

# Sibel Kocakaya



selected works  
2018-2021

## Artist Statement

Redefining space and the body-space relationship is central to my works. I deal with the concept of space, I shape my projects according to where I am and how I interact with that space. In addition to this, the notion of Psychogeography plays a central role in my work. I often experience the environment by walking and travelling, the environment becomes a source of inspiration and creativity which are affected to my sensation. In my practice I use an interdisciplinary approach, which deals with the interconnections between artistic expression and society under the context of space. I use different medium such as painting, photography, video, performance and installation.

I ponder on architectural structures because we are surrounded by them and they are our shelters. Depending on the physical structure of space; the tactile and visual function of the materials and form affects our senses. In addition to this, space determines our physical movements. At this point, our relationship with space becomes spatial and it is connected to the experience of the environment. My current projects and research continue to dig into the perception of space, structures, surroundings and material surfaces. Likewise, in my paintings, I study rock surfaces with structures as a material of dwelling for us.

In my drawings and small- size sculptures, I use the forms which are effected me by their structures from the relationship of the memories and the imagination.

In my collage works, I explore architectural concepts from past to present. I create new spaces with non-realistic perspectives from the collected images based on my personal experience. I use different cities or one place: they become a new space and some of them become hybrid spaces.

A building's material reflects the economic and social formation of geography in architecture. The use of the material and the ways of its use have changed from the Neolithic era to the present, depending on the circumstances, which is a fundamental principle in the creation of living space. Architects or self- builders create a new environment and we are surrounded by this *new nature*. I call it *new nature* because it is a vital need to construct our being, besides what nature has given us.

Sibel Kocakaya

In this painting, I present a spatial context by using the images as a collage technic. An undefined gap connects with interior elements and bordered by wall with cloudy sky. In this threshold space is defined by the existence of a human body and experience of it.



The Threshold Space, 2021  
Oil on Canvas, 80 x 100 cm

After my visit to the valley of Ticino in 2018, I started to draw mountains. Walking around the valley during my visits, I was so surrounded by the nature and I was inspired by fascinating structures and surfaces as matters of nature itself. I was vis-à-vis with rocky mountains, stone etc... So I started to study rocky mountains structures, surfaces...

When I start to draw the nature, I began to study it closely. I focused on a kind of understanding of nature. Because It is the first element of construct a shelter. Through my painting, I like to make visible the relationship between human and land. I explore architectonic dynamism of stones by framing it on the canvas.



Neufenen Pass and Grimsel Pass, 2020  
Oil on Canvas, 30 x 40 cm



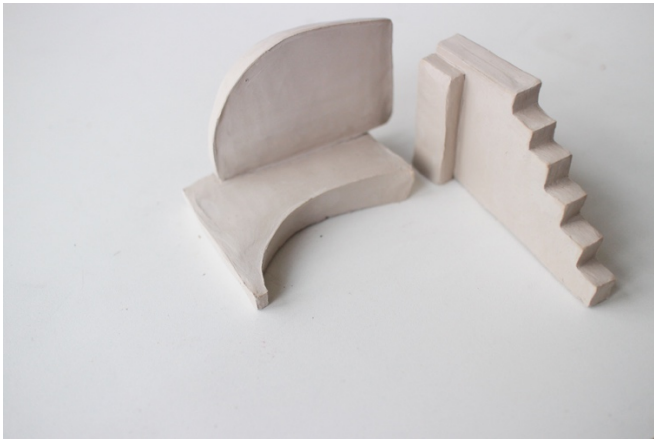


Untitled (rocky mountain from Ticino), 2018  
Oil on Canvas, 100 x 80 cm



Untitled (rocky mountain from Ticino), 2018  
Oil on Canvas, 80 x 100 cm

While questioning the concept of dwelling and the relationship between human and space, I started to make small-size unfired sculptures series out of clay. The starting point for this on-going series come from my memories of the spaces which affected me with their forms and stories. In parallel that I use my imagination and I define new forms between memory and imagination. I create these sculptures with a vernacular naivety.

