

About the Artist

“The combination of 2- and 3-dimensions, past and present, and conscious and subconscious helps me to interpret the similarities and differences between what is real and what is imaginary. Once I decide where to take my character - I will use nature, found objects, knick-knacks from rubbish bins, and my collection of miniature heroes and heroines to build the scene of my twisted tale..”

Inspired by childhood fairytales, stories and myths, Damla Tokcan Faro’s photographs come to life through an interaction of these tales and realities of daily life. She examines the significance of these stories to the adult world. These stories that are heard from a very young age are tales that mould a person morally, socially and emotionally. Each piece of the fable is complex, rife with double meanings, and can embody multiple interpretations.

“Manipulating fairy-tales and stories is what I do now with my photos and installations,” Faro explains. “My main concern is the female characters in these stories; the question is: why are they made to wait for a male figure to come along to save them? If I were Rapunzel, I would have cut my own hair and climbed down that tower.” Cheeky, political, and imaginative, Faro’s work calls the viewer to question contemporary notions of femininity, as well as the reasons why they continue to proliferate.

Born in Ankara, Turkey, but growing up in the magical city of Istanbul, Damla was more apt to frolic throughout the urban landscape than stay indoors and play with dolls. Upon reading Lewis Carroll’s classic story about the girl who fell down the rabbit hole, Alice in Wonderland, Damla became mesmerized by the chaotic and peculiar fantasy world created in Carroll’s tale. “I loved the element of total imagination,” she states.

Educated in Boston, Ankara, London, and Chicago, Damla’s worldly view has influenced her photography through the play with perspective. In works from her Focus series, various landscapes are distorted so that only a finite space is actually in focus. The artist seeks to play with the viewer’s eye, send it searching across the frame in order to find its divining point. Fernando Luis Alvarez, one of Damla’s contemporaries and gallerist, says her work “perpetuates a sardonic, fanciful story of how our eye manages to amaze and fool us. The imaginative photo illustrations playfully invite one to delve into the work, and take part in this vivid journey that easily relates to a Where’s Waldo-like experience.”

Damla currently lives in the picturesque Notting Hill section of North London with her husband, David, 3-year-old son, Aksel, and cat, Kedi.

Born 1975 Ankara, Turkey.
Lives and works in London, UK.

Education

2004

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago • IL, USA
MA in Arts Administration
Photography classes

1997

Richmond, The American International University in London • U.K.
BA in Communications
BA in Business Administration

Other course work

2006

Chicago Photography Center • IL, USA
Photography Classes: Black & White Film,
Digital Photography, Close-Up

2000

Yildiz Technical University • Istanbul, Turkey
Multimedia Design/Management Certificate Program

Exhibitions

November 2012

The Other Art Fair • London, UK

March 2012

Group • Be(come) A Collector • Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery • CT, USA

April 2011

Contemporary Turkish Art • Sotheby's • London, UK

March 2011

Solo • Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery • CT, USA

November 2010

Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

September 2010
Artists Pick Artists • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

September 2010
Next Women • Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery • CT, USA

August 2010
Accidental Show • Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery • CT, USA

May 2010
4 continents on Bedford • Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery • CT, USA

December 2009
Solo • Wonderland with a Twist • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

November 2009
Second Encounter • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

October 2009
Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

December 2007
Scope Miami Art Fair • artSumer Gallery, Miami, FL, USA

December 2007
Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

November 2007
Solo • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

March 2007
'Someone I know' • Bilkent University, Ankara, TR

December 2006
Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair • artSumer Gallery, Istanbul, TR

March 2006
#510: If The Shoe Fits... • Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA

February 2006
WithIn Sight • Chicago Photography Center • Chicago, IL, USA

Commercial Photo-Shoots and other projects

April 2010

Photo Shoot • Menus & Venues • London, UK

April 2010

Photo Shoot • for Kerem Gorsev • Abbey Road Studios • London, UK

February 2010

Photo Shoot • for Kai Catering • London, UK

March 2008

Photo Shoot • for Kai Catering • London, UK

May 2007

Photo Shoot • for Kai Catering • London, UK

Organisational Experience

March 2010

Associate Producer • Daniel Eisenberg • coordinating film shoot in Istanbul, TR

2004 - 2006

Project Coordinator • Ellen Rothenberg • Chicago based Artist • Website design, promotional and printed materials for public art projects • IL, USA

2004 - 2006

Instructor • Chicago Photography Center • IL, USA

2003 - 2004

Assistant to Chair, Department of Film, Video, New Media • The School of the Art Institute of Chicago • IL, USA

2003

Coordinator • 8th International Istanbul Biennial • Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts • Istanbul, TR

2002 - 2004

Co-curator • "Social Seduction" • Betty Rymer Gallery • IL, USA

TM **Gallery** Fernando
Luis Alvarez

CONTACT

Fernando Luis Alvarez

203-360-0999

96 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT | flalvarezgallery.com
falvarez@flalvarezgallery.com

Monday & Tuesday: by appointment
Wednesday - Saturday: 2 - 7PM