



CRITIC'S GUIDE - 14 SEP 2017

## Critic's Guide: Istanbul

With the opening of the 15th Istanbul Biennial this week, a guide to the best exhibitions around town

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Adrian Paci, *Interregnum*, 2017, video still. Courtesy: kaufmann repetto, Milan / New York, Protocinema, Istanbul / NYC

### Adrian Paci & 'Kiralik Satilik'

Protocinema <<https://frieze.com/event/adrian-paci>>

9 September – 14 October 2017

Founded in 2011 by Mari Spirito, the itinerant non-profit Protocinema is back in Istanbul. This time it finds itself in Galata, a neighbourhood with strong ties to the arts, in an old Matzah bread factory with two exhibitions spanning its two floors. Upstairs is a new video work, *Interregnum*, by Adrian Paci. Paci is known for his poetic videos and performance works that seem both timeless and timely, and *Interregnum* is no different. A video of found footage of publicly mourning crowds, from close-ups to the masses, it is a meditative piece on mob mentality, authoritarianism and political propaganda, and the very real emotions that result. In present-day Turkey, the ironies in the work abound as the emotions are simultaneously relatable but anxiety-inducing. The images are hypnotic and free of judgement despite the imbedded conflicts surrounding that for which these people mourn. Downstairs is a group exhibition co-curated by Spirito and İbrahim Cansızoğlu, with works by Ani Çelik Arevyan, Antonio Cosentino, Gülşah Mursaloğlu, and the Soundscape of İstanbul, called 'Kiralik Satilik' –

which translates to 'For Rent For Sale.' With bread-making machinery still in the space, the industrial feel plays with the title of the show – one that reflects the many such signs popping up throughout Istanbul over the past two years. Together in the space, Paci's video and the group show below act as a powerful and understated representation of the here and now in Istanbul.



Nancy Atakan, *Memories Series (Aunt Suzan #2)*, 2017, linen, digital print, needlework, 37 x 37 cm. Courtesy: the artist and Pi Artworks Istanbul / London

### Nancy Atakan, 'A Community of Lines'

Pi Artworks <<https://frieze.com/event/nancy-atakan>>

11 September – 21 October 2017

Nancy Atakan is an American artist who has been living in Istanbul since 1969. A teacher and mentor to many of the younger generation of artists and art professionals in the city, she co-founded an artist run initiative called 5533 with Volkan Aslan in 2007. Her newest body of works, curated at Pi Artworks by Asli Seven, are embroideries on felt and linen that touch on inter-generational oral histories. The exhibition traces generational shifts in ideologies in both the West and Turkey, told through gentle figuration and narrative texts stitched by Atakan. As is typical to her works, universal ideas relating to gender politics, femininity, and linguistics are submerged in the autobiographical. Intertwined within this is an added collaboration with family members and friends installed as wrapped gifts or presents in the exhibition. This idea then morphs into the double-sidedness to the politics of exchange – a duality that can also be seen in Atakan's seemingly sweet and homely embroidered works, which then become vividly unsettling.