

# 50 GOLBORNE

## PRESS RELEASE

50 GOLBORNE Gallery is proud to announce the first solo exhibition of prominent Turkish textile/weaving artist Belkis Balpınar in the UK.

## Belkis Balpınar: "Red Sun"

EXHIBITION: 8<sup>th</sup> February – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
PRIVATE VIEW: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 6 - 8:30pm  
VENUE: 50 Golborne Road, W10 5PR London  
Tel: +44 (0) 203 4418980

Belkis Balpınar (1941 Eskisehir, Turkey) is a textile specialist, a writer and researcher, and an artist. Graduated from the Textile Department of *Istanbul Fine Arts Academy*, the former curator at *The Turkish and Islamic Museum* in Istanbul has been creating textile artworks for the last 25 years, working collaboratively with the same master weavers.

A pioneer in her field, she has overcome traditional rules regarding weaving techniques, iconography and format treatment. Doing so, she has projected an ancient skill into the realm of contemporary art. Her works feature in prominent art collections worldwide including the *World Bank*, *Al Gore* or *Muccia Prada's*.

"Red Sun" includes unique works of art in which Belkis Balpınar interweaves existential ideas about the universe with threads, colour and texture. Tackling motifs related to cosmology and weather phenomena, her unique visual language combines age-old techniques with contemporary thought and science. The selected seven artworks celebrate the ancient skill of weaving that has been based in Anatolia for 12000 years which provides the sense of a time that goes beyond our own existence, making it a potent medium to portray the planets, suns, storms that interest the artist. The human hand underlines how culture informs the reading of the bigger world around us, the relationship between the micro and macro.

The pieces selected for the exhibition demonstrate the various strategies the artist uses to express her topics: *Lightning* follows the usual long rectangular shape of kilims; The dynamism of the patterns and the complex matrix of the layer of wool give the work a sense of tension while the simple pinning of the textile on the wall gives it fluidity.

In *Red Sun* - from which the title of the show derives - the artist extends what is traditionally the shape of a circle rug into the space beyond its edge on one side, which brings a sense of movement to the piece.

*Red Planet* gives way to unbridled and thick wool texture that brings uncanniness to the piece inducing the fascination that we have had and still have towards the planet Mars.

In *Global Unwarming*, she has left part of the background untouched during the weaving process, making single threads visible. When light falls upon the revealed threads, they cast a shadow on the wall, formulating another layer and compositional deepness. A beautiful idea that makes us reflect on the solutions we do have now to tackle what is an existential threat to humanity.

#### ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY:

Balpinar lives and works since 2006 in Bodrum, Turkey.

#### EDUCATION

1963 Textile, Istanbul Fine Arts Academy

#### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

2019

50 Golborne Gallery, London

Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York

2018

Dokuma-ma / Un-weave, Anna Laudel Contemporary, Istanbul

Pop Degil Op, Plato Sanat, Istanbul

2016

Olası Doku-n-malar, Casa dell'Arte, Bodrum

2015

Kare Art Gallery, Istanbul

2013

Mine Art Gallery, Bodrum

2012

Çıragan Palace Kempinsky Art Gallery, Istanbul

2011

La Fontaine Art Center, Bahrain

2010

Krasnye Holmy Gallery, Russia 2009

Ekavart Gallery, Istanbul

Gallery 44A, Istanbul

2007

Cankarjev Dom CD Gallery, Ljubljana

2005

Ginza-Fijuya Gallery, Tokyo 2004

G-Art Art Gallery, Istanbul

2003

Port Art Gallery, Göcek

2002

Turkish – Japan Foundation Cultural Center, Ankara

2000

Galleria Nilufar, Milano

1995

Milli Resurans Art Gallery, Istanbul

1994

Gallery Tarkett, Stockholm

1993

Turquoise Carpet Gallery, New York

1990

Full Circle Gallery, Washington

W.P.A. Gallery, Princeton

#### ABOUT THE GALLERY:

50 Golborne's gallery mission is to support and promote some of the best projects and productions developed by international visual artists, designers and makers. It especially supports those relevant to portraying and interrogating a world which is changing fast and in which the African continent and its international Diaspora plays a dynamic and significant role. The gallery chose Golborne Road for its location. The vibrant market street is on the northern edge of Notting Hill, London, within a rich community of mixed economic, cultural and ethnic background.