#### 21 Mar 2013

#### Hong Kong Tatler

'Turkish Contemporary Artist Captures Hong Kong on Canvas'

Link: http://hk.asiatatler.com/luxury-news/turkish-contemporary-artist-captures-hong-kong-on-canvas

### **Turkish Contemporary Artist Captures Hong Kong** on Canvas

Nuri Kuzucan presents 12 paintings on urban landscapes to mark his first solo exhibition in Hong Kong

By Hong Kong Tatler





In the Making (2013) by Nuri Kuzucan, courtesy Edouard Malingue Gallery

Steeped in heritage while basking and thriving in modern lifestyles, Istanbul and Hong Kong have much in common, and all can be seen in their urban landscapes and western-influenced lifestyles. For those who are unfamiliar with the connection, Turkish contemporary artist Nuri Kuzucan will be painting a vicarious journey in his first solo exhibition ISTHK|HKIST, from Apr 5 to May 18, in Hong Kong at the Edouard Malingue Gallery.

A series of 12 paintings, executed in dark, light or colourful tonalities on canvas, will be brought in front of your eyes to highlight the modern living in both metropolises, which share the same mesmerising contours and geometries of contemporary urban landscape. Through his paintings, the audience is invited to view both cities through an aerial or panoramic viewpoint, and Kuzucan also purposefully omits any human presence in his paintings to depict a sense of fragility that he has observed.

Kuzucan has been exhibiting worldwide since 1993; his works were shown in Basel, Berlin, Istanbal and Hong Kong at Art HK.













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ISTHK HKIST by Nuri Kuzucan Date: April 5 to May 18, 2013 Time: Mon to Sat, 10am – 7pm Venue: Edouard Malingue Gallery, 8 Queen's Road Central

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'Turkiye cagdas sanatindan Hong Kong'da ilk kisisel sergi' by Basin Habarleri



# Türkiye çağdaş sanatından Hong Kong'da ilk kişisel

Türkiyeli çağdaş sanatçı Nuri Kuzucan'ın 12 yeni eseri 5 Nisan'dan itibaren, Hong Kong'un önde gelen galerilerinden Edouard Malingue Gallery'de sergilenecek.

05.04.2013 15:29



#### BASIN BÜLTENİDİR

"ISTHK|HKIST" başlıklı sergi, Türkiyeli bir çağdaş sanatçının 

Hong Kong'un önde gelen galerilerinden Edouard Malingue Gallery, Türkiyeli çağdaş sanatçı Nuri Kuzucan'ın Türkiye dışındaki ilk kişisel sergisine ev sahipliği yapıyor. "ISTHK | HKIST" adını taşıyan ve 5 Nisan-18 Mayıs tarihleri arasında görülebilecek sergi, sanatçının 12 yeni

eserini koleksiyonerler ve sanatseverlerle buluşturacak. Dünyanın yükselen iki sanat merkezini, İstanbul ve Hong Kong'u bir araya getiren sergi, Türkiyeli bir sanatçının Hong Kong'da açtığı ilk kişisel sergi olma özelliği de taşıyor.



"ISTHK | HKIST", Kuzucan'ın 12 yeni eserinden oluşuyor ve kalabalık şehir manzaralarının karmaşık geometrisini inceliyor. Tablolarında insan figürü görünmese de kalabalıkları yoğunluğuna hissettirerek, metropollerin modern yaşamın işareti ve ölçüsü olduğunu gösteriyor. Kuzucan, İstanbul metropollerindeki kalabalıktan yola çıkarak yaşadığımız dönemin portresini çiziyor ve Hong Kong'daki izleyicide de benzer yansımalar ve eleştiriyi yakalamayı hedefliyor.

Sanatçı Kuzucan, Türkiye dışında açılan ilk kişisel sergisi için şunları söylüyor: "Hiç tanımadığım birini atölyeme kadar getiren resimler, daha önce hiç gitmediğim bir şehri -Hong Kong'u- deneyimlememi de sağlıyorlar. Ve içinde geziyorken çalıştığım ve yaşadığım şehrime -İstanbul- bu kadar benzemesine dünyanın diğer ucunda bir dostumla karşılaşmışım gibi seviniyorum."

#### Sergiye özel katalog

Edouard Malingue Galerisi sanatçının bu ilk kişisel sergisi için çok özel bir katalog hazırladı. Katalogda, sergide yer alan eserlerin fotoğraflarının yanı sıra Avrupa Nükleer Araştırma Merkezi'nin (CERN) sanat projeleri yöneticisi Ariane Koek ve İstanbul Modern'in şef küratörü Levent Çalıkoğlu gibi uluslararası çağdaş sanat uzmanlarının yazılarına yer verildi.

#### Nuri Kuzucan kimdir?

1971'de dünyaya gelen sanatçı, Mimar Sinan Üniversitesi Güzel Sanatlar Fakültesi'nde lisans, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü'nde de yüksek lisans eğitimini tamamladıktan sonra Basel, Berlin ve Dubai gibi şehirlerde karma sergilere katıldı. Eserleri, Pera Müzesi ve İstanbul Modern gibi Türkiye'nin önde gelen müze koleksiyonlarında sergilendi.

