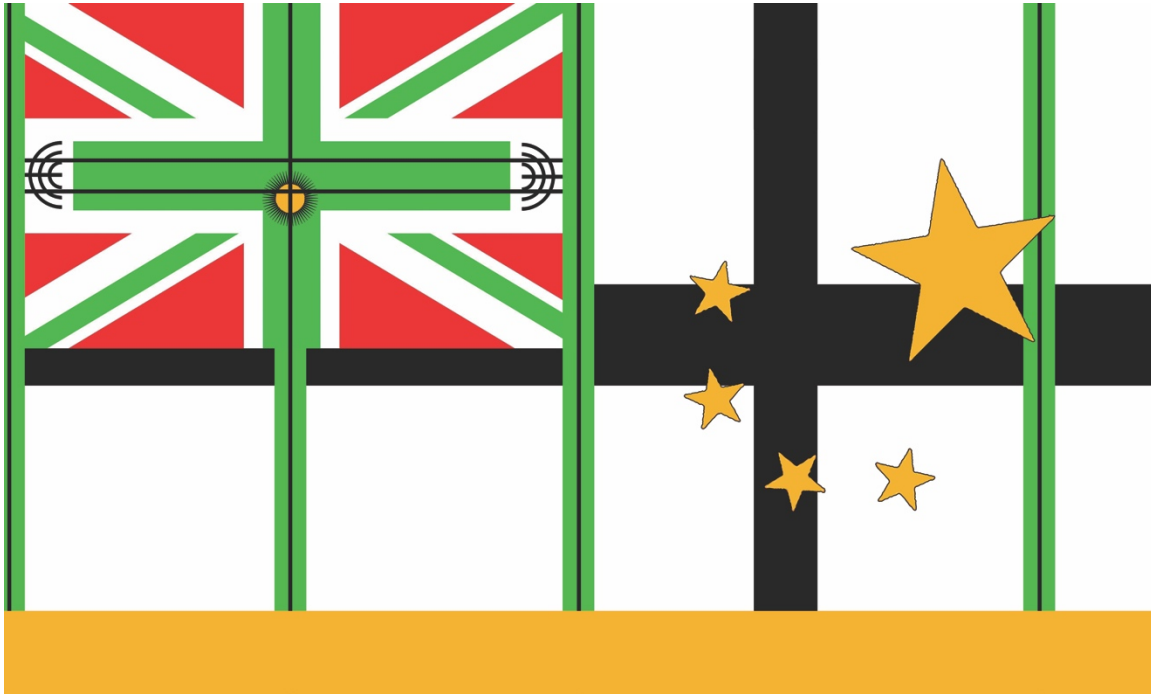


**Bora Akinciturk**

*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 a slogan of an Indian paintbrush 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 a 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 textiles 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 exhibitions include *We're All Dead, We Just Don't Know It Yet*, Ultrastudio, Pescara, Italy, 2017; *Fallen Angels*, in collaboration with Noemi Merca, Komplot, Brussels, Belgium, 2017; *Say Yes*, 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.

**Special Thanks** to Gunes Cinar, Berk Cakmakci, Mari Spirito, Amir Jamshidi, PUL and Asli Ozdemir

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