

STARING AT THE SUN

Irem Yazici

curated by **Caterina Fondelli**

17 January - 12 March 2023

The exhibition "STARING AT THE SUN", a solo show dedicated to the artist Irem Yazici (1989, Turkey) and curated by Caterina Fondelli, arises from the period of art residency spent by the artist at the project venue of C.F. Contemporary Fire during October 2022. The show brings together artworks specifically created in the weeks of her stay, along with other works related to the theme that thus links the ensemble with a common narration.

The bond between human beings and the cosmo is one old centuries, yet contemporary and researched. Particularly, the Sun, star at the center of the Solar system, covers a pivotal scientific and symbolic role in the collective imagery. Quintessential bearer of energy, harmony, equilibrium, vitality, the Sun is "chased" and "adored" by living organisms, especially human specimens, who usually follow its rhythm to determine their daily activities since the mists of time.

Thriving a naturalistic intelligence means gaining an ability to deeply connect with non-human living beings and to appreciate the effect of this relationship on ourselves and the environment. A certain existential wisdom, also based on spiritual experiences, is required to develop this quality, and additionally what is known as 'biophilia', could be the fundamental physiological characteristic and psychic potential to build this particular kind of intelligence. If 'Biophilia' is defined as "the innate tendency to focus our attention on life forms and everything that resembles them and, in some circumstances, to affiliate with them emotionally", so it is not so unusual that the art scene studies and tries to give a visual representation on the matter.

Irem Yazici guides us in this exhibition through The and Her cosmo(s), with a delicate way and a millennial technique, remembering how much what is considered ancient is still contemporary nowadays.

Caterina Fondelli (1991, San Miniato) graduated in Foreign languages, literatures and European artist cultures, and she worked as a visitor assistant in some prestigious art museums and institutions in London, UK. Once back to Italy, Caterina obtained a Master degree in Contemporary Art Markets from NABA, Milan, while starting collaborations with contemporary art galleries with roles as gallery assistant and exhibitions coordinator. She writes for art magazines and has recently started to work as an independent curator, after attending a course in curatorial practices at the School for Curatorial Studies, Venice.

Irem Yazici (1989, Turkey. Lives and works in Eskisehir, Turkey) is a self-taught hand embroidery artist and has been exploring her practice since 2014. Her works mainly consist of surreal worlds and characters; to create her own realm gives her an opportunity to be comfortable with expressing her visions and daydreams. She searches for texture, pattern and colour, while creating these universes and experiments with traditional hand embroidery techniques to find her own artistic ways to use them. One of the keywords that describes her art the best is 'maximalist' as she does not like to limit herself with the techniques, materials and colors to create a wider field of exploration. Her practice is often inspired by unusual forms and textures of marine biologies such as microscopic sea creatures, often described as weird far from the human world, invisible, outcast and alien. Through her artworks, she embraces the excluded and the strange, to highlight the beauty within. She has a tutorial book called *Tiny Stitches* and she stitched the illustrations of a children's book called *Princess Pinecone and the Wee Royals*. Her works featured on the platforms such as Textileartist.org, Vice Creator's Project and Vogue. She had collaborations with brands like Coach, Soludos and DMC.