#### Edouard Malinge Gallery

Fransız sanat taciri Edouard Malinge tarafından 2010 yılında kurulan ve kısa sürede Hong Kong'daki çağdaş sanatın öncü merkezlerinden biri haline gelen galeri, Office for Metropolitan Architecture'ın (OMA) ünlü tasarımcılarından Rem Koolhaas tarafından yapıldı. Açılışını Pablo Picasso sergisiyle yapan galeri, Zhang Huan, Laurent Grasso ve Callum Innes gibi ünlü sanatçıların sergilerine ev sahipliği yaptı.

'Interview: Nuri Kuzucan's Hong Kong Connection' by Zoe Li

Link: http://hk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/888852/interview-nuri-kuzucans-hong-kong-connection

# **BLOUIN** ARTINFO

## Interview: Nuri Kuzucan's Hong Kong Connection

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Turkish contemporary artist Nuri Kuzucan visited Hong Kong in March of 2012 and was inspired to create works based on the city.

His paintings depict stark, emi-abstract city scenes, devoid of human figures,

taking an aerial or panoramic perspective of dense urban architecture. Stocky, looming

buildings are created using layers of acrylic paint and paper tape. Kuzucan continuously tapes, retapes, and removes tape as he builds the layers in his work. The process alludes to construction and the build-up of the urban environment.

Now, Kuzucan returns for his first solo exhibition in Hong Kong. Edouard Malingue Gallery presents "ISTHK|HKIST" bringing 12 works by Kuzucan, including pieces inspired by Hong Kong such as "Confrontation" and "Transglance" both created in 2013. We chat with the artist about the dense urban cityscape and what it means to him.

#### The cities in your paintings seem a bit chaotic and frightening to me. Is that how you feel about city life?

This is what these paintings have evoked to you, what they reflect in you, the city evokes feelings in us and we attach those feelings to the city itself.

What I feel is that the city hosts no emotions. What we call "city" is very static. It's us who creates stories so that we will feel closer to or more attached

#### But in this series at the gallery, the perspectives are from the outside of the buildings, it could be said we are quite distanced from the city depicted.

Because I want to enable the viewer to attach his or her feelings to the paintings, that's precisely why I create such a distance with these images. I don't want to fill the viewer with thoughts.

These cities do not belong to a particular place. Each person can experience these cities in their own way.

When a painting comes with a story intact, we have two choices as viewer, either to sympathize and feel close to the painting, or we just have no attachment and walk away from it.

Painting should be more emotionless and people should be able to attach their own feelings.

#### So you want your work to be a vehicle for others' expression?

There are two parts to this. One is the process of creating. This is very personal and I can paint to motivate myself, I can paint to make myself feel better.

But when the painting is complete, I see it detached from me and I would expect the painting to create different effects according to the viewer.

I create as simple a painting as possible so people are not intimidated by it. If I made a very complicated, realistic painting, people may feel there is no way that they can paint this. They may feel that they have to be a virtuoso to appreciate it.

You said the paintings are not depicting any specific city, but it is clear that a few of them are of Hong Kong. What is it about Hong Kong that captivated you?

Hong Kong is the city that made me want to travel more and see more of the world. Something about it inspires me.

Physically it is quite similar to Istanbul. The topography reminds me of Istanbul. There are similarly two shores separated by a body of water in both cities

Cities are like human friends for me.

I have been to other metropolitan cities, such as New York. But New York is as cold as my paintings. It moves at a fast pace, but it is not where I can get inspiration. When I am in New York, I know exactly what I'll see when I turn the corner there. But in Hong Kong and Istanbul, I can have some unexpected encounters. I can see surprising things.

## You build up your paintings layer upon layer using paper tape and acrylic paint, constantly laying down tape and tearing it off again. Do you begin with a set image in your mind or is it improvisational?

I begin with a mental image, but it is not a photograph and it is not based on any specific scene. It is just an impression of the city that I have in my mind. When I lay down the tape I am taking into account the physical constraints such as size of the canvas, but I am also continuously improvising and allowing the tape, paint, and canvas to take me to where it wants me to go. The material will give me a response and so I make another move. And I work until the canvas says "no."

It is a spontaneous and organic creation process. Each layer brings something unexpected, just like my encounters on the streets of Hong Kong or Istanbul

Somtimes it takes half a dozen layers to complete the painting and sometimes it takes sixty. ("When Pass By" has 15 layers, "Daybreak" has 30 layers)

#### Is it a good time to be a Turkish artist now?

I don't think that nationality should be a topic for artists or art itself. We shouldn't rely on nationality and shouldn't recognize nationality in the works. We need to get distanced from that so we can appeal to everyone without creating an otherness.

Why do we get rid of borders for the capitalist system to function better, but in art we still insist on applying national labels.