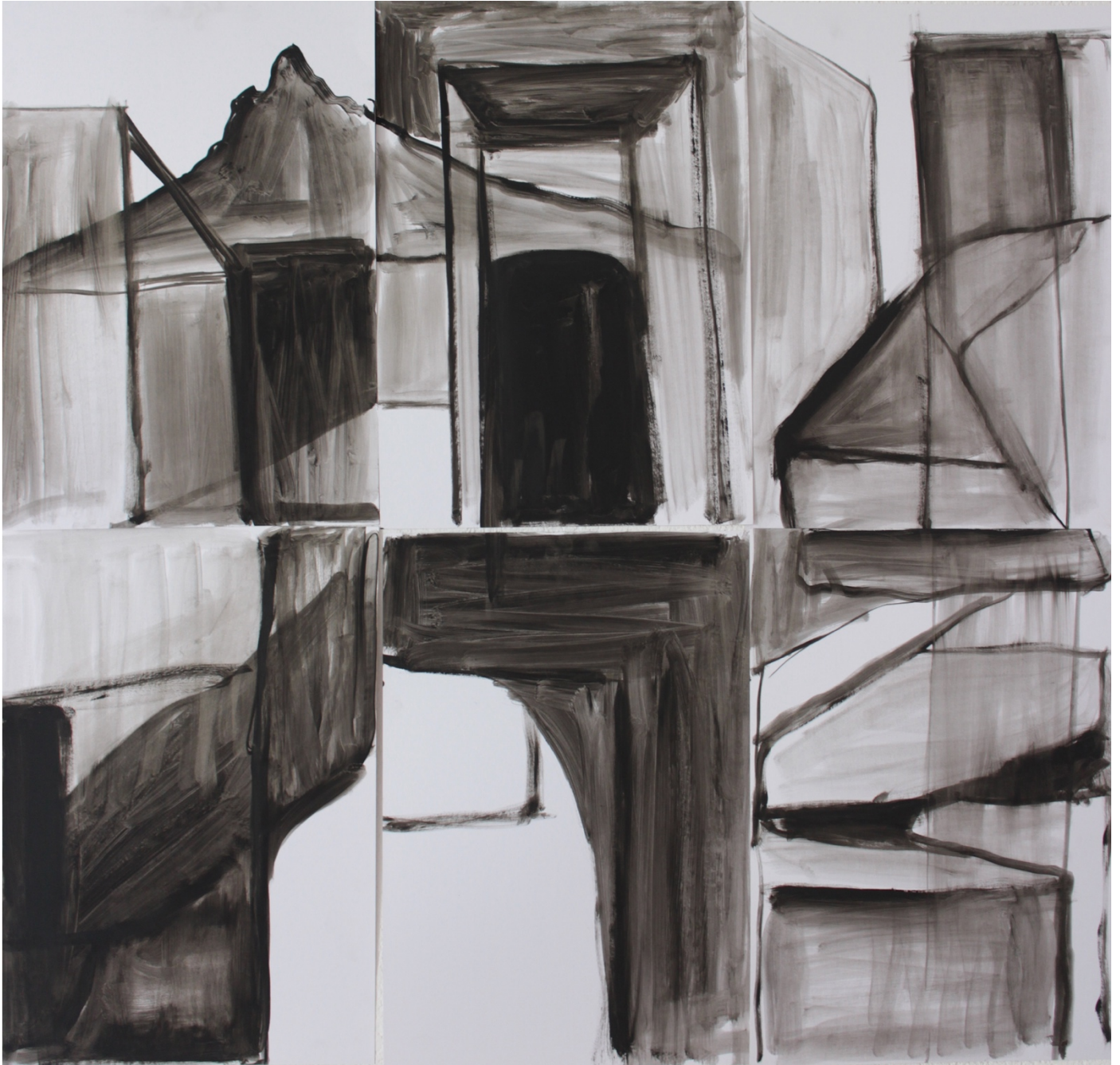




Series of small size sculpture, 2020  
Clay, different sizes between 4 x7 cm



Similar to small-size wall series, In my oil paintings on paper, I spontaneously draw to define new forms and use the effect of a negative of an analogue photograph. I create the forms as a whole, made up of pieces as fragments.

