

staircase

148 Clement St  
San Francisco, CA



PRESS  
RELEASE

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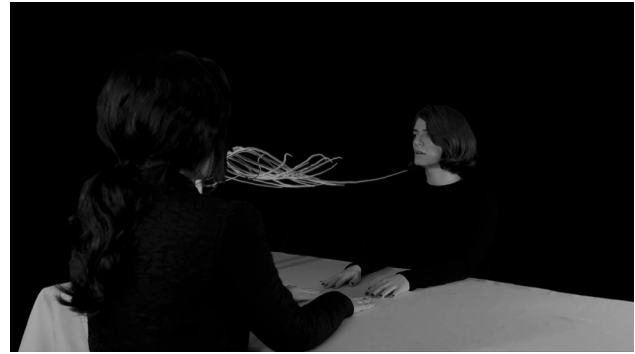
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## mirror remembers

Tuğçe Evirgen Özmen

January 27 - February 25, 2024

Opening Reception  
Saturday, January 27, 2024  
7-9 pm



Tuğçe Evirgen Özmen, *Blossoms of choice*, 2024,  
digital video, 7 minutes and 5 seconds,  
still provided by artist.

San Francisco, CA. January 17, 2024 - staircase is pleased to present *mirror remembers*, an exhibition of work by Bay Area artist Tuğçe Evirgen Özmen. *mirror remembers* invites you to reflect on the roots between self-concept and superconscious mind of existence. Curator and art writer Naz Cuguoğlu's eloquent exhibition poem "Dear You" echoes Özmen's mesmerizing videos and drawing.

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### Dear You

The words are hesitant.  
Fired in the experience-oven,  
they make us take form  
like water in a glass.

When we faced each other  
on that table, speaking gibberish,  
letters wearing the shadows, breath on,  
dropping from our tired mouths  
like vomit, we listened but did not hear,  
we looked but did not see.

The moment I saw myself  
in the mirror I knew it,  
then I forgot  
& that was 34 years ago.

The mirror though, it remembered  
    & showed me the constant change.  
    Through time as my roots grew  
    stronger, thicker, reaching deeper  
    in the black waters of my mourning  
    everything suddenly stopped.

The balance was off  
    when I became a star in the sky.  
    The time stretched legs  
    & we got blind  
    or it was all cosmic dust.

As you stared at that tree  
    in front of that window,  
    my roots touched yours  
    under the ground.

Although we did not serve them tea,  
    they were still here to stay,  
    the shadows I mean,  
    & the sun was there behind the clouds  
    though it was all gray  
    & it did not really matter.

Like flowers, your thoughts existed  
    only as long as their soil received  
    water & they were so beautiful  
    hanging on that sad ceiling window,  
    with strangers gathering  
    around to celebrate.

As you moved your hand,  
    heavy with all those lines,  
    the candle was silent.  
    With hair like a veil in front of your eyes  
    you hardly saw it,  
    but potentially sensed it.

When taking a step forward  
    through the curtain,  
    we heard the cracking sound  
    of radio-like ghosts  
    from the parallel universe.

We held hands  
    & that was it  
    —we arrived.

-Naz Cugnoğlu

### **About the Artist**

Tuğçe Evirgen Özmen is an artist working in video, animation and drawing. Her work delves into and portrays the impact of both conscious and subconscious on the development of perception, and the structure of language and identity through the lens of it. In addition, the artist explores the superconscious mind of existence, the liberation from the limitations of self-concept and ego, and examines the balance between these two self states. She graduated with a BA in Visual Communication Design from Sabanci University in Turkey and an MFA in animation/VFX/compositing in Academy of Arts University. She lives in Oakland and works in San Francisco.

### **About the Poem**

Naz Cuguoğlu is a curator and art writer, based in San Francisco and Istanbul. Currently, she works as a curator at Asian Art Museum.

### **About staircase**

staircase is an experimental space from curious collaborators (Lindsay Albert + Ivana Colendich). The inaugural series is born out of the need for more alternative and affordable art spaces in the Bay Area. The project will showcase various art forms and host events centered around the visual arts. Established in 2023, based in San Francisco.

### **Address**

staircase gallery  
148 Clement St  
San Francisco, CA 94118

### **Hours**

Opening Reception  
January 27, 2024, 7-9 pm  
Saturday and Sunday open, 12-4 pm

### **Contact**

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### **Connect**

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