

Project Description:

Trees have souls. They seed, they grow, they live, they are cut, and they die. And with each phase they tell their story. This is the essential idea underlying *"I'm a Work of Art"*—ten environmental portraits of decaying and cut trees photographed in Belgrade Forest in Istanbul, Turkey. The work introduces trees as characters with emotions, with histories etched into their bark. And of all these characters, towering or shrub-like, it was in stumps that I found the most expressive form of these emotions – as if the decayed or cut tree spoke immediately of the vulnerability of living. Indeed, it was the stumps which granted me access into the emotional life-world of the trees.

In *"I'm a Work of Art"*, that emotional life-world has been traced back through the rings in the trunks and the wrinkles and forms on the bark, which carved my course back through the millennia of the trees' existence, and through which I could clearly chart the course of humankind's selfishness. In these stumps, I saw testaments to the generation which because of human ignorance and greed no longer breathes, yet they stand still as guardians of the forest signaling for help - an awakening call which needs to be heard by every single human on earth.

My inspiration for this project started with my adoration for the forms and textures in nature, and those in trees in particular. Edward Weston's Peppers and Karl Blossfeldt's Flowers, made me more attuned to the expressiveness of natural forms and the possibility of framing them in a thoroughly new light.

I chose Belgrade Forest among others as it is by far the most significant forest in Istanbul both from an environmental and historical perspective. It is considered as the lung of Istanbul and a live tribute to the thousands of Serbs who lost their homes to war.

All the ten subjects are pinpointed on google maps and the link is available as a QR code on a banner in the entrance of the forest. When people/viewers enter the forest, they can see the banner which reads *"I'm a Work of Art"* and provides necessary info such as: the project brochure, map/locations and guidelines. All they need to do is scan the relevant QR codes on the banner. When they reach the pieces/locations, they see that each piece is surrounded by wooden shafts painted in gold and implanted in the ground. The shafts are connected through a rope, forming a circular protective fence. An A6 size plate is hung from one of the shafts, which reads (Turkish & English): *"I'm a Work of Art" | "Ben Bir Sanat Eseriyim"*. Project and photographer's info are also available on the plate. For the audience to see the main photographs of the subjects, a QR code is printed on these plates, by scanning which the viewer is directed to the relevant photo on the artist's website. Also, two more QR codes are printed on the plates, which are links to downloadable pdf brochures (both in Turkish and English) for the viewers who

come across the pieces by chance without prior knowledge (Illustrated by the images below). The legal permissions for the execution of this project has been obtained and it was set to launch on March 21, 2020, on World Forest Day, but due to the outbreak of Covid-19 it has been postponed.





Broşür
Brochure



PDF



Konum
Locations

Dokun > Harita
Touch > Direction



Link to my photograph

Link to brochures



No. III
“I’m a Work of Art”



Khosro Vahabi
‘I’m a Work of Art’ No. 01
Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper
56.9 x 37.93 cm
Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 02

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 03

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 04

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi
‘I’m a Work of Art’ No. 05
Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper
56.9 x 37.93 cm
Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 06

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 06

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi
‘I’m a Work of Art’ No. 08
Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper
56.9 x 37.93 cm
Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 09

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19



Khosro Vahabi

'I'm a Work of Art' No. 10

Pigment Ink Print on Fine Art Paper

56.9 x 37.93 cm

Edition of 5+ 1AP, 2017-19