Weimar, Germany

2007

Aesthetics Bridging Cultures, XVII International Congress of Aesthetics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

2005

Tebdilimekan, Tepe Contemporary Art Space, Istanbul, Turkey

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014

15th METU Art Festival, Ankara, Turkey

2013

Contemporary Istanbul'13, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey

ArtInternational Istanbul, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey

2012

Eyeballing, Ankara Contemporary Arts Center, Ankara, Turkey  
Contemporary Istanbul'12, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey  
M 1886 Art Projects, Ankara, Turkey  
Pi @ Q, Q Contemporary, Beirut, Lebanon  
Figure Out, Art Sawa, Dubai, UAE  
Art Dubai, Pi Artworks, Dubai, UAE

2011

Contemporary Istanbul'11, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey  
Trade Routes, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey  
If the Nature is Heaven the City is Hell, Cer Modern, Ankara, Turkey

2010

Contemporary Istanbul'10, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey  
Floating Volumes, 5533, Istanbul, Turkey  
Floating Volumes, Frise, Hamburg, Germany  
White Out, Kunsthaus Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany  
Festival Cinq Saisons, Chaudfontaine, Belgium  
Mardin Biennial, Mardin, Turkey  
Faso Fiso, Cer Modern, Ankara, Turkey  
Cer Modern Opening Exhibition, Ankara, Turkey  
Out of Context, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey

2009

St-art, 14th European Contemporary Art Fair, Strasbourg, France  
Temporary Harassment, Istanbul 2010 Portable Art Project, Istanbul, Turkey  
Good, Bad, Ugly, Contemporary Art Center, Ankara, Turkey  
In search of lost reality: nevgeneration, Galery Nev, Ankara, Turkey

2008

Cruise Experiences, Contemporary Art Center, Ankara, Turkey  
Truths and Mirages, video exhibition, Sofia, Bulgaria  
Jeune Creation, Grand Hall de La Villette, Paris, France  
Sometime, Somewhere, Daire Sanat, Istanbul, Turkey  
Le Vent Des Forets, the Contemporary Art Residency, Meuse, France  
Art Is My Playground, Kucuk Ciftlik Eglence Park, Istanbul, Turkey

2007

Gercekci ol, imkansizi talep et! / Be a Realist, Demand the Impossible! (Curated by Halil Altindere), Karsi Sanat Calismalari, Istanbul, Turkey  
Galeri İçine Karık Teknik (Mixed Media in a Gallery), Pyramid Sanat, Istanbul, Turkey  
Recalls - Reminders, Galerist, Istanbul, Turkey  
Art and Money, Siemens Sanat, Istanbul, Turkey

2006

Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey  
So Far Away From Here, public space project, Haydarpasa Train Station, Istanbul, Turkey and Ankara Train Station, Ankara, Turkey  
16th TUYAP Art Fair, Istanbul, Turkey  
Golyazi Project, Artist Residency Project, Bursa, Turkey  
Contemporary Art Exhibition, Incheon, South Korea  
Hacettepe University Exhibition, Contemporary Art Center, Ankara, Turkey  
Anarchy, Gazi University Art Gallery, Ankara, Turkey

2005

24th Contemporary Artists Exhibition, with Jury Special Award, Aksanat, Istanbul, Turkey  
Sculpture exhibition, Gallery Concept, Ankara, Turkey  
Familiarization with the Art and Culture of Europe Project, Multicultural Identity: Cultural Heritage, Art, Image, Contemporary Art Center, Ankara, Turkey

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If you would like to assist at the press review, please, confirm your presence to  
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We remain at your entire disposal should you need any further high-images of  
any interviews request.



2004

Unreal Realities, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey  
5th Hasanoglan Art Festival Exhibition, Contemporary Art Center, Ankara, Turkey

1998

Angora Art Exhibition, Angora Evleri, Ankara, Turkey  
Sculpture exhibition, METU Cultural and Convention Center Art Gallery, Ankara, Turkey

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

City of Umea Public Collection (2014 Culture Capital of Europe), Sweden

Audi Collection (Audi Bank Lebanon) Beirut, Lebanon

Golden Harvest Group Art Collection, India

Samdani Art Foundation, Bangladesh

Vehbi Koç Foundation Collection, Turkey

Ozyegin University Collection, Turkey

Le Vent Des Forets Festival Public Collection, Meuse, France

Chaufontaine Parks Public Collection, Liege, Belgium