

ELIF URAS

Born in 1972 in Ankara, Turkey
Lives and works in New York

Bio

Elif Uras was born in Ankara, Turkey. She attended Brown University and Columbia Law School before receiving a BFA from the School of Visual Arts and an MFA from Columbia School of the Arts. She lives between New York and Istanbul.

Elif Uras' paintings and ceramic sculptures merge traditional nonfigurative Ottoman Turkish motifs and Western art historical references. Her hand-painted ceramic sculptures depict narrative-driven imagery reminiscent of giant miniatures. In these, she constructs fantastic spaces executed with a synthesis of Surrealist imagery and arabesque motifs that allude to the conflict between modernity and tradition. Contemporary issues, cultural commentary and historical references are depicted with a traditional Iznik colour palette of blue, black, green and red on a white ground, further highlighting her concerns.

Uras is inspired by the feminine condition across cultures and explores ideas such as the status of women in the East-West conflict paradigm and

shifting gender and class structures in a globalized world. She combines the non-figurative visual vocabulary of traditional Iznik, intricate geometric and naturalistic patterns, with sensuous sculptures and depictions of the female body; subverting the shape of traditional vessels and alluding to ideas of femininity and gender roles.

The production process is important to Uras who produces her fine stone-paste ceramics on location in Iznik itself, the historical centre of ceramic production during the Ottoman Empire. Traditional Iznik ceramics reflected the patriarchy of Turkish society, with male artists and craftspeople producing work that adorned the walls of spaces mostly limited to men. Today in Iznik women are dominant in both the management and labor of ceramic production, a pattern that parallels Uras' work and inspiration.

Uras has exhibited across the US, Istanbul and Copenhagen, and is currently exhibiting a solo show at The Aldrich Museum in New York.

CV

Education

2003 MFA, Columbia University School of the Arts, New York
2001 BFA, School of Visual Arts, New York
1997 JD, Columbia University School of Law, New York
1994 BA, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Solo Exhibitions

2015 Nicaea, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Connecticut
2011 Solo Presentation, *Armory Show*, New York
2009 Panorama Pasajı/Panorama Arcade, Galerist, Istanbul
2008 Drawing Disconnect, Kirkhoff, Copenhagen
2007 The Occidentalist, Smith-Stewart, New York
2006 Industry, Gavlak, West Palm Beach
2005 Redland, Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston
2004 Ne Istersen Iste / *What You Want*, Galerist, Istanbul
2004 Private Collection, Kenny Schachter ROVE, New York

Group Exhibitions

- 2014 Aklimda bir Delilik Var/There is Madness in My Mind, CerModern, Ankara
2014 Closest Distance, Galerist, Istanbul
2013 2Q13, Women Artists, Women Collectors, Lloyds Club, London
2013 The Sublime Porte: An Exhibition of Contemporary Turkish Art, St. John's University, New York
2012 9th Shanghai Biennale, Istanbul Pavillion, Power Station of Art, Shanghai
2012 Encounter: The Royal Academy in Middle East, Katara Cultural Village, Doha, Qatar
2012 Le Jardin de la Speculation Cosmique, curated by Fatoş Üstek, Galerist, Istanbul
2012 The End is Also the Beginning, curated by Peter Hristoff, C.A.M. Gallery, Istanbul
2012 Campaign, curated by Amy-Smith Stewart, C24 Gallery, New York
2011 Paul Clay, Salon 94, New York
2011 The Influentials: SVA Women Alumni Invite Artists Who Have Shaped Their Work, Visual Arts Gallery, New York
2010 Blind Dates: New Encounters from the Edges of a Former Empire, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York
2010 Five Year Anniversary Show, Gavlak Gallery, Palm Beach
2010 Istanbul Cool, Leila Heller Gallery, New York
2009 A Survey of Turkish Contemporary Art, Cuadro Art, Dubai
2009 Octet: Selected Works from the School of Visual Arts, Visual Arts Gallery, New York
2009 Pink Panther, Kumukumu Gallery, New York
2009 Octet: Selected Works from the School of Visual Arts, Pera Museum, Istanbul
2008 Fresh, C.A.M Galeri, Istanbul
2008 Another Peep Show, Smith-Stewart, New York
2007 Dream of Today, Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles
2007 Foam of the Daze, Smith-Stewart, New York
2007 Omnia Vanitas, Gavlak Gallery, West Palm Beach
2007 Sobel!, curated by Leyla Gediz, Bilsar, Istanbul
2007 Special Reserve, Gavlak, West Palm Beach
2006 View (Eleven): Upstate, Mary Boone Gallery, New York
2006 Flaming June, Spanierman Modern, New York
2006 Works on Paper, Galerist, Istanbul
2006 WPA/C 2006 Art Auction, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC
2005 Greater New York, MoMA/PS1 Contemporary Art Center, New York
2005 The ArtReview 25: Emerging US Artists, Phillips de Pury & Company East Gallery, New York
2005 Absolute Summer Show, Kirkhoff, Copenhagen
2004 Eye of the Needle, Roberts & Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles
2004 Low Life, Kustera Tilton Gallery, New York
2004 Summer Show: Seven Big Paintings, Kenny Schachter ConTEMPorary, New York
2003 Peter Coffin with Brett Milspaw, Jan Mancuska, Ara Peterson, Elif Uras, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York
2003 Organized Conflict, Proje4L, Istanbul Museum of Contemporary Art, Istanbul
2003 Regarding Amy, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York
2003 MFA Thesis Exhibition, Columbia University, Studabaker Building, New York
2002 The Kids are Alright, organized by Joe Bradley, ATM Gallery, New York

