

A Contemporary Turkish Sculptor



Bilal Hakan Karakaya

Born in 1979 in Ankara, Karakaya studied at Gazi University Faculty of Education of Art Education Department between 1999–2004. In 2006, he began working with artist Hanefi Yeter. In 2014, he set up his first solo exhibition Hybrid Delusions at Art350 Gallery (now Anna Laudel).

The artist participates in various group exhibitions, international symposiums and continues working in his studio in Istanbul. Karakaya is renowned for his unique technique of using different materials, pushing the boundaries of traditional sculpture production. Working with resin, industrial and natural waste, Karakaya reflects the impressions of individuals trapped in the chaos of modern city life on his works. The figures of the artist reflect the “alienation” of the oppressed human beings under the weight of the capitalist world. His sculptures are inspired by the reality of life and establish relationships with the past and the present. Karakaya’s unique way of using different kinds of materials, and how he incorporates them into the reproduction process, are the key features that define his art practice. Karakaya prefers being in direct contact with the materials during the production process in order to avoid distance from the work.



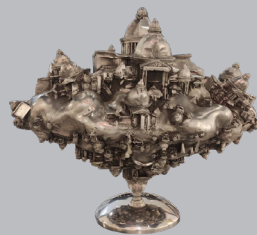
Realm

430 x 120 x 120 cm

Aluminum Casted

In the artist’s sculpture ‘Diyar’, which he made with recycled aluminum material, the figure that identifies with the artist’s self and remains tiny under the rising and expanding mass on his head, also expresses the uneasiness caused by the constant restructuring of the city, which gradually loses its texture and memory. The work, which deals with the increasing isolation, oppression and compression of the individual by postmodern urban life, on the one hand, and the effect of the image of the city, which is constantly established and re-distributed, on the space-society relationship, on the memory, directs the viewer to different readings in the context of urban sociology.

What does the concept of the city mean to us today? These days when it is getting harder and harder to live them as a city! Perhaps we are approaching the crisis point of urban life and invisible cities are a dream born from the heart of cities that have become uninhabitable. There is talk of the destruction of the natural environment as much as the attraction of large technological systems that can cause chain damage by blocking entire metropolises. The crisis experienced by very large cities is the other side of the crisis experienced by nature. ‘Today’s biggest problem is global climate change. The biggest trigger for this is the big cities that we believe offer us safe living spaces’. This sentence by Italo Calvino is what triggers me again in my work.



Diomira

83 x 100 x 65 cm

Aluminum

Dedicated to the book 'Invisible Cities' by Italo Calvino

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