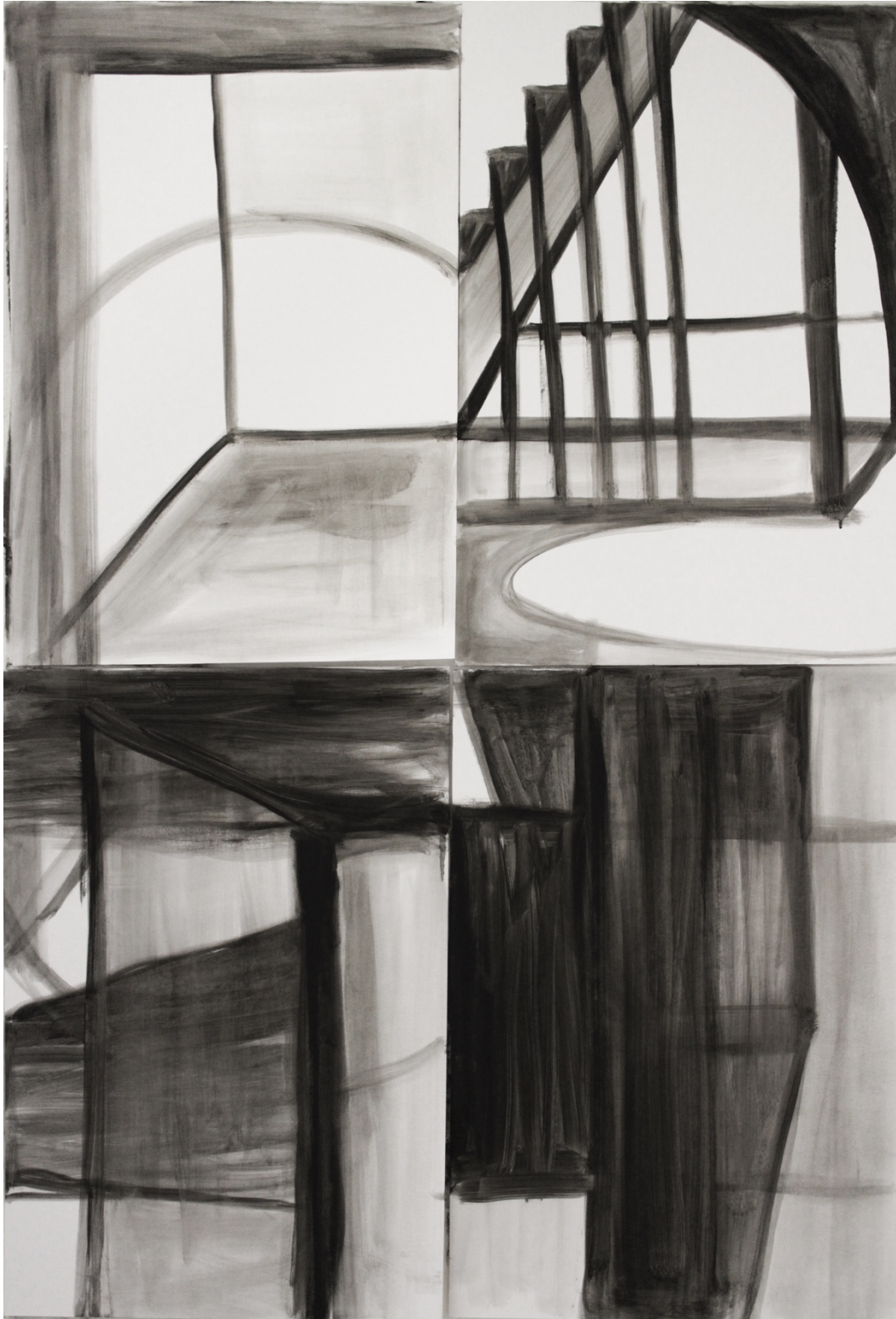


Untitled, 2020  
Oil on paper, 6. 42 x30 cm



Untitled, 2020  
Oil on paper, 4. 42 x30 cm





Untitled, 2020  
Oil on paper, 4. 42 x30 cm

In my collage works, I explore architectural concept from past to present focusing on the materials used and nature. Historical and modern architecture are the two sources for my collage works. I recreate new spaces with non-realistic perspectives from the collected images based on my personal experience. I use different cities or one place: they become a new space and some of them become hybrid spaces. Disjunction of the spaces are representative of the time. On the other hand, the gaps in the collages are outpourings of the fantasy.



Untitled, 2020

Collage on paper, 50 x 70 cm

Images are from Aventicum- Avenches; Switzerland





Untitled 2020

Collage on paper, 32 x 45 cm

Exterior images are from Avenches- Gruyeres, interior images are from my dwelling

