

At Hara, **Cansu Yıldiran's** first solo exhibition, "Vargit Flowers," will open on Saturday, **September 7th**. In this exhibition, Yıldiran uses nearly two hundred photographs taken during different periods of her "Mülksüzler" series, which she began in 2015. "Vargit Flowers," curated by Onur Hamilton Karaoğlu and Serkan Kaptan, will be open until December 18th.

The exhibition proceeds from the artist's photography series, Mülksüzler [The Dispossessed], which they began to take in 2015, as a way of following the trail of their own family history. Throughout the exhibition, by focusing on the women and nature across the highlands, villages and harsh geographic features of the Black Sea region, Yıldiran investigates the methods for survival which these subjects conceive, by means of gathering, in a world deprived of such concepts as identity and belonging. In the meantime, through a web of relations, memories and psychological standpoints, the notion of "home" acquires a physical dimension within the space.

'These photographs, which they took in Kuşmer, where their family does not possess even the slightest planted tree, tell the story of how women, animals and the land itself come to grips with the forces of dispossession, leaning on patriarchy and the institution that is private property. Thus, Yıldiran's gaze turns the highland into a disquieted landscape, and the human and non-human creatures that live there into grotesque bodies. Faces shining for only a brief moment when the flash goes off into the darkness of night, and bodies bent and twisted out of shape amid the rugged landscape, steer our gaze towards Yıldiran's personal nomadic history.' *

As the very first guest artist to take part in the Haravan Residency Programme, Yıldiran stayed at Hara for three months, allowing them to produce a profusion of site-specific photography-sculpture installations in the framework of this exhibition. As photographs shift in shape and assume new forms across Hara's various floors, so an alternative narration comes forth within the space, through the agency of photography. The exhibition extends an invitation for us to reconsider the past from such a viewpoint where fiction and reality coincide. Incidentally, with this exhibition, Yıldiran brought Mülksüzler, the photography series she has been working on for the last ten years, to completion.

'The artist's long-lasting efforts to create the *Unpropertied* series, and eagerness to speak out on the world which the photographs are set in, actually gives out many a clue as to Yıldiran's practise. Yıldiran turns photography into a request for identity. As for this request's fulfilment, only by adopting a different manner of looking and understanding can it be contemplated. What we are compelled to see in the framework of everyday life is not the truth. The truth is an unfamiliar, foreign light, cause, or existence, which becomes suspended the very moment photography points at it. Such is the reason why, when looking at the world which Yıldiran sees, we come across subjects striving to find somewhere to settle.

Minorities, in search of their identity and origin, queers, looking for their home and family, and individuals struggling for their rights; all of them build safe spaces, carefully thought for each of them, through the language which photography provides.' **

Please be so kind as to keep a note in your personal calendar of this exhibition's opening reception, scheduled on **Saturday, 7 September**.

Cansu Yıldıran's practise may be considered as a relentless and passionate journey in search of a homeland. As for the steps towards the notion of home, they might consist in the body, space, emotion, friends, or communities. Taking their own life as their point of departure, Yıldıran both follows the traces of stories, and attempts to construct new, non-normative ones through their camera. Rituals, fairy tales and stages often form the spring whence their works emerge. Although their own experiences constitute the fountainhead of their works, the artist is also considerably inspired by social movements, collective memory and oral history. Their works' production gains further depth over the years, as it becomes ever more intricately layered.

Both their photography series *Mülksüzler* and *Fathom* have earned Yıldıran the Talent and Pride Photo Foundation awards from the Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam (FOAM), Netherlands, in 2024, and the Women Photograph's Project Grants Award in 2022. In 2021, they won first place in the resistance category at the All Out Photography Award, a global LGBTI+ online activism network. Yıldıran was nominated for the 2021 PH Museum Photography Grant Award, and chosen as a fellow, to take part in the 2018 World Press Photo Joop Swart Masterclass.

Yıldıran's works have been exhibited by numerous museums and festivals both in Turkey and abroad, including the Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam (FOAM), MOMus - Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, Pera Museum in Istanbul, Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, Odunpazarı Museum in Eskişehir, Elgiz Museum and Leica Gallery in Istanbul, Rencontres d'Arles Photography Festival in France, and Verzasca Foto Festival in Switzerland. Their photographs have appeared in such prestigious publications as the Visa Woman Paper, British Journal of Photography, Dazed Magazine, the Washington Post, Bloomberg and The Guardian.

<https://cansuyildiran.com/>

Blossoms Of Farewell

Curators: Onur Hamilton Karaoğlu & Serkan Kaptan

September 7- December 18, 2024

Visit Us: Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 pm -18:30 pm

Location: Hara, Uskumruk y Mahallesi, Salihpa a Caddesi No:107 Sarıyer

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*From the exhibition text by Beg m Fırat  zden and Ay a Y ksel

**From the exhibition text by Onur Hamilton Karao lu.