

## I for Another / Bir Başkası için Ben

Aslı Narin

Seeking ways to establish a relation with nature and tracing the different climates in the inner realm of the individual are among the themes Aslı Narin frequently focuses on in her photo-oriented practice. The artist sets the first trajectory of her recent research, with the title "*I for Another (Bir Başkası için Ben)*", through subjects entangled with one another. She presents this through her readings around the subjects of cosmic awareness, coexistence, connection and taking root. The works presented in the exhibition by Narin are produced with the alternative printing technique of *cyanotype*, which derives its name from the cyan blue solution used in this photographic printing process. The serendipitous images, formed by being exposed to ultraviolet light, are reiterations of the images of intertwined roots and branches of trees that the artist had encountered during her walks in the forest. With a video piece, titled *Fragility of Coexistence*, accompanying two distinct series of prints (*Signals and Exchanges* and *Below and Beyond*) the artist makes an abstract record of the familiar scenes between the human being and nature.

Like many of us, having been exposed to screen light more than ever in the past year and wishing to keep away from this exposure, the artist meticulously observes the surrounding nature in daylight. Shooting her photographs as if taking notes, Narin makes use of the cyanotype technique to detach the images of roots and branches that take centre stage in her observations from their context. With this attitude and through her experimental production process, the artist reconciles herself to the new world order, where the desire for control does not amount to much. Since, in the cyanotype process, even small details such as the humidity in the air during the long exposure process affects the end result. The artist strives for that which is hard to capture, rather than pursuing a photography rooted in a controlled and mechanical tradition.

Supplementing her research with the feedback she gets from her students in her teaching practice, Narin diversifies her works through the different meanings of the concepts of network and connection. In educational processes where the relationship-building habits of individuals are limited to digital networks, Narin directs her research to the internet cables running under water. Setting out from here, in the series titled *Signals and Exchanges* she identifies the networks created by the trees with intertwined branches in the forest. Pursuing a new order away from the geography she was born in, Aslı Narin examines her diagnosis through the differences in individual and social coping mechanisms. In revealing the existing systems of mutual support in nature, she highlights the idea of coexistence as the most valid means of survival.

Exposed in a circular form, the series of cyanotype prints, *Below and Beyond*, allude to the perpetual cycle of life. The artwork that depicts tree roots, makes visible the consciousness and memory that emanates from the earth through interconnected networks of communication. Images that resemble cells magnified under a microscope for careful examination, provide an insight into the connections and network systems that the individual feeds on. It reminds us of the fact that the roots, evoking a sense of belonging, are actually connected to a shared system, to the constant flow in nature. The memory of nature, which reaches beyond the boundaries of time, is engaged in a dialogue with the circular images of the series that give the impression of being set in space.

The video titled *Fragility of Coexistence* in the exhibition, sets out from a fascinating image that the artist has encountered in her walks at the forest. Starting off from a scene where the branches of two adjacent trees are joined together to form a single unit, as if embracing one another, Narin maintains an attitude of uniting, of holding on to and being held. This heritage of uniting, called *inosculation* in botanical science, is put into action with guest figures accompanied by a performative video. The swaying of those reaching out towards one another is composed like a dance, transforming the need for contact – which many of us crave – into motion.

Reserving centre stage for trees that could be considered as carriers of ecological memory, their roots that preserve their consciousness and their branches extended to allow communication, "*I for Another (Bir Başkası için Ben)*" proposes a coexistence that will strengthen individuality. On the occasion of this exhibition, Aslı Narin aims to diversify the questions posed by her research around the theme of establishing ecological connections. To this end, the artist treads with a sensitivity that internalises the consciousness of nature and encourages our encounters with it.