

Leyla Pekmen
Lullaby - October 2022



Walking on the Sun, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 100 cm

Lullaby

Reminiscent of postcards, and likened to tokens of travel, Pekmen's charming paintings hold a childlike naivety and an honest playfulness. This lightness might speak to the innate fascination she realised as a young girl in her neighbour's studio, yet also clear is the influence that motherhood has had on her, in particular her son's creative imagination which never fails to surprise and inspire.

Pekmen's background in advertising has informed her graphic painting style. She makes clean, idealistic images which read well on a flat surface as well as in digital form. Escapist scenes are peppered with graphic representations of sunlight, shade and other natural formations. Whilst we are looking at one composition, the artist is depicting multiple perspectives: those of her many subjects. Each cluster of holiday-goers and sun-worshippers tell a different narrative, and the more time spent with the paintings, the more there is to discover.

Although the artworks have a comic book flatness, elements of each painting move or are in action. Notice the trees that have arms that warmly embrace their neighbours in "Wonderland:" a joyful painting that depicts the union of its subjects. Pekmen also demonstrates her talents for understanding perspective in "Pool Gang," one might imagine the movement of the tree shadows reflected in the rippling swimming pool. Apparent is the artist's aptitude for sculpting with paint, she "love[s] to work with clay and draw inspiration from working in three dimensions»

When she travels, Pekmen likes to live like the locals do, she visits markets, thrifts furniture and takes in the architectural landmarks which define the place. This was something Pekmen, like all of us, missed during lockdown. As a result, the paintings exhibited here came into being initially just as a form of therapy for the artist. Pekmen reminisced over the ordinary moments that were once taken for granted and become more and more precious as the world remains unfamiliar and ever-changing.



Pool Day, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 100 cm



Daydream, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 75 cm



Watermelon Love, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 75 cm



Pool Gang, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 130 cm



Paddle Fun, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 75 cm



Beach Life, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 75 cm



Kids, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
70 x 75 cm



My Paradise, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
130 x 150 cm



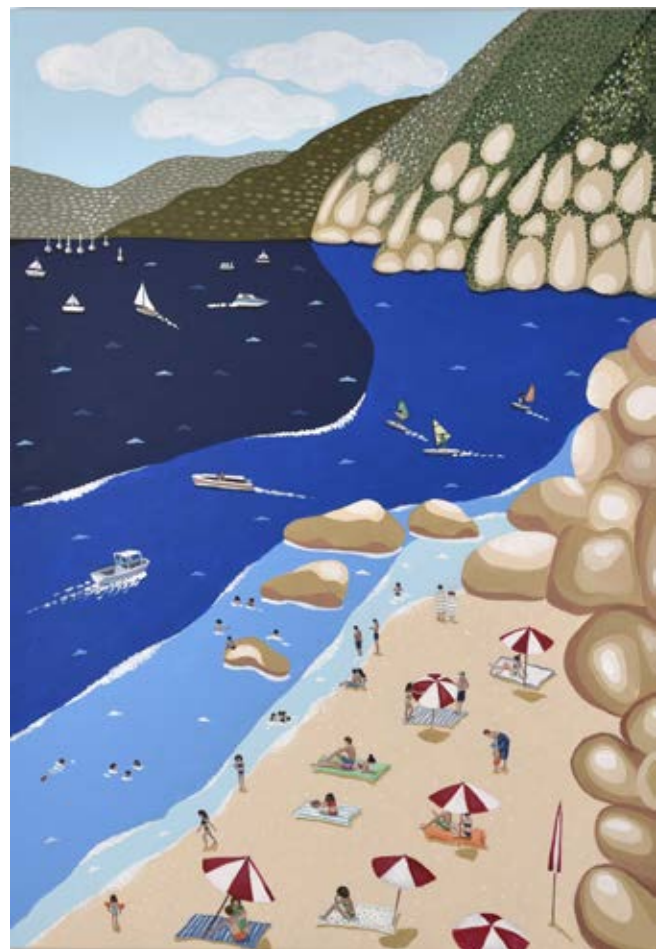
Lazy Sunday, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
D 60 cm



Surfers Paradise, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
D 60 cm



From my Window, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 70 cm



Shades of Blue, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 70 cm



Beachin', 2022
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 70 cm



Wonderland, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm

About the Artist

Leyla Pekmen (b. Turkey) is a Turkish and British artist based in Istanbul. Pekmen's talents and interest in the arts were clear from an early age: she spent many hours in her artist neighbour's studio playing with and learning about paint. Whilst she went on to work in advertising, setting up her own agency in 2005, Pekmen came back to art in 2010 and has been painting and sculpting continually out of a local art studio since.

Last year Pekmen opened her first solo exhibition, "Kolekta meets Avlu," at Avlu Gallery in Istanbul, and participated in a group show alongside other internationally recognised and respected female artists. This year, she has participated in many more group shows including "Goruyu Paylas/Share the View" at Galeri Beylikduzu, "Next" at Four You Gallery, as well as a recent exhibition at Marian Kramer Projects in Amsterdam. As a result of her extensive exposure in recent years, Pekmen's artworks have been collected globally.





About the Gallery

In an attempt to transpose the gender inequality that continues to persist in the art world, Four You gallery exclusively showcases the work of female artists. Four You Gallery is a traveling venue-by-appointment that showcases contemporary art. It offers female artists a global audience, whilst allowing art enthusiasts to discover thoughtfully curated artworks produced by international talents.

Apparent is the lack of representation of female artists in galleries, as well as the exclusion of women from the mainstream art market. Four You gallery intends to provide a platform for the overlooked; offering a space that encourages cross-discipline dialogue led solely by women aiming to inflict change. Dedicated to the artist and regardless of their nationality, medium, or career-status, Four You Gallery hopes to celebrate, support and empower.

Curated for you – whether a casual enthusiast or passionate collector – we carefully select artists with distinct and bold styles. We wish to captivate and inspire, by casting the spotlight on stimulating women in art.

FOUR YOU
Gallery

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www.fouryougallery.com
info@fouryougallery.com
@fouryougallery