

---

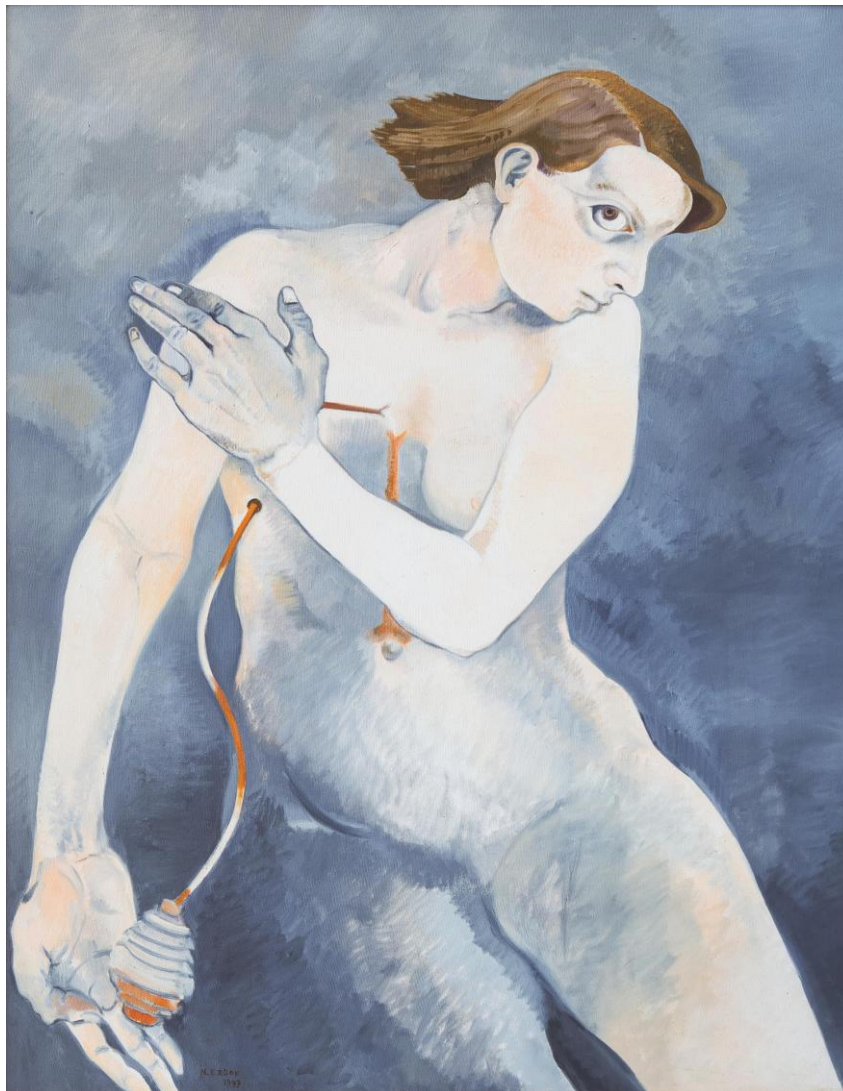
## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---



[1]

---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---

Evin Sanat Gallery reopens its doors under the title of *Brave New World*. The freshly renovated space emanates a feeling of homecoming. Rich in tradition and the legacy of the legendary artist couple Nasip and Nuri İyem and their artist friends, the old house in Bebek welcomes visitors into a house of conviviality, graciousness, and intimacy. At a time when despair, loss of hope, anxiety, and desperation are natural sentiments in response to recent disasters, Osman Nuri İyem's reference to Aldous Huxley's dystopian novel conveys a programmatic spirit of resistance and solidarity; as brave as the street saying *her şey çok iyi olacak* (Everything will be fine), the phrase "brave new world" resonates with Shakespeare's dialogues in which the term *brave* meant "good" or "beautiful"—no more and no less. A brave new world is one in which things are meant to be good, a world in which "beautiful" becomes an attribute of resistance

and courage: *her şey çok güzel olacak*. The group exhibit *Brave New World*, curated by artist Osman Nuri İyem together with Gizem Kaya, connects this fierce good, this courageous demand for beauty, with the artistic creativity of artists associated with the gallery. It shows a web of friendships, of long-standing relationships between artists and gallerists, teachers and students, (grand)parents and (grand)children, and even between lovers, up to the third generation. Evin's *Brave New World* teaches friendship, craftsmanship, faithfulness, daring continuity, and love.

The show starts out with an unusual ensemble of Nuri İyem's paintings. A large abstract work from 1960, showing an assemblage of black squares on brown grounds, leads the way into smaller works showing landscapes, cities, and women of various backgrounds, their bodies exposed, bathing, sitting in typically French

---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---



[2]



---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---

Fauvist poses, all of them to be led forward by a small portrait of an Anatolian woman, a typical İyem portrait, yet empowered by a revolutionary essence and energy that we may not have been aware of before. This group is followed by equally powerful female figures, the subjects of two large canvases by Temür Köran, an artist associated with Evin Sanat Galerisi since 1997. One of them, a stunning figure in red, is from 2022. The show thus connects future and past, contemporaneity and tradition, in a time capsule spread out right there, greeting the visitor the very moment she enters.

