

Departing Skies: *Serdar Arat 1987-2017*

Exhibition Opens at OSilas Gallery

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OSilas Gallery at Concordia College is pleased to announce the opening of *DEPARTING SKIES: Serdar Arat, 1987-2017* on March 22. Coming of age in Istanbul in the 1970s,

living and working in New York since 1980, Arat has been exploring - in his words, "distilling" - both the political upheavals, and the highly personal narratives of this time. Of his work, Arat states "*the consequences of political and personal experiences are inseparable, and the life of mind merges with that of the spirit*". *Departing Skies* will be on view in OSilas Gallery through April 21 and is free and open to the public.



The earliest work in *Departing Skies* is from 1987, which features an actual metal vent attached to a black and white lithograph, and begins the exploration of the next thirty years: reality always teetering in between two and three dimensions, incorporating actual depth alongside its illusion, both teasing and contradicting our perception of depth. The latest piece in the exhibition is Arat's first fully three dimensional work: a thirty-foot-long sculptural landscape installation, strewn with over a hundred forms and fragments in mixed media, including bronze, copper and ceramic. A lifetime's discipline of subdued three dimensionality, gives way to an explosion of sculptural forms, coming straight out of the metaphorical imagery of the paintings and works on paper featured in this exhibition.

Arat has been exhibiting internationally since the 1980s, primarily in New York City and Istanbul. He has had more than 30 individual exhibitions and has participated in over 40 group exhibitions. In addition, his paintings are included in more than a dozen public and

corporate collections. His awards and grants as an artist include a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and 4th Asian-European Biennial Painting Award (Ankara, Turkey).

In conjunction with *Departing Skies*, Arat will be giving a lecture, *Art Across Two Worlds*, in OSilas Gallery on Thursday, April 19 at 7 PM. Cultural sensibility in increasing globalism; art market as extreme speculation; viewer as creator: Arat offers a comparative exploration of these issues, by way of New York and Istanbul, his two homes. A diverse selection of historical and contemporary artworks will illustrate this talk. This lecture will be free and open to the public but reservations are required. Please visit osilasgallery.org for more information.

OSilas Gallery is located on the campus of Concordia College, 171 White Plains Road, on the second floor of the Donald A. Krenz Academic Center. Free parking is accessible via Concordia Place off of White Plains Road. Gallery Hours: Tues/Wed/Fri noon-5pm, Thurs noon-7pm and Sat/Sun 2-5pm. The Gallery will be closed March 30 – April 2 in observance of the Easter holiday.

Please visit osilasgallery.org for more information about exhibitions, special events and programs.

Image Captions: Jim Marrone, Charles Little and Maggie Marrone at the *Departing Skies* opening reception, March 22; OSilas Gallery Executive Director Elizabeth Vranka with Artist Serdar Arat.