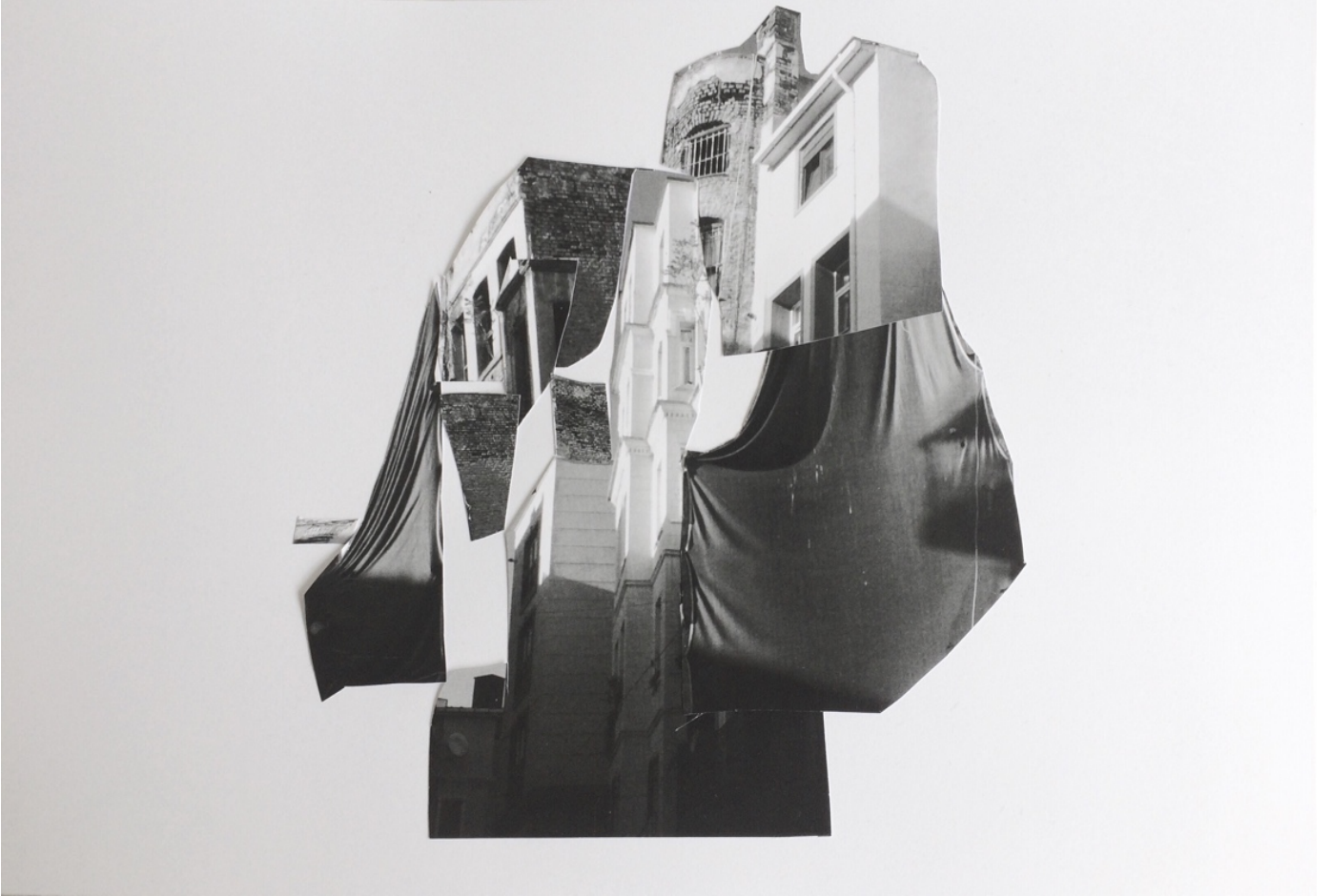


Anna's House- Dwelling, 2020  
Collage on paper, 50 x 70 cm



Untitled, 2019  
Collage on paper, 30 x 42 cm  
Images are from Valle Onsernone-Vergeletto-Auessio, Ticino, Switzerland





Untitled, 2019  
Collage on paper, 30 x 42 cm  
Images are from Beyoğlu, İstanbul

