

# GALERIST

## TUNCA

### 'TERRA AMATA'

**SEPTEMBER 07 – OCTOBER 14, 2017**

**OPENING: SEPTEMBER 07, THURSDAY 19:00–21:00**

**PRESS PREVIEW: SEPTEMBER 07, THURSDAY 17:00–19:00**

Galerist is pleased to present TUNCA's solo exhibition titled *Terra Amata* between the dates 7 September - 14 October 2017. This is TUNCA's first solo presentation at Galerist after having joined the gallery earlier this year.

Taking its title from the pre-historic settlement in Europe where Neanderthals are first known to have built shelters, the exhibition investigates the relationship between architecture and land around the most basic forms of dwelling. Gathering together TUNCA's most recent drawings on paper and sculptures, the exhibition also presents a site-specific intervention suspending the gallery's architecture between objecthood and spatial experience.

Time, memory and commemoration take center stage within the artist's investigation into architectural function on one hand, and into the fluid relationship between built environment and nature on the other. At first sight, the architectural forms depicted in the series of drawings titled "Domus" appear as the most basic representations of a home. On closer inspection, they reveal disfunctionalities and adaptations, as one has no doors, another has no windows and a third one has its door sealed off with bricks. These playful permutations on the spaces of transition suggest a blurring of the line between inside and outside, pointing either to an unusual extension or a complete obliteration of spaces of transition.

All of these drawings on display are in fact based on photographs taken by TUNCA during a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps in Poland. These are façade and interior views of the cavalry barracks that were repurposed as part of Auschwitz I, and today repurposed again as monuments commemorating the holocaust. TUNCA's depictions of brick walls, doors and windows belonging to these structures thread through several layers of history, creating a space where use value and symbolic value constantly replace one another. In these works, buildings are erected, repurposed, monumentalized, forgotten or taken back by nature at once, reminding us the transience of what we consider as granted in our present, history not being just a thing of the past.

TUNCA graduated from Mimar Sinan University's Faculty of Fine Arts. His multi-faceted practice includes canvas painting, drawing, sculpture, installation works, video and performance. He constructs a world of images departing from historical memory, cultural identity and political facts. Historical sublimation and ideological constructs of social and political events are central issues in his practice. He investigates the monumental layers of memory ranging from official histories to individual stories, and the phenomenon of testimony beyond documentarism.

In 2005, parallel to the 9th Istanbul Biennial, as part of the performance titled 'Floating Slum House' the artist spends a week, together with Guido Casaretto, in a floating slum house they have built on the Golden Horn and they document this process. TUNCA participated in group exhibitions at various museums and art institutions including the 4th International Çanakkale Biennial, CerModern, santralistanbul, KuadGallery, Elgiz Museum, and Siemens Art Gallery. In 2014, the artist received culinary training and realized a series of performances around gastronomy, history and politics for his solo exhibition "Desire" in Istanbul. TUNCA's works were recently shown at Sabancı University Kasa Gallery, Istanbul, (2016) with Hera Büyüktasçıyan, "All The Light We Cannot See" at Galerist, Istanbul(2017) and two-person exhibitions at Corridor Project Space, Amsterdam (2017) with Superflex. Most recently in 2017 he was awarded a residency at the Cité des Arts in Paris.