

Françoise Heitsch • Amalienstrasse 19 • 80333 München

**DORA ECONOMOU & YASEMIN NUR / IMBAT AMBIT**

**14.03 – 12.05.2019**

I met **Yasemin Nur** in the year 2000 in Brooklyn, NY. We were both doing our MFA at Pratt Institute. A Turkish girl in her mid twenties and a Greek girl also in her mid twenties in New York City, at the dawn of the new Millennium, had a lot of things in common. And some things we did not. We had a lot of things in common regarding our work too. We didn't like the same things – we still don't – we didn't use the same materials – we do sometimes nowadays – but we share the same work ethics and etiquette. Most importantly, we like each other, we learned to respect each other, and we trust each other. We experienced a significant contemporary and historic moment – we were there, together, on September 11, 2001. Since then, we have each returned to our respective homeland and families, where we have each also experienced a number of significant contemporary historic moments, both national and international. We have kept in close touch and we have visited each other in our cities. A Greek woman in her forties and a Turkish woman in her forties have a lot to talk about today.

Yasemin has had one solo show and one group show at Françoise Heitsch gallery in Munich. I have had two solo shows. The cultural and historic background between Bavaria and Greece is as complicated as is the one between Greece and Turkey. I met Françoise through Yasemin. I speak Greek with Françoise. She speaks Turkish to Yasemin. Between the three of us, we speak English. We all like and trust each other and our common stories have built up to this show.

Imbat, or meltem(i), is the Turkish name of a strong, dry, north wind that blows specifically at the Aegean area during late Spring and Summer. We wanted a name for the show that would describe, literally, conceptually, and poetically, the natural border – namely, the Aegean sea – that connects and divides us as well as it connects and divides us from Northern Europe. The English word ambit, an anagram of imbat, means bounds, compass, scope or extent, and can refer to both the span of water and the span of things our artistic practices include.

The show will be accompanied by a small b&w fanzine, including written samples, extracts from our correspondence, notes, and quotes. Umut Yıldırım is a friend of Yasemin's who I met in Istanbul. She is an anthropologist and she will write about us for the fanzine. Denise McMorrow is a friend of mine and Yasemin's who studied with us in NY. She's an artist based in Pittsburgh and will add a text connecting the three of us to the fanzine

Installed throughout the gallery are bits and pieces of physical evidence: folded papers, experiments on natural dyes, small objects and drawings, prints, videos, binding folders, memorabilia from the theatre, etc., map the area where our courses have met.

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