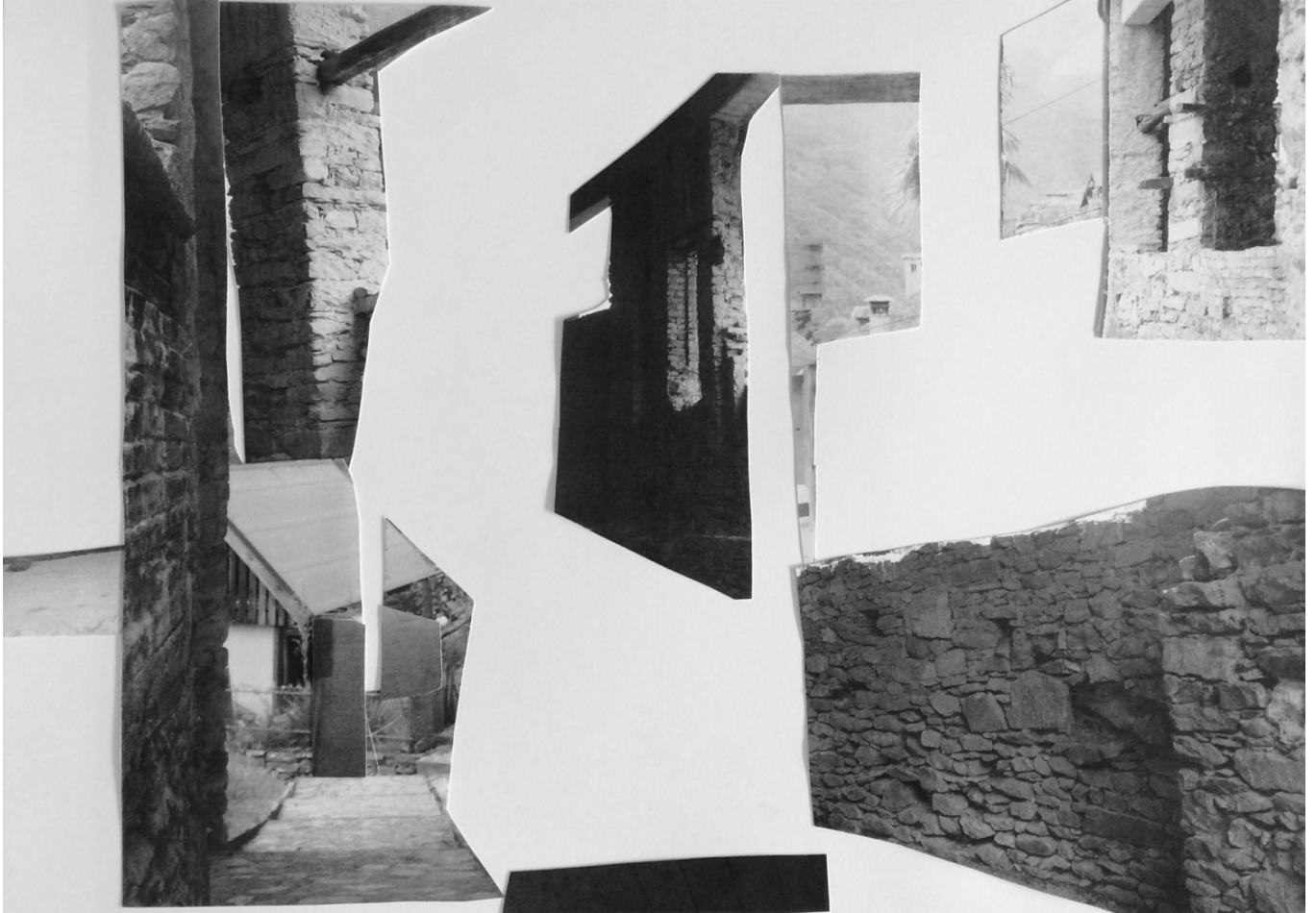




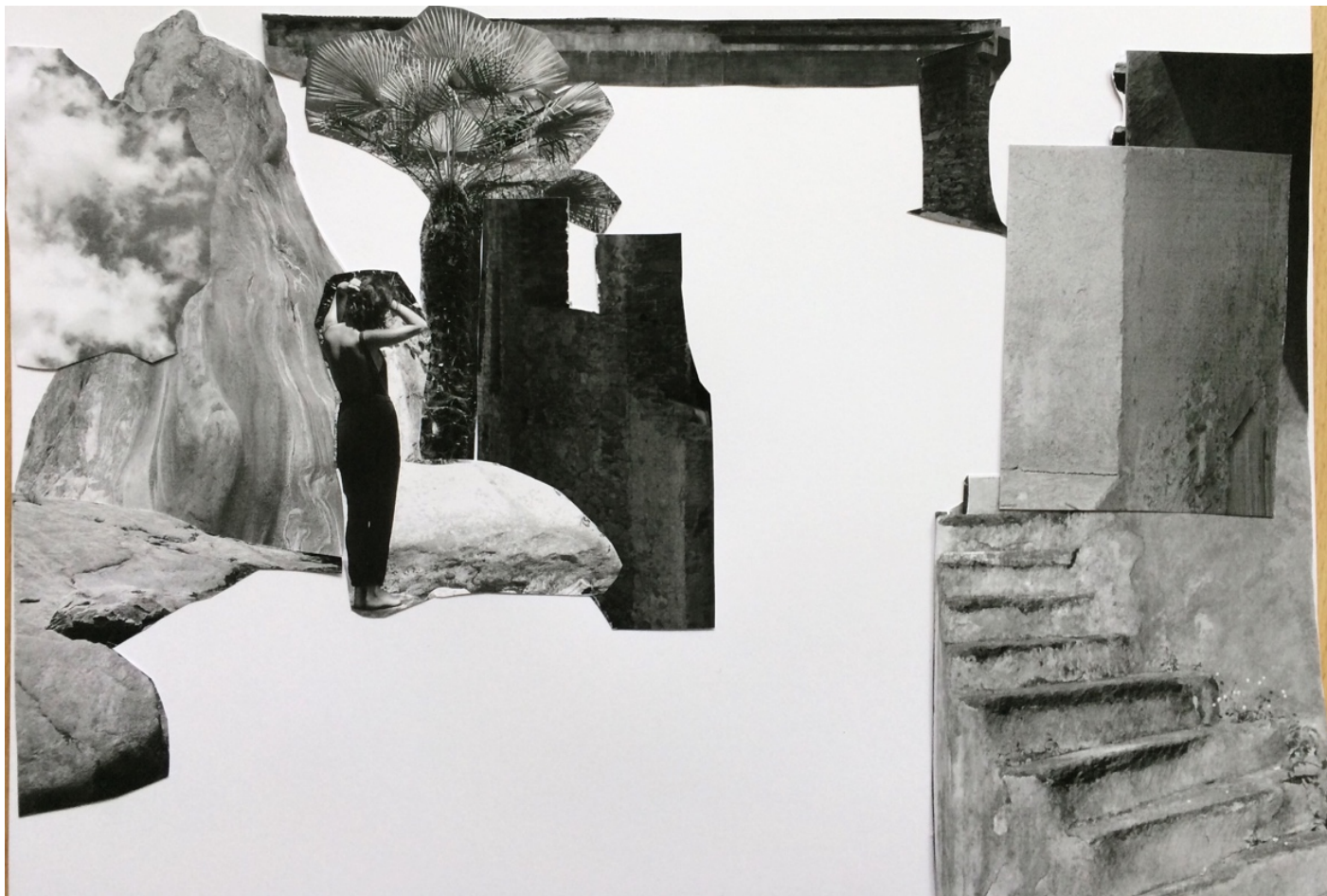
Untitled, 2019  
Collage on paper, 30 x 42 cm  
Images are from SALT Beyoğlu, İstanbul



