

NAZIF TOPÇUOĞLU

ISTANBUL, 1954

"The fundamental thread of my work is a constant concern for time, memory and loss. I am concerned about the transience of people and things in general, and I try to reconstruct unclear and imperfect images of an idealized past. Such an attempt inevitably requires the ability to recapture the past, hence my constant historical references to classical paintings and photographs as well as authors such as Marcel Proust and Thomas Mann."

With these words, **NAZIF TOPÇUOĞLU (Istanbul, Turkey, 1954)** presents his work and although his photographs possibly have multiple readings, as the author himself mentions, the expiration, temporality or fleetingness of life, are key to explaining the concepts time and death, in nature and in history. Many evoke a certain nostalgia for an idealized and imagined past, evoking memories of an innocence - associated with the girl/teenage girl - which is idealized through beautiful and seductive images, sometimes not exempt, of humor, provocation and certain perversion. His photographs resemble paintings due to their rich colors and details, as well as his conscious sense of composition, which recalls certain theatrical stagings. The most recent ones are located in old libraries or bookstores, where the presence of young girls occupied predominates in a variety of symbolic actions and roles. Grouped into pairs, threesomes or quartets, with childish looks and upper-middle-class schoolgirl clothes, these teenagers seduce the viewer, by the ambiguity and duality they manifest: innocence and experience, passivity and aggression, masculinity and femininity. In addition, these images emphasize the power of knowledge and information.

Nazif Top-Uo-lu lives in Toronto (Canada) and his work is well known in Turkey, where he has exhibited and worked as a historian, critic, editor and professor of photography. He participated in the Russian Biennale of Photography (2006) and represented Turkey at the 2003 Venice Biennale. With Palmadotze he has held two solo exhibitions, "Shadows of Young Girls" (2019) and "Nazif Top-uo-lu" (2006), and has participated in fairs such as ARCO (Madrid) or DFoto (San Sebastián). Among his last exhibitions are "Sisters of Persephone" (Leica Gallery Istanbul, Anni Lepp.I. & Nazif Top-uo-lu, 2017); Galerio Nev (Istanbul, 2013, 2006, 2004 and 2003); "Innerscapes" (Green Art Gallery, Dubai, 2012); Flatland Gallery (Utrecht, Netherlands 2006), Kunstraum - Syltquelle (Sylt, Germany, 2005). We also highlight the collective "A Book Between Two Stool" (Boghossian Foundation - Villa Empain, Brussels, 2014); "Verlangsamte performance" CURATED by Wilhelm Schormann (VAN HORN, Dusseldorf, Germany, 2012), "Encounters: Turkish Contemporary Art in Korea" (Seoul, Korea, 2012) or BAC! 06 (CCCB, BCN, 2006).