

THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

Yüksel Arslan
Visual Interpretations

April 18 – May 15, 2008

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 17, 6 – 8 pm

Gallery Talk: Saturday, April 19, 4:00 pm

Drawing Room, 40 Wooster Street

New York, March 6, 2008 – The Drawing Center will present *Yüksel Arslan: Visual Interpretations* in the Drawing Room from April 18 through May 15, 2008. This exhibition of works by the Turkish-born, Paris-based artist, notable for both his unique process and provocative imagery, is Arslan's first in the United States. Arslan was an active participant in the intellectual circles of early-1960s Paris that included Jean-Paul Sartre, André Breton, Roland Topor, and Jean Dubuffet. For the past sixty years, Arslan has been mining the depths of the unconscious mind, bringing together western and eastern aesthetics and philosophy in finely wrought works that he calls "Artures." These drawings, highly personal interpretations of his extensive readings, are created through a laborious process he developed and perfected in 1955 which involves mixing raw pigments with his own saliva, blood, urine, and other organic materials like honey, earth, and egg whites which are worked and re-worked into the paper's surface.



YÜKSEL ARSLAN, *L'Homme XXVI: Hallucinations, Arture* 385, 1988. Handmade pigments and ink on paper, 13 1/4 x 10 3/4 inches. Photo by Cengiz Tacer.

Culled from Arslan's personal collection, the exhibition will feature a selection of 27 works on paper, spanning from 1958 to the present. The works will include representative pieces from the artist's seven major series: *Phallisme 2*, *Artures*, *Capital*, *Influences*, *Autoartures*, *L'Homme*, and *Nouvelles Influences*. Each series comprises hundreds of drawings on subjects including schizophrenia, the eroticism of Marquis de Sade, Georges Bataille, and Antonin Artaud, as well as direct and indirect references to the artists, poets, writers, scientists, musicians, and philosophers who have influenced his thinking. *Yüksel Arslan: Visual Interpretations* is curated by Executive Director Brett Littman.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Yüksel Arslan, born in Istanbul in 1933, has been living and working in Paris since 1961. His work was first seen in Istanbul in 1955, drawing the attention of critics and fellow artists. In 1958, Arslan was invited to

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YÜKSEL ARSLAN, *L'Homme XIV, Orgasme, Arture 373*, 1987. Handmade pigments and ink on paper, 11 3/4 x 7 1/4 inches. Photo by Cengiz Tacer.

participate in a Surrealist exhibition organized by André Breton, but was unable to send his work out of Turkey at that time due to export restrictions. Arslan's work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions throughout Turkey and France. His work is held in many public and private collections including the Museum of Painting and Sculpture, Istanbul; the RISD Museum, Providence, RI; and the Istanbul Modern, Istanbul. Arslan's work is currently on view at the SantralIstanbul Museum in Istanbul, Turkey.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Saturday, April 19 at 4:00 pm**, The Drawing Center will present a free gallery talk by Brett Littman about the artist.

PUBLICATION

Accompanying *Yüksel Arslan: Visual Interpretations* will be *Drawing Papers 78*, a full-color, 24-page edition of The Drawing Center's publication series. *Drawing Papers 78* will contain text by Ferit Edgü, images of works in the exhibition, and an essay by Brett Littman.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

CREDITS

This exhibition is made possible, in part, by The American Turkish Society. Additional support is provided by members of the Drawing Room, a patron circle founded to support innovative exhibitions presented in The Drawing Center's project gallery: Devon Dikeou, Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Kravis, Jill Lear, Judith Levinson Oppenheimer, Louisa Stude Sarofim, Elizabeth Tops and Arnie Lizan, John C. Whitehead, and Isabel Stainow Wilcox. The Drawing Center's 2007–2008 exhibitions and public programs are made possible, in part, with the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

www.drawingcenter.org

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