Untitled, 2018  
Collage on paper, 30 x 42 cm  
Images are from Loco- Valle Verzasca, Ticino



Untitled, 2018  
Collage on paper, 30 x 42 cm  
Images are from Loco, Ticino



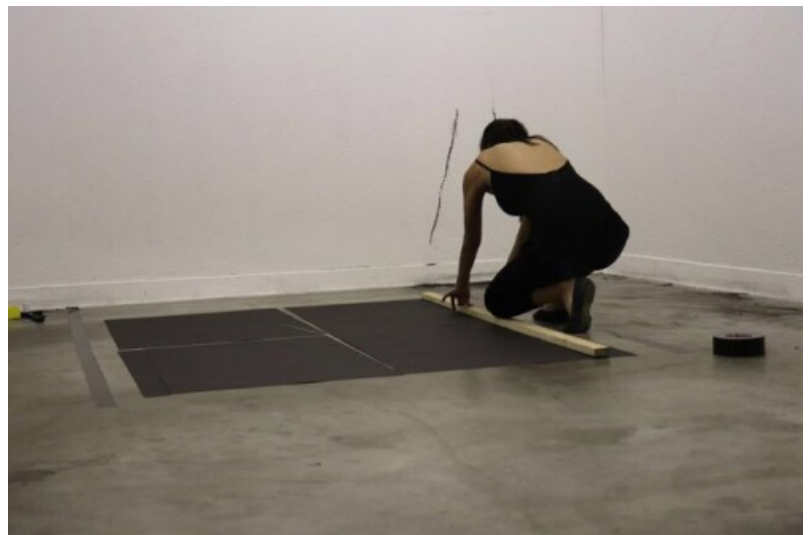
Untitled, 2018

Collage on paper, 30 x 42 cm

Images are from Berzona- Loco- Valle Verzsa , Ticino



In this performance, I refer to the architectural impact which is connected to context of dwelling. In the performance I draw lines by my body movements on the walls with two different kinds of charcoal (dark and light color). Following my movements, I draw borders with black tape on the floor and an architectural image with papers. Then I pound nails on two walls, I install a white string between these two walls as a line which was invisible during my movement from the distance where audience stands.



“Dwelling” 2019

Performance 25 min.

KW Performances, Kunstraum Waldhaus, Zürich-CH



“Dwelling” 2019  
Performance 25 min.  
KW Performances, Kunstraum Waldhaus, Zürich-CH

## **Sibel KOCAKAYA**

Born in Istanbul, 1986

Lives in Bern, works in Zürich

### **Education**

2019-2020 Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, / Fine Arts (MA)

2017- 2018 Hochschule der Künste Bern HKB / Haute école des arts de Berne, MA Contemporary Arts Practice

2013 - 2014 École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts Lyon, Art Opinion (MA/ I.E.P)

2011 - 2015 Marmara University, Institute of Fine Arts, Division of Painting (MA)

2005 - 2009 Marmara University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Photography (BA)

