

DIRIMART

Abdi İpekçi caddesi 7/4
Nişantaşı 34367 İstanbul - TR
Tel: +90 212 291 34 34
Fax: +90 212 219 64 00
www.dirimart.org



PRESS RELEASE

O ZHANG

HORIZON

April 29-May 30

Openin: April 29, Thursday 18:00

Chinese artist O Zhang presents her series of photographs titled “Horizon” for the first time in Turkey. As an extension of the artist’s interrogation of personal identity this series of photographs that the artist completed in 2004 continue to explore the connections and discrepancies between traditional Chinese culture and contemporary life in China.

Born in the city of Guangzhou in China, O Zhang spent part of her childhood in a remote village as her parents- who were translators- were sent to this village as part of their re-education to become pineapple growers during Mao’s Cultural Revolution. The photographs of the young Chinese girls in the Horizon series were taken by O Zhang when she went back to visit a village close to the one where she grew up. The vivid colors of the photographs are strikingly in contrast with the condition of these young Chinese girls who squat in a rural landscape with their gazes fixed directly to the camera. O Zhang describes that these little girls from rural villages represent the weakest group in Chinese society, while also emphasizing her belief that the same girls will be the future of China. The act of squatting or crouching might be interpreted as a posture of defense, however, O Zhang points out that the image of the crouching tiger in Chinese culture depicts a tiger right before an attack and that this pose is rather a threatening pose. Through these photographs, the artist both identifies with the little girls and refers to the ever changing power structures.

The captivating images in O Zhang’s photographs and the underlying political references in her work lead the viewers to think about identity, gender and political as well as cultural histories.

The artist who has been living in New York since 2004 completed her studies at Beijing Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing and Royal College of Art, London. Solo shows of her works were organized by institutions such as Kunsthalle Hamburg (Hamburg), Miro Museum (Barcelona), UC Berkeley Art Museum (California) and Museum of Contemporary Art (Shanghai). Her work is in the collections of The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), Santa Barbara Museum (California), and Millenium Monument Art Museum (Beijing).

Visiting hours:

April 29-May 30, Monday through Saturday, 10:00-19:00

For more information please contact Seçil Alkış at salkis@dirimart.org