

**“NOWHERE WE ARE”****05.12.2019 – 11.01.2020****İSMET DOĞAN****CURATOR: SELMAN AKIL**

İsmet Doğan’s solo exhibition entitled “**Nowhere We Are**” curated by **Selman Akil** can be seen between **5 December 2019 - 11 January 2020** at **Labirent Sanat**.

In the exhibition “**Nowhere We Are**” which drags space to a lost geometry and that you will walk by placing the poem of death in your palms now and here; there are **İsmet Doğan**’s latest Lack series and works of all periods, which are in harmony with the conceptual framework of the exhibition.

The exhibition is designed to carry the thing’s world of definitions trapped within itself into prenatal and post-mortem with a time emphasis. The exhibition mostly includes works of İsmet Doğan's series Lack, brings up a fiction of future-oriented present and being here beyond the utopias and dystopias which are optimistic or pessimistic tautologies, in a dimension deep in their inward and outward bending. It discusses the possibility and impossibility of belongingness of the being whose fate is disentangled and intertwined in order and chaos, representation and flow, reflection and meaning, to the world or to its own body. The exhibition reflects the forward flow of the standing object in time and space as decay and fracture; at the same time as a whole, it presents itself as an installation that goes before space and objects.

In İsmet Doğan's works, the letters which usually exist in the object as a logos or grammar and appear in the distribution of the objects, this time spread to the space and go before the structures of the object bodies and make the whole space an installation. This space installation as a whole, in the analogy of today’s world, reflects the possible worlds by affirming the placelessness with reflections of uncertainty, which are made possible being nowhere, saved from the confinement of now and being here, and even can be disguised as eternity.

You can see **İsmet Doğan**'s solo exhibition titled “**Nowhere We Are**” at **Labirent Sanat** between **5 December 2019 - 11 January 2020**, which includes works from all periods that intersect with the latest Lack series and the conceptual framework of the exhibition.

Labirent Sanat

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Visiting hours: Tuesday – Saturday | 11.00 – 19.00**For more information and images:** info@labirentsanat.com | +90 212 243 86 81

**About Artist:**

İsmet Doğan: Born in 1957 in Adiyaman, Turkey, and graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Marmara University in İstanbul in 1983, İsmet Doğan received in 1987 a French Government Scholarship in Paris, where he spent two years. In the 1990's he returned to his native country and settled in İstanbul.

In his initial works in the 1980's İsmet Doğan problematized the concepts of history, culture and tradition by combining them with the dadaist techniques of collage, graffiti, and assemblage as well as ready-made objects. As a thinker, he focused on the consequences of violence and trauma, imposed-and appropriated-by the Westernisation and modernisation projects in Turkey. The introduction of Latin letters in the early twentieth century Turkey-the so-called language reform-is revealed in Doğan's works as a political means of social engineering. According to the artist, this has subsequently alienated in this, a violent political act that resulted in trauma. Doğan's problematic of modernism remains an essential component of his oeuvre till today, with written letters (such as Logos or BâBâ) or words scattered randomly over his canvas.

In the 2000's he integrated another critical dimension into his artwork; approaching the subject of colonialism, he used a strategy of historical art references and cinematographic materials alteration. By integrating his own image into the film strip, Doğan makes small changes in scenes, and in a process of identifying with the correctors visual culture has appropriated. Meanwhile, mirrors have become a fundamental work material for Doğan. The viewer is reflected, multiplied and while he/she faces with his/her own body as a stranger via convex and concave mirrors. Moreover, the viewer acts as part of the artwork.

His recent projects: Eat Me (2012), All is External (2011), Close up (2008), Penetratrum-Neither inside nor outside of my body (2006) build a hybrid technique and narrative with photography, painting, sculpture, video and installation mediums. İsmet Doğan lives and works in İstanbul.