



Artist of Light and Shadows

Serdar Arat, RC 73 holds New York painting exhibition

Artist Serdar Arat, RC 73 opened the fourth solo exhibition of his dimensional paintings in New York, at the Kouros Gallery, in October. A separate solo exhibition of his work opened at Galeri Nev-Ankara in November 2010. Arat's first solo exhibition opened in New York in 1986 and was followed in the years to come by over 30 solo and more than 60 group exhibitions in the US and

Turkey.

He received the Pollock-Krasner Foundation award; the same year he won first prize in painting at the Asian-European Biennial. Since 1993, Arat has taught at the Fine Arts Faculty of New York Concordia College, while concurrently serving as director of the school's art gallery, and is currently serving as the Diane Heath Beever '49 Professor of Art at Lasell College in Newton, MA.

In addition to the collections of the University Museum at Albany, and Robert College in Istanbul, his work is included in the collections of Pfizer, Metromedia-New York, and the Central Bank Contemporary Art Collection, Turkey, among other public, corporate, and private collections internationally. Arat's work has been reviewed in various publications, including several articles in the New York Times. Below is an excerpt on his work, included in the Kouros Gallery exhibition press release.

"Light and darkness, each serving as a catalyst for seemingly contradictory feelings. This happens most explicitly in the realm of artifice...in Arat's constructed spaces, exacerbated by the intense light and shadows. One thinks of film and theater, as a sub-category of lived experience. One thinks of spaces as described in literature. In Arat's interiors, seascapes, and gardens there is little extraneous detail, removing them sharply from lived life. It would be overstating the case, but only slightly, to say every detail Arat chooses to include is there to cast a shadow, either literally or psychologically."

After graduating from RC in 1973, Serdar received his BA at Boğaziçi University, and MFA at SUNY-Albany. He is married to Zehra Kabasakal (RC 75). They have a 26 year-old son, Hasan-Can, and currently live in Port Chester, New York.



Serdar Arat, RC 73

Photo: Sinan Cebenoyan