

## ***Mythos and Utopia:*** **The Spiraling Reality of a Pair of Phenomena**

A caravan of myths embarking on a journey with a light touch, a faint whisper or an elusive vibration triggering the first motion. It's not clear whence they come or where they go, but they certainly invite us to join them on this journey. Enrobed in colorful clothes, they vanish into thin air, spilling on us images they have created in the wild world of a forgotten, strange-sounding language. What they leave behind is a puzzling fascinationcharm aroused by curiosity.

This journey of myths that has transformed into a spectacle is not unfamiliar to people of a society who have been struggling - for two hundred years - to keep on their feet living on the east-west fault line with joints cracking as if about to shatter at any moment. Swept by utopia into attics, storage rooms or under the stairs, mythos' traditional heritage, though occasionally, emerges from its hideout and roams around; sometimes shyly, other times menacingly. Let's not forget: every time the cultural fault line on which we attempt to establish our habitat becomes active, life experiences "interrupted halfway through" (as Tanpınar used to say) meet each other in the dump site cohabited by mythos and utopia.

On the atlas of the world, mythos represents the East and utopia represents the West; yet in the world of values, the East seeks refuge in the shadow of mythos whereas utopia turns its face towards the Western sun. Still it's hard to draw such a sharp line between the two, because mythos carries on its path within the future of utopia, and utopia proceeds within the past of mythos. This two-way transitivity has been engraved into our identity; it's turned into a heritage.

Mythos evokes a human state of mind, while utopia rather evokes the body of principles of a rational order; it's a tragedy perpetuated on us by two poles, one Dionysian, the other Apollonian. While forming the material, Burçak Bingöl adds irony to this tragedy; she conveys the conflicts - both complementing and opposing each other - of interrupted attempts and anomalousunusual forms. We follow the footsteps of utopia within mythos and of mythos within utopia; roaming around in our lives, accompanied by a mysterious guide.

**Ekrem Işın**



Geçici Geçirgen / *Temporary Permeable*, 2016  
Mekana özgü yerleřtirme; seramik, duvar kađıdı / *Site-specific installation; ceramics, wallpaper*  
290x180 cm (detail/detail)