**Melting Point, by Aslı Kutluay**

**In April 2016 in Venice,** as a preview for early visitors of 2016 **Venice Biennial of Architecture**, there will be opened the show of unpublished works by Turkish artist **Aslı Kutluay** and **curated by Vittorio Urbani** in a new art space: the **Magazzino Gallery** on the Grand Canal, one of the most important Early Renaissance buildings in **Venice**.

Asli Kutluay, designer and artist, lives and works in Ankara. She takes strong interest in presenting the world’s cultural diversities, dilemmas and richness. She transmits her observations into evocative stories displaying them in paintings, sculptures and installations.

The artist has produced a coherent body of new works, "non-functional" pieces of furniture, intended to create a connection among the artworks, the place and the visitors.. The work from her reflections on the phenomenon of Global Warming: structures at the point of melting or cracking, given the changing climate, present us as in a magic mirror the disturbing scenario we may have to find ourselves in. However, the responsible of these changes are exactly we, the humans.

The design of works also suggests a way of **purification** to recover what we're losing in terms of an ecology both of nature and mind and in terms of the quality of relationships between human beings.

***Wirenets***for example*,* are the symbols of borders. This work questions us: do we really need borders and when we do not need them? Should we reinvent and redefine the respect, trust, self-satisfaction issues - all the ethical values gained over thousands of years that it seems we have now forgotten?

The installation ***Aftermath*** made by two Victorian garden chairs and a table seems to have been corrupted and melted by heat and pollution. At the same time it's a critique on the “battle of powers” which the artist sees as the cause of the world decay.

Nature enters the show with the sculptural work***Stalactites*** *and* ***Stalagmites:***they've been reinvented bycables and electricity with red light: red is both the color of heat and a reference to the “ego”.

Same reference that we find in ***Crack table****:* a table split in two identical pieces – like “Ying Yang”. Lowering the height by introducing a step and slicing the table diagonally, correspond to movements of melting by heat. “Heat” is not only the result of global warming but the tensions created by the “ego” of the protagonists. In this design we do not need chairs to communicate; we purely can sit on the ground. The space between the pieces is the symbol of a healthy communication which we need in every kind of relationship.

The video work ***Our Blue Planet*** has been shot by the artist in Dubai in December 2015, in the middle of winter. A new modern architecture silhouette stays in front of the mosaics of the pool and filters are in blue composition. What we see are artificial elements invented by humankind. We can hear the sound and feel the color of water. Water, represented by blue, and collected artificially in this pool, will certainly be the most valuable element in the future.

Kutluay's site specific work stays in balance on the threshold between **art and design** as conventionally intended. If “art” is a metaphor transformed in an object, “design” is about the industrial production of functional objects, rethought and redesigned according esthetic ideas but with respect to its functional destination. Works in Kutluay exhibition assess if these two fields can be mixed further, and their traditional division challenged and help us to go deeper in this direction.

**Opening Night of the Exhibition:** Wednesday April 6, 2016, 6.00 pm

**Duration of Exhibition**: From April 7 till April 27, 2016; Tuesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m

Closed on Monday

**Project manager:** Deniz Taner Gokce

**Curated by:** Vittorio Urbani

**Asistant curator:** Elisa Genna

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**She held solo exhibitions at:** Cer Modern, PlatformArmony, Galeri Artist LAB and Kav Galleries in **Ankara**; Armaggan, Galeri Eksen, Seli Art and Istanbul Design Week in **Istanbul**; Artifact Gallery in **New York** and Artem Gallery in **Bratislava**.

**Among the group exhibitions:**

“With his feet resting heavily on clouds” Curator Antonello Tolve, Michetti Museum, **Pescara**; “Opportunito Collettiva di Arte Contemporanea” & “Equilibri Armonici” Curator Marco Testa, **Florence**; “Essence of All Things” Curator Dores Sacquegna, PrimoPiano LivingGallery, **Lecce** in **Italy**;

“Flu Games Berlin” - Malzfabrik & “Infantellina Contemporary” in **Berlin**

“Energy for Life” & “One” with Armaggan Art & Design Gallery, **Istanbul**.

“Viaduc des Arts PARIS” &“Dialogue East & North” with Gallery Monteolivetto in **Paris** and **Nice** and“Je viens d’Anatolie...”Council of Europe des Arts Club **Strasbourg** in **France.**

She exhibited in **Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair** with Canadian Arteria Gallery and **“Sofa Functional Art Fair”** with Armaggan Gallery in **Chicago**.

**Among the awards:** She won the Conceptual Study Award at “Pari Emballage” Paris, France.