



EXHIBITION

# Unpredictable and surprising works at X-Ist Gallery

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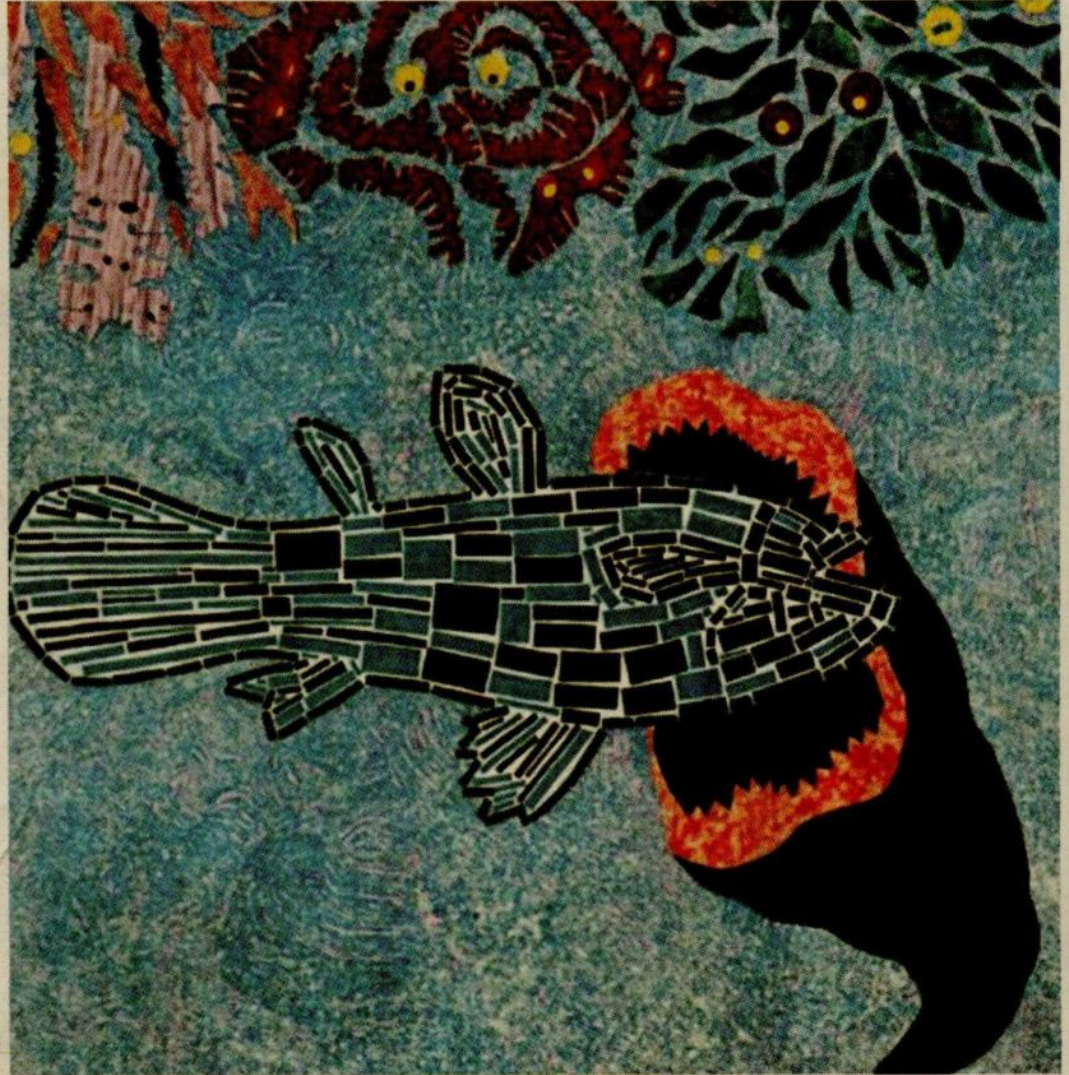
• UNTIL MARCH 19

**I**'m Shocked But I'm Not Surprised" is Ekin Saçloğlu's fourth solo show at x-ist. Since her first exhibit in 2005 "From a Little Closer," the artist has used "free associations," a path which leads her to unpredictable and surprising ends every time. In this, it is not unusual for her to start with dessert and wrap up with the entrée.

In her previous shows, the artist questioned the relationship between reality and dreams, as well as the reliability of the mind and memory. In this exhibition, although she retains her narrative quality, the works seem to diverge from the artist's usual fictional world and focus on daily incidents and personal experiences, while editorializing on social issues at the same time.

For example, the piece "If You're a Brunette, You're Beautiful," depicts a vignette based on Saçloğlu's boyfriend who faced harsh discrimination at an airport in Germany just for being of darker skin and possessing a beard during an Islamic terror alert. Another work, "Warning, Dog Can Bite" was inspired by a warning sign that the artist came across in a wealthy neighborhood in Istanbul.

This is perhaps one of the most distinguishing qualities of the artist; instead of later naming the work; it is the very title that inspires her. She can escape from the mundane chaos of daily happenstance by carefully selecting certain symbols from this flood of imagery. A line she hears in a movie, whose name she can't recall, can be the source of inspiration for a new piece. One day Saçloğlu happened to sit next to a mother and son on a bus; during the journey, the mother ceaselessly repeated "Banş, Don't do that!" to her son for no apparent reason. The incident puzzled and disturbed the artist. After being an unwilling ob-



server to this Hitchcockesque scene, where the son remained quiet despite all the harassment, Saçloğlu was prompted to create the piece "I Told You Not To Do It, Banş."

Saçloğlu's fourth solo exhibition, "I'm in Shock But I'm Not Surprised" consists of three different groups of works. The first group consists of latex on canvas pieces that are inspired by either daily incidents or the artist's personal experiences. The second group is the series titled

**WORKS: The works seem to diverge from the artist's usual fictional world.**

"Non-Story," composed of 10 smaller-sized works. Audiences see similar shapes and forms in each piece; in fact, they are like surrogates for words that build up the narrative in the works from the previous group. In the final series, "Animals & Icons from the Villa" constructed with real human hair inserted into

latex, the artist reinterprets the paintings that she came across in a historical villa in Munich.

Although the three series might appear disconnected and independent of each other, they share a common problematic. Saçloğlu, in each work, takes in hand a different incident, influenced by current-events and associated tensions, while her unorthodox works seems to spring forth from a very personal perspective that relates to the sum of us all.