

NAZIF TOPÇUOĞLU

“SHADOWS OF YOUNG GIRLS”

10 OCT 2019/ 30 NOV 2019

Palmadotze Art Gallery takes part one more year in the new edition of the Barcelona Gallery Weekend (Barcelona 10 - 13 October). This event is organized by ArtBarcelona and this year 33 galleries take part in this edition. This year Palmadotze presents the work of Turkish photographer Nazif Topçuoğlu.

“The main goal 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 Such an attempt inevitably requires the ability to re-capture the past, hence my constant historical references to classical paintings and photographs as well as authors such as Marcel Proust and Thomas Mann.” N. Topçuoğlu.

These words by **Nazif Topçuoğlu (Istanbul, Turkey, 1954)**, help us to present the work of this artist, in his third solo exhibition in Palmadotze. Although his photographs may have multiple readings, as the author himself mentions, the expiration, temporality or fleetingness of life are key to explaining the concepts of time and death, in nature and in history. Many evoke a certain nostalgia for an idealized and imagined past; they evoke memories of an innocence - associated with the adolescent girl / girl - that is idealized through beautiful and seductive images, not without turns, humor, provocation and certain perversion. His photographs resemble paintings due to their rich colors and details, as well as their conscious sense of composition, reminiscent of certain theatrical performances. The most recent are located in old libraries or bookstores, where the presence of young girls busy in a variety of symbolic actions and roles predominates. Grouped into couples, trios or quartets, with their handsome looks and upper - middle class schoolgirls, these teenagers seduce the spectator with the ambiguity and duality they manifest: innocence and experience, passivity and aggression, masculinity and femininity. However, these images emphasize the power of knowledge and information.

Resident in Toronto (Canada), his work is well known in Turkey, where he has exhibited and worked as a historian, critic, editor and photography teacher. He participated in the Russian Biennial of Photography (2006) and represented Turkey at the Venice Biennale 2003. Selection of last individual exhibitions: “Sisters of Persephone” (Leica Gallery Istanbul, Anni Leppälä & Nazif Topçuoğlu, 2017); Galerio Nev (Istanbul, 2013, 2006, 2004 and 2003); “Innerscapes” (Green Art Gallery, Dubai, 2012); Flatland Gallery (Utrecht, Netherlands 2006), Kunstrraum - Syltquelle (Sylt, Germany, 2005). Selection of last collective exhibitions: “A Book Between Two Stool” (Boghossian Foundation - Villa Empain, Brussels, 2014); “Verlangsamte performance” CURATED by Wilhelm Schürmann (VAN HORN, Dusseldorf, Germany, 2012), “Encounters: Turkish Contemporary Art in Korea” (Seoul, Korea, 2012); BAC! 06 (CCCB, BCN, 2006).