A large painting by Hakan Gürsoytrak, founding member of the Hafriyat artists group and an artist associated with Evin since 2006, follows. Entitled *Operation-Officials Drink Tea*, the artist worked on it between 1999 and 2006. In its ironic essence, its depiction of a planless crowd with an air of architectural demise, this work has an

uncannily contemporary feel: a sense of disaster is unfolding, with nothing to be done about it, officially. Kazimir Malevich, too, painted figurative political satires and war caricatures during World War I, ironic depictions of merciless acts of revenge on enemies, before presenting his famous black square.<sup>1</sup> Gürsoytrak's black square is at the center of Evin Sanat Galerisi, connecting the first and second floors.

When coming up to the second floor, the visitor is greeted by the majestic presence of five female busts by Nasip İyem, five contemporarily ancient portraits, exuding a feeling of ancient prowess, pride, and sovereign reign, at once ancient Mesopotamian and Futurist.

---

<sup>1</sup> Malevich's war caricatures, many of them from 1914, were part of the groundbreaking exhibition *The Russian Avant-Garde: Dreaming the Future through Art and Design* at the Sabanci Museum, October 18, 1919, to April 7, 2020.

---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---



[3]

Osman Nuri İyem groups them with photographs by Devin Oyktar Yalkin, showing excessive scenes of female sexual desire and unleashed homoerotic pleasures. Yalkin, a New York photographer and artists, has shown his mostly black-and-white

photographs in magazines and exhibits all over the world, including the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and the *New Yorker*. Evin Sanat Gallery dedicated a solo show to Yalkin's work in 2022.

Now, in this Brave New World, these photographs are juxtaposed with a large

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

painting by Neş'e Erdok, an eminent artist and researcher born in 1940 in Istanbul, a daring nude self-portrait from the year 1997.<sup>2</sup> Relationships between teacher and student evolve: Erdok's work is flanked by a large self-portrait of Kader Genc, who became associated with Evin in 2022.

Beauty and goodness are a matter of resistance in this Brave New World. Emin Turan's *Delta* paintings and Rahmi Aksungur's sculptures are exuberant examples. In Turan's love scenes, animal worlds mingle with bodies mostly female into a colorful celebration of life, while



[4]

<sup>2</sup> Image no. 1.



---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---

Aksungur's organic objects are injected with overflowing fluidity and grace. And Ahmet Elhan, associated with Evin Sanat Gallery since 2019, shows bewitching, seductive group portraits of a fantastic kind, digital phantasies called *Notes from Underground*: sexy, lush, leaving a taste for more to come.

Yet a scream is heard in Evin's House. A threefold shriek, voiced loudly from the Brave New World's very last room, a small corner space you enter last, off scene, from where you turn around and walk everything backwards. This is the room where the youngest of Evin's artists, *Tuğçe Ariöz*, premieres three works, two pigment ink prints and one video. In *Ariöz's* corner room truth is spoken, her threefold anxiety scream leaves a mark on all the works—a Pop commentary on Edvard Munch's iconic 1893 *Skrik* (Shriek) it is, but one whose context is Istanbul, here and now.



[5]

How are beauty and goodness brave, you may ask? Evin's House gives more than one hint. The exhibition is on until May 3, 2023.

**With artists Rahmi Aksungur, Setenay Alpsoy, Tuğçe Ariöz, Ahmet Elhan, Neş'e Erdok, Kader Genc, Hakan Gürsoytrak, Naip İyem, Nuri İyem, Temür Koran, Isil Simsek, Emin Turan, Devin Oktar Yalkin.**  
Curated by Osman Nuri İyem together with Gizem Kaya İyem.

---

---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---

This essay was first published in Turkish by Art Unlimited online, Istanbul April 2023. Translated by Merve Akar Akgün. The English version is copy edited by Tas Skorupa. With many thanks to both.

### Images:

[1]

Neş'e Erdok

*Self-Portrait (1997)*

Oil on canvas

146 × 114 cm

[2]

Nuri İyem

*Untitled (1937)*

Oil on cardboard

12 × 17 cm

[3]

Devin Oktar Yalkın

*Three's a Crowd for Vampire (2019)*

Pigment ink print

67 × 85 cm

Edition 6 +2

[4]

Emin Turan

*Delta (2021)*

Oil on canvas

40 × 72 cm

[5]

Tuğçe Arıöz

*Ruin (2023)*

Video still





---

## Brave New World.

For Evin's House

**Almut Sh. Bruckstein / House of Taswir**

Art Unlimited online, May 2023. Unabridged version.

---