Awards

- 2001 The Rhodes Family Award, School of Visual Arts

Selected Bibliography

Nicole, O'Rourke, "Subverted History: A Look at Three Contemporary Turkish Artists," *January-February 2015*, p.90

Hande Oynar, *The Feminist Ceramicist*, TL Mag Istanbul 2014

Hande Oynar "Iznik'te bir Doğum", Vogue Turkey, November 2014, p.188

"Shanghai Biennale Covers History of the City," Hürriyet Daily, October 8, 2012

Battista, Kathy, "*The Influentials*," Art Monthly, October 2011, p. 36

Antmen, Ahu, "*Why do the Pioneers of Contemporary Art Have Pink IDs?*," Dream and Reality: Modern and Contemporary Women Artists from Turkey, exhibition catalogue, Istanbul Modern 2011, p. 84.

Mitchell, Heidi S., "*Why Istanbul is the Next Great Art Destination*," Details, October 2011.

"*The Influentials*," The New Yorker, September 26, 2011.

Saskal, Ohannes, "*Ciniler Icice Gecmis Kulturlerimizin Vasiyetleriydi Bize*," Agos, March 4, 2011.

Atamian, Christopher, "*Blind Dates with Out Ottoman Past*," Arara Magazine, February 18, 2011.

Eisler, Maryam Homayoun, "*Beyond BRIC: Where the Emerging Markets Are/Turkey*," Art + Auction, November 2010, pp.101-103.

Golonu, Berin, "*Talking Turkey: Two Generations of Artists Question Their National and International Identity*," Modern Painters, November 2010, pp. 62-66.

Antmen, Ahu, "*A History of Modern and Contemporary Art in Turkey*," in "*Unleashed: Contemporary Art From Turkey*," ed. Hosseim Amirsadeghi, TransGlobe Publishing, London, 2010.

Lawrence, Christopher, "*Steady As She Goes*," Canvas, January/February 2010, p. 130-143.

Ebony, David, "*Elif Uras*," Art in America, November 2009, p. 208.

Rosenberg, Karen, "*Art in Review: Pink Panther*," The New York Times, October 16, 2009.

Turkolmez, Elif, "*A Journey through the Arcades: A Dialectic Between Modernity and Tradition*," Radikal, April 18, 2009.

Demircioglu, Hande, "*Panaroma Pasaji*," Bir Gün, May 7, 2009.

Antmen Ahu, "*Avrasya Belli Yeni Iznik Çinileri*," Radikal, May 6, 2009.

Altug, Evrim, "*Iznik Çiniyle Elestiri Vakti*," Sabah, May 2, 2009.

Studer, Margaret, "*An Emerging Art Market: Turkish Contemporary*," Wall Street Journal, February 20, 2009.

Rosenberg, Karen, "*Elif Uras: the Occidental*," The New York Times, October 19, 2007.

Phillips, Stephen, "*I.D. Plates*," ThirtyFour Magazine, Issue 11, 2007.

Morton, Julia, "*The Lower East Side's New Zone for Art Continues to Confound*," New York Press, November 2007.

Kessler, Sarah, "*LES Gallery Scene*," ArtKrush, October 2007.

"*Power House*," V Magazine, Winter 2006/7.

"*25 Women We Admire*," Harper's Bazaar Turkey, March 2006.

Kunitz Daniel, "*Into the Blue*," Art Review, February-March 2006.

Kirmaci, Sebnem, "*Yukselen Degerler*," Harper's Bazaar, January 2006.

Heartney, Eleanor, "*Return to the Real?*," Art in America, June-July 2005.

Kunitz Daniel and Ribas, Joao, "*The ArtReview 25: Emerging US Artists*," Art Review, February 2005, p.125.

Smith, Roberta, "*Elif Uras: Private Collection*", The New York Times, June 4, 2004, p. E31.

"*Ruya Takimi*", Time Out Istanbul, September 2004.

Altug, Evrim, "*Gunluk Hayat Hayalle Bulustu*" , Milliyet, December 11, 2004.

Yildiz, Ahu, "*Tarihi Yazmak*," Aksam, December 11, 2004.

Sanlier, Zeynep, "*Dunya Dondukce*", Radikal, December 22, 2004.

Ernalbant, Emel, "*Erkekleri Ti'ye Aliyor*", Birgun, December 22, 2004.

Calidis, Nena, "*Modern Yansimalar*," Cumhuriyet, December 23, 2004.

Paynter, November, "*Elif Uras*", Organized Conflict catalogue, Proje 4L, Istanbul, Museum of Contemporary Art, 2003

Smith, Roberta, "*A Grande Finale of Group Show Fireworks*," The New York Times, July 18, 2003, pp. E29, E31.