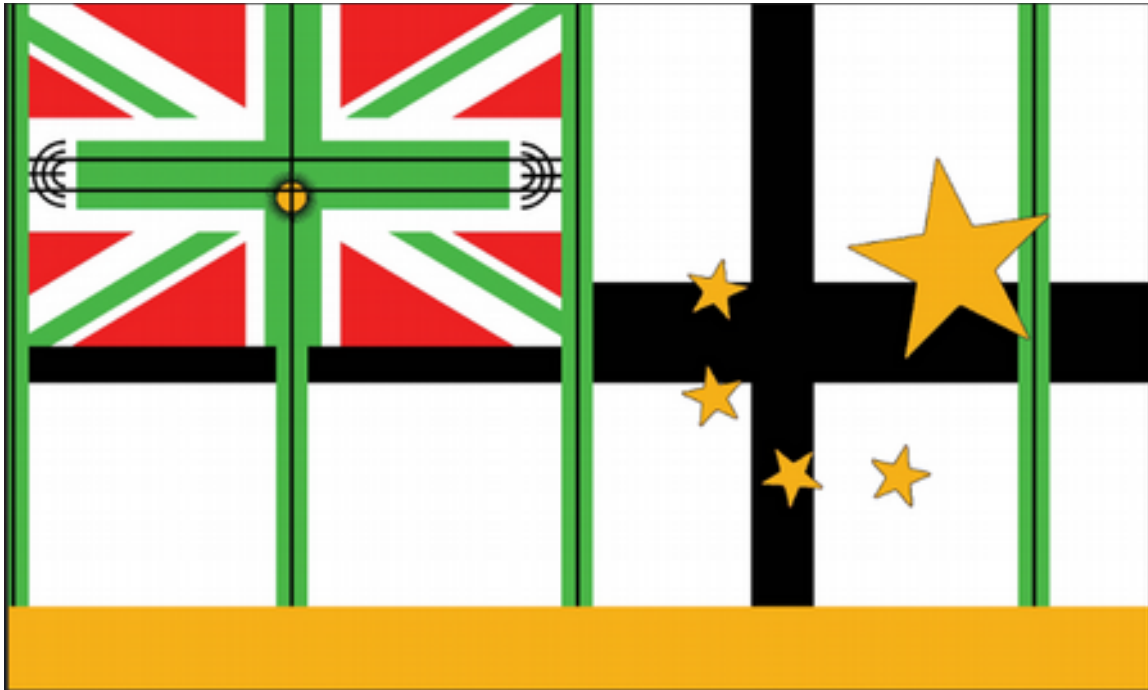


ALYSSA DAVIS GALLERY
2 Cornelia St. New York, NY 10014

Bora Akinciturk

Keep Smiling is the Art of Living

12.14.2017–01.14.2018



Bora Akinciturk, *A New Hope*, 2017, courtesy Alyssa Davis Gallery, New York

Keep Smiling is the Art of Living is the slogan used by an Indian company “Keep Smiling” to market paintbrushes in Turkey. With its meaning unclear and syntax seemingly inadequate, the English-language motto of an advertising campaign in non-English speaking country becomes a linguistic manifestation of rapid digital internationalization and its side-effects. Everything in the exhibit, including its title, is an image, text or object that has been reexamined, recontextualized and/or repurposed to serve as a barometer for the current age of global culture. The result is that the paintings, carpets and sculptures form a coherent universe, but simultaneously stand alone as individual works that exhibit fluid authorship.

A New Hope, 2017 is a hybrid flag composed of multiple layers of textile demarcating soil in a potted plant as the territory of a confluence of national ideologies. Resin assemblages *Amber #14, The Mask* and *Amber #15, The Mask* (both 2017) encase disused SIM cards, motherboards, cellphones and houseflies as future artifacts of the present. *Woman kill Tremp*, 2017 is an acrylic overpainting of a digital print that portrays the dismembered head of [REDACTED] whacked with a baseball bat. The original propaganda comes from a North Korean pamphlet distributed in primary schools of South Korea. Stripped of its native designation, the image immediately redefines itself within a new political context, raising questions about the violent aspects of any totalistic ideology. As a whole, the installation responds to our present—an age of global digital cultures misinterpreting and consuming each other on the way to an uncertain future.

Bora Akinciturk (b. 1982, Turkey). Lives and works in London. Selected solo exhibitions include *We're All Dead, We Just Don't Know It Yet*, Ultrastudio, Pescara, Italy, 2017; *Szy Ysz*, The Beautiful Erah, Salzburg, Austria, 2016; *Politely Declined*, Pilevneli Project, Istanbul, Turkey, 2012. His band *Fino Blendax*, in collaboration with Ahmet Ögüt at: The ICA, London; Chisenhale Gallery, London; VanAbbe Museum, Eindhoven; The 56th Venice Biennale, Creative Time Summit: The Night Art Made the Future Visible 2015. Akinciturk holds a BFA in Graphic Design, Yeditepe University, Istanbul, 2007; Fine Art Postgraduate studies at Middlesex University, London, 2008.

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For press inquiries, please contact@alyssadavis.gallery or call (401) 263-4093

Exhibition runs Dec. 14th, 2017–Jan. 14th, 2018 with reception on Thursday, Dec. 14th, 6:00–10:00 PM
Gallery hours are Wed.–Sun. 12–6 PM