Art should be a borderless place with true freedom where artists can breath.

#### Which city would you most like to visit now?

I want to go to Mexico City, or Buenos Aires. I am attracted to the chaos.

#### April 2013

#### Randian

'Nuri Kuzucan ISTHK | HKIST'

Link: http://www.randian-online.com/np\_event/nuri-kuzucan-isthk-hkist/





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### NURI KUZUCAN ISTHK | HKIST

Press Release

Educard Malingue Gallery is aleased to present "ISTHKIHKIST", the first exhibition in Hong Kong of celebrated Turkish contempora artist, Nuri Kuzucan (b. 1971, Turkey). A highly anticipated exhibition, the solo show marks the first time Turkish contemporary art is provided a particular focus in Hong Kong, and brings together two of the world's most thriving artistic scenes: Istanbul and Hong Kong. The exhibition thus reflects Edouard Malingue Gallery's dedication to exhibiting selected distinguished talent from around the

"ISTHK|HKIST" will feature a series of ten works that individually, as well as aggregately, explore the complex geometries of dense urban landscapes. Although devoid of human presence, Nuri Kuzucan shows in his paintings how metropolises, from Istanbul to Hong Kong, have become signifiers and quantifiers of modern living. Nuri Kuzucan thus explores society's increased focus on space and provides reflection, as well as seeming criticism, on our manifested urbanity and celebrated contemporaneity.

Nuri Kuzucan depicts, from multiple perspectives, our complex surroundings; whether from an aerial or panoramic viewpoint, each of his paintings manifest layers and folds of interior and exterior spaces. Depicted from a distance, each painting portrays the intricate overlap and fragmented dimensionalities of our cosmopolitan edifices. Such distance, however, is not to be confused with detachment: on the contrary, Nuri Kuzucan's omniscience permits him to delve deeply into the composition of our modern quotidian and flesh out the intimacy amidst the anonymity of the concrete Jungle.

Nuri Kuzucan's works exhibited in 'ISTHK|HKIST' simultaneously carry with them an emotional charge: executed in dark, light or colourful tonalities, Nuri Kuzucan sets with each stroke a dramatic or conversely tranquil aura over each contemporary landscape. Moreover, Nuri Kuzucan's technique of using acrylic on canvas and paper tape adds a textural sense of fragility and concurrent permanence to each painting. Thus, although Nuri Kuzucan chooses not to blatantly depict the human form, each of his paintings carries a whis per of humanity and illustrates how "to live is to leave traces". (Walter Benjamin, Reflections: Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writing, Trans Edmund Jephcott, New York: Schocken Books, 1986, Print, p 155).

Nuri Kuzucan (b. 1971) gained a Major in Painting as well as a Science Masters from the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts in Istanbul. Nuri Kuzucan's paintings have been the focus of multiple solo exhibitions in Turkey and group exhibitions around the world, from Basel to Berlin and Dubai. Nuri Kuzucan's work has additionally been exhibited in public collections such as the Pera Museum in Istanbul. In the event of his first solo show in Hong Kong, an extensive publication has been created with images of his work as well texts by leading international commentators in the field of Contemporary Art. Key contributors include: Levent Calikoglu (Chief Curator, Museum of Modern Art Istanbul), Arianne Koek (CERN Residency Programme), HG Masters (Editor-at-large, Art Asia Pacific) and Bige Orer (Director, Istanbul

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### April 2013 Art in Asia 'ISTHK | HKIST'

Link: http://www.artinasia.com/galleryDetail.php?catID=1&galleryID=2122&view=7&eventID=19181





#### ISTHK | HKIST

by Edouard Malingue Gallery Location: Edouard Malingue Gallery Artist(s): Nuri KUZUCAN Date: 5 Apr - 18 May 2013

Edouard Malingue Gallery presents: "ISTHK I HKIST", the first exhibition in Hong Kong of celebrated Turkish contemporary artist, Nuri Kuzucan. A highly anticipated exhibition, the solo show marks the first time Turkish contemporary art is provided a particular focus in Hong Kong, and brings together two of the world's most thriving artistic scenes: Istanbul and Hong Kong.

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"ISTHK I HKIST" will feature a series of twelve works that individually, as well as aggregately, explore the complex geometries of dense urban landscapes. Although devoid of human presence, Nuri Kuzucan shows in his paintings how metropolises, from Istanbul to Hong Kong, have become signifiers and quantifiers of modern living. Nuri Kuzucan thus explores society's increased focus on space and provides reflection, as well as seeming criticism, on our manifested urbanity and celebrated contemporaneity.

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#### About the Artist

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lmage: © Nuri Kuzucan, Edouard Malingue Gallery

## April 2013 Pixelbread

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#### ISTHK | HKIST

Edouard Malingue Gallery Nuri Kuzucan 視藝 展覽



日期及時間: 五,04/05/2013 - 10:00 - 六,05/18/2013 - 19:00

05 April 2013 - 18 May 2013

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Edouard Malingue Gallery

First floor, 8 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong



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