

Izmir, 2013

Dear Guests,

I am honored to hold the inaugural speech for one of the most exiting art events in Izmir this year. Today I have the pleasure to introduce to you the art of Sara Berti.

Sara's art is rich and versatile – she works with a broad palette of materials, styles and techniques. Her work covers paintings as well as sculptures. Over the course of a decade she has presented her work all around the world, and she received several awards for her outstanding creativity and sensibility as an artist.

Sara's art is about spiritual connection – the connection between human and nature, human and the divine, but also about the connection between humans themselves, and one's connection to one's own. This is most apparent in her sculptures, where she oftentimes materializes these spiritual bonds through solid lines, or through direct contact between humans and natural elements, such as water. These sculptures reflect the depth and richness of her own inner world and spirituality.

Sara is a curious observer, driven by her strong artistic instincts and creative impulses. Encounters with different places and cultures are taken by her as a chance of artistic re-interpretation and transformation. She borrows the elements of local and traditional craftsmanship in order to re-configure these so as to create new material constellations that present to us the semantic map of a refreshing artistic mental space: This is a space of harmony, unity, a space that hosts the marriage of cultures, spirits, and sensibilities. The symbolism that she develops in this process, calls us into a fantastic world in which values from different times and places merge, and manifest a world of new possibilities and thinking.

Sara is a patient curator of the living yet forgotten elements in culture. In her search for materials she collects the hidden, abandoned, or even ridiculed elements of local life. These found objects are reshaped by her and turned into impressive pieces of involuntary art: ornaments hidden at the corners of forgotten buildings, pieces of traditional local craftsmanship, garments and folding papers, and even kitsch elements are brought together and forged into a new language, the language of a world of deep spirituality.

Dear guests, I will stop here now with my words and let the art of Sara Berti speak for itself. Thanks to Mr. Tom for providing the excellent ambience and space for this exhibition, and thank you, Sara Berti, for being here with us, and for giving us the pleasure to enter you world. Good evening.

**Altuğ Işığan, media researcher**