

# EGERAN

Selim Birsel  
*Step by Step*  
7 March – 20 April 2013  
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Opening: 19:00 - 21:00



Selim Birsel, *Old Horizon*, 2011

Egeran Galeri is pleased to present Selim Birsel's first solo show at the gallery, entitled "Step by Step". "Step by Step" focuses on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, which has been a subject of research for the artist for the past several years. The exhibition features four photographs alongside the sculptural installation entitled "Amputee" and a site-specific intervention that fills the exhibition space with midnight-blue light. "Step by Step" represents Birsel's first sketches of his childhood memories of Cyprus as well as the 1974 conflict, and confirms the subject's significance within the artist's body of work.

The island of Cyprus is marred by the ongoing conflict between Greeks and Turks since Turkey's intervention of the island in 1974. Birsel's exhibition addresses the implications and results of this conflict; he engages with issues such as the historical background of the island, its demographic structure, the disunity of the population today, its socio-political situation and the island's uncertain future given that it is perpetually in an in-between state.

When considered as a whole an emphasis on color and abstract forms emerges in the exhibition, alongside strong social and political implications. "Fly Yellow", for example, depicts a piece of fly paper teeming with trapped insects, a metaphor for a society trapped in a political stalemate. "1974 Night", features a collage of carbon paper, a material that was used to cover car lights at night during the curfews imposed during the 1974 conflict. "Old Horizon" offers a view of Turkey framed by a window with light streaming across it, creating the impression of a guillotine and referring to the isolation of a nation. And finally, "UN Playground" with the flags in the distant mountain, reminds us of the ongoing war games associated with the island. The important installation "Amputee" compliments the photographs and suggests that the socio-political reality of Cyprus makes progress impossible.

Birsel explores the political conditions that touch his life through photographs, painting, sculpture, video, performance and drawing. His artistic vocabulary, which he has developed since the 1990s, politicizes everyday life in a subtle way, and his artworks inform one another to achieve a greater overall meaning.

Selim Birsel (b. 1963) was born in Brussels, and lives and works in Istanbul. He received his BA and MFA from Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris in 1991. His recent solo and group exhibitions include "At Full Cock" Depo, Istanbul (2013); "Envy, Enmity, Embarrassment" Arter, Istanbul (2013); "Night" m1186, Ankara (2013); "Minor Truths" Egeran Galeri, Istanbul (2012); "Is This an Exhibition?" EMAA, Nicosia (2011) and "Seriously Ironic" CentrePasquArt, Biel (2009). Birsel is a professor at Sabanci University, Istanbul since 1999. The exhibition "At Full Cock" is in dialogue with "Step by Step" and can be seen until March 31 at Depo Istanbul. Other current exhibitions by Selim Birsel are as follows: "Night" at m1186, Ankara, (through March 10) and "Envy, Enmity, Embarrassment" at Arter, Istanbul, (through April 7).

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm. For further information please contact +90 212 251 1 251 or info@egeran.com.

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