

You/Me- site specific installation in Cappadocia, Turkey

This is a new piece completed at the end of August 2012 in an abandoned house structure in the rural village of Ibrahimpasa in Cappadocia, Turkey. I found the space filled with writing and drawings of guns and many hearts, a few aliens, swords and shoot-outs. I had traveled around to Istanbul and in Cappadocia and was drawn to the writing on the walls- some in the Hagia Sophia seemed like artists trying out their style, some in the abandoned Christian Byzantine churches were in Greek, most in Turkish and a few in other languages over the paintings. I decided to create a space for dialogue using my own particular way of communication with the nature and the people.

For a month, I would get up early in the morning and take long walks to observe and collect my materials. All the colors I used in the final piece were collected and made from local substances with the exception of ground malachite. The room has two windows facing east and west, and the wall painting was done on the inside of the west wall facing east. The form it took became more obvious the more I worked in the space and came to know the land and village rhythms. Everything is governed by light- the village lives according to the seasons and the sunrise and sunset. While I was there the harvest of the apricots was in full production and on many rooftops you could see golden orange squares laid out like maps or islands letting the hot dry sun preserve them. The townspeople are Muslim and so the call to prayer is also a daily rhythm, five times a day. When I arrived it was Ramadan and a town drummer would go through the village at three in the morning to wake everyone up to eat before the sunrise and with the sunset the fast could be broken,. So the element of the sun and the rhythm of the light as it manifested in my observations came to be the central element in the wall painting and a channel for communication.

One can peek in from outside and see the painting but it is only upon coming into the space that the piece is complete. In the two side niches there are the words You/Me and Seni/Beni facing each other. I had several groups of people, children and adults coming in to look at what I was doing. The ways we try to communicate with each other is always very important- so we both learned some important words and made attempts at friendship. I installed a sort of seating area like Turkish houses can have with low pillows to encourage staying to watch the light and color change.

This is part of a larger body of work inspired by a quote from Walter Benjamin, "Every moment is a little door through which the Messiah could enter." It could just as easily be a window but perhaps it simply means an opening and it is a central part of my art-making process and interaction with people and nature. The side walls were left bare intentionally, maybe some one will come back and make more drawings and writings.

Kate Temple August 2012

colors made from soil collected from Ibrahimpasa, Avanos, Cemil, Keslik Monastery, Ihlara Valley, green walnut hulls, barberries, Turkish saffron, and charcoal from field fires.
Ground malachite was also used.



raw space





outside east window



looking in to west wall



local gathered materials, various soils, berries, black walnut, turkish saffron



charcoal from field fires used to make words Seni/Beni= You/Me







local people from Ibrahimpasa



women and girls from Ibrahimpasa