



## **PI @ Q**

**May-10-2012  
7 pm**

Q Contemporary is hosting one of the most prominent contemporary art Galleries of Istanbul: Pi Artworks. Founded in 1998 Pi grew to represent and launch some of the most stellar Turkish artists on the international art scene. The gallery has 2 branches in Istanbul. Pi Artworks Tophane and Pi Artworks Galatasaray. Owner and director Yesim Turanlı, is also one of the founders of Istanbul Art Museum Foundation.

Turanli have selected strong representative works and artists to organize a show in Beirut. This show features internationally recognized, established artists and younger emerging artists known for their unorthodox practices of pushing the boundaries of art perception. Two artists will be working in residence. Namely Volkan Aslan and Mehmet Ali Uysal, they will produce new works in the art space of Q Contemporary the week previous to the opening of the show. During their residency there will be a possibility to meet and greet with the artists in person and discover their work in progress.

Due to its current modernization and the Turkish rich cultural heritage, today Turkey is once again home to an extraordinarily vibrant contemporary art scene. The Turkish contemporary movement is considered one of the most promising and rewarding art scenes at the moment.

Q Contemporary, Beirut's leading cutting edge art space, has established itself as an art lover destination since opening its doors two years ago.

The exhibition will run till June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012.

### **Q Contemporary**

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## **Mehmet Ali Uysal**

Mehmet Ali Uysal was born in Mersin in 1976. In Mehmet Ali Uysal's works, space is a major factor. Making the invisible visible, by interconnecting art and its' context. He reveals the space that surrounds the artwork and seals it from the outer world. The walls of the gallery become porous and are not longer a limitation. They become part of the work. The artist gives the spectator the chance to experience space and its' emptiness, which constitutes the work and its' place of exhibition. Mehmet Ali Uysal researches art and its context. The place of the work is the reason and cause for creating the work. In the end, the gallery space becomes part of the artwork, its material, form and content. The context becomes the content.

## **Volkan Aslan**

Born in Turkey, 1982. Volkan Aslan, one of the most important visual artists of the young contemporary scene, became known for of his interdisciplinary and inter-medial strategies, in which a balance between aesthetic and concept as well as an individual connection of poetics with politics, emotion with ratio, irony with analysis, and humor with critique create the basis for his review of art, its institutionalized context as well as current socio-political discussions. Early in his career, he ironically yet critically investigated structures within the art system in Turkey. Aslan's artistic strategy is both conceptual and socially critical, gives the paintings a beautiful harmony between being concrete and abstract as well as stabile and fragile.

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## **Nancy Atakan**

Nancy Atakan is an American/Turkish artist who has lived and worked in Istanbul since 1969. Starting her career as a painter, in the early 1990s she adapted an interdisciplinary/inter-medial approach, began to make videos and to use texts and photography in her work. Using an analytical autobiographical as well as a poetic fictional approach, she also adheres to the ideas of relational aesthetic artwork as defined by Nicolas Bourriaud. For her, working towards a PhD in art history, writing a thesis on conceptual art, writing a book entitled *Searching for Alternatives to Painting and Sculpture* (1998), writing articles about art, teaching art, coordinating art projects, making artworks, and transferring her analytical or critical thoughts into digital prints, videos, texts or books are all part of her art practice.

## **Mustafa Horasan**

Mustafa Horasan was born in Aydin in 1965. He studied at the Department of Graphics, Marmara University, and currently teaches in the Fine Art Faculty of Yeditepe University. Horasan works in a variety of media, including oil paint, watercolor, crayon, ink and video – often he uses several of these in a single work. The proliferation of techniques – blurring, smudging, erasing, delineating, outlining is accompanied by a proliferation of imagery. Animals, grimacing faces, cut-away views, and all manner of patterns are overlaid, superimposed. And where these different planes collide and overlap, new spaces and new associations emerge. The tone is most often dark, confused, even macabre, yet always intriguing. For Horasan the human body is interesting as something both subject to pain and torture and also capable of inflicting it. This depth has made Horasan a mainstay of the Turkish painting world.

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## **Neslihan Karaagac**

Born in Izmir, 1972. Graduated from Bosphorus University, Department of Guidance and Counselling in 1996. Neslihan creates energetic unique works with pouring, dropping and spilling techniques around her composition schemes. Her works on PVC are produced at the end of a long process as a combination of both controllable and uncontrollable factors. The artist, who studied psychology, takes us to our subconscious world in guidance of colors and stains by transferring and expressing emotions. She refers to the shadows of consciousness, life and moreover to the shadows of universe and creation.

## **Irfan Onurmen**

Irfan Onurmen was born in Bursa in 1958. He studied at Mimar Sinan University and graduated in 1987. His oeuvre consists of paintings and drawings on canvas, newspaper and tulle as well as installations, in which objects made of pages from daily newspapers critics current issues such as war and terrorism. In general, his works critically analyses our current state of society through presentation in the media. He is especially concerned with common, ordinary, everyday life where anonymous figures struggle to get along inside the chaos of the heterogeneous urban environment that surrounds them. Since the late 1980's, Onurmen creates paintings on canvas, where fragmented images of faceless protagonists invite the spectator to actively complete the work in order to become part of the scene.

## **Nejat Sati**

Born in Izmir, 1982. After graduating from the faculty of fine arts in 2004, his works have been exhibited in group exhibitions besides art fairs and his solo exhibitions. Nejat joined to "Free Kick" exhibition held within the 9<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial (2005). Between the years 2010-2012 he participated in the residency program at Borusan Art Center, Istanbul.

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