### **Residencies/ Projects**

2020- 2021

What's Next Studio program, Zürich- Switzerland

2019

October School in Mexico, participation by Zürcher Hochschule der Künste  
Hosted by Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City- Mexico

2015

The Loft, by the invitation of Belgian collector Alain Servais, Brussels-Belgium

2014

residency.ch, PROGR, Bern-Switzerland

### **Solo Exhibitions/ Performances**

2019

“Dwelling” KW Performances, Kunstraum Waldhaus, Zürich- Switzerland

2018

“Presencing” #2 Zurich, #3 Basel, #4 Geneva, ACT Performance Festival- Switzerland

“Presencing” #1, Excentricites IX, ISBA, Besançon-France

“Interspace” Studio Sansano- AFF Space, Bern-Switzerland

2017

“Certain Space” performance, HKB CAP performances at Shnit Short film Festival, PROGR Aula, Bern-Switzerland

“Fragmentary Gaps” Krethlow Galerie, Bern-Switzerland

2015

‘Binary Appearances’, Galerie Dukan, Paris-France

2016

“Replace” The Kabine exhibition at Galerie Lehrerzimmer in PROGR, Bern-Switzerland

“In-Between” PROGR Window Exhibition, Bern-Switzerland



2013

‘Untitled (Milk)’, performance, IPA Platform for Young Performance Artists, Salt Galata, Istanbul-Turkey

‘New Perceptions - Body and Boundaries’ / ‘Yeni Algı-Beden ve Sınırlar’, Mixer, Istanbul,-Turkey

### **Selected Group Exhibitions/ Performances**

2020

“ReRepetition” Shedhalle, Zürich-Switzerland

2019

“Blended” Mixer Gallery, İstanbul-Turkey

“Bing Bang, Goodbye” Kunstraum Waldhaus, Zürich-Switzerland

“Trees of Their Land” Center of Photography “March”, Moscow-Russia

2018

“Over and Over” Mixer Gallery, İstanbul- Turkey .

“Art Stage Singapore” Mixer Gallery, İstanbul-Turkey

2017

“Open Studio Performance Space-Performance Stage: ‘Substanz’ Hochschule der Künster Bern Master of Contemporary Arts Practice, Bauhaus Dessau-Germany

“Guest: Unexpected” Mixer Gallery, İstanbul-Turkey

“lAbiRynt Festival Neuer Kunst” Frankfurt Oder- Germany & Slubice-Poland

“Contemporary Istanbul” Mixer Gallery, İstanbul- Turkey

“WHOSE (ART) HISTORY?” Parvus Collective- Uniq Gallery, İstanbul-Turkey

“Место/ Yer” Performance by Sibel Kocakaya and Sasha Puchkova at PROGR, Bern-Switzerland

2016

‘In and Out/ Bir Var Bir Yok’ Sibel Kocakaya and Koja Coyote, Şekerbank Açıkçekran New Media Art Gallery, Istanbul-Turkey

‘Solstice’ Expo Collective #4, Taverne Gutenberg, Lyon- France

‘Key Stone’ / ‘Kilit Taşı’, REM Art Space, Istanbul-Turkey

2015

‘Waving The Piano Keys’ / ‘Piyano Tuşlarını Dalgalandırmak’, Şekerbank Açıkçekran New Media Art Gallery at Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul-Turkey

‘Transparency of Evil or Looking to The Other’ / ‘Kötülüğün Şeffaflığı Ya da Ötekine Bakmak’, Kare Art Gallery, Istanbul-Turkey

2013

‘Bodily Limits’ / ‘Bedensel Sınırlar’, Sibel Kocakaya and Christelle Familiari, Şekerbank Açıkçekran New Media Art Gallery, Istanbul -Turkey

‘Borders Orbits 13-14’ / ‘Sınırlar Yörüngeler 13-14’, Siemens Sanat, Istanbul-Turkey

‘Müstakil Adımlar’, End of the Year Exhibition, master students, Marmara University Fine Arts Faculty, İstanbul-Turkey