

PAUL KASMIN GALLERY

Taner Ceylan, *Lost Paintings Series*

18 September - 26 October, 2013

Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 6 - 8pm



Paul Kasmin Gallery is pleased to present Taner Ceylan's *Lost Paintings Series*, 18 September – 26 October, 2013 at 515 West 27th Street, New York. This will be Ceylan's first exhibition at Paul Kasmin Gallery. Well-known for his provocative, emotional realism paintings, Ceylan began his *Lost Paintings Series* as a contemporary exploration of the Orientalist gaze in all its facets. Upsetting both western and eastern master narratives, the *Lost Paintings Series* present Eastern figures in a fascinating navigation of history, power and narrative. *Esma Sultan*, Ceylan's depiction of an 18th century Ottoman Princess, renowned for her cruel disposition, draws on the empowering mythology of passionate, ruthless and assertive womanhood that characterizes accounts of her life. Visualizing feminine agency and even social transgression as at the heart of history, Ceylan

interrogates the historically invisible. Rummaging through the past to make a startling comment very much about the present, the *Lost Paintings Series* assemble a cast of lost characters and voices that embody the many silenced by both Orientalist and official nationalist histories. An Ottoman man gazes defiantly, cigarette in hand; a pair of male lovers betray a chaste farewell; a veiled woman stands before Courbet's *L'Origine du Monde*. In the words of curator Dan Cameron, "[Taner Ceylan makes] paintings that bespeak absolute technical mastery and precision, but which are also freighted with an emotional and sexual dimension usually absent from the genre—qualities that have set him apart from the prevailing tendencies in contemporary Turkish art, and which at times have also brought him outright abuse in the press."

Ceylan began exhibiting work in 1991, in both a group exhibition, and his first solo exhibition, in Nurnberg, Germany. His performance and exhibition, *Monte Carlo Style* (1995), made a significant impact on the Turkish art scene. He has lectured as a member of the the Fine Arts Faculty, Yeditepe University (2001-2003), and served as Editor-in-Chief, Arts for *Time Out Istanbul* magazine (2001-2006). Ceylan has participated in both the 8th and 9th International Istanbul Biennials (2003/5); *Postcards From CAC* at Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans (2009); *Naked*, Paul Kasmin Gallery (2009); Istanbul Next Wave, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin (2010); and Istanbul Modern at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2011). His work is included in private and museum collections including Sveaas Art Collection and the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art.

Join the "Taner Ceylan, *Lost Paintings Series*" conversation on social media by mentioning @KasminGallery and using the #CeylanKasmin hashtag when posting.

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Image: Taner Ceylan, *Esma Sultan*, oil on canvas, 180 cm x 160 cm, 2012.