

Jury report ABN AMRO Art Award, 2004

In Fahrettin Örenli's own words the work that he produced in 2003 during a stay in New York City shows the perception of the dilemma in our contemporary life, where and the other have become problematic categories. This statement by Örenli, who was born in eastern Turkey (Pertek, 1969), characterizes his approach to the world as a visual artist and poet. His work is about himself as a living being. He describes the reality in which he finds himself as a fusion of a social sphere with the surreal. According to Örenli, his work therefore expresses a hyper-reality, a social surrealism

The jury of the ABN AMRO Art Prize 2004 commended Örenli's work for its artistic versatility. Örenli paints, draws, takes photographs, makes installations and also writes poems. The pieces he displays bear witness to an investigation of the expressive possibilities offered by painting/art, often on a symbolic and critical level. Although the subjects that Örenli represents may be rooted in our modern world, the way he gives these form is emphatically autonomous and attests to a large measure of originality. As one of the jury members remarked: 'Örenli always seems to be brooding. He is, as it were, plugged into' his own origins and is very serious in this.

It is always awkward if people claim you can literally see the atmosphere and culture of an artist's native country in his work. But such obvious connections do not apply to Örenli's oeuvre. Although his paintings sometimes feature visual elements that seem to allude to Arabic script (in fact a

personal alphabet generated by the artist's movement back and forth between writing, drawing and painting), and although his use of colour can be so sultry that one is readily inclined to ascribe all this to his Turkish, Mediterranean background, the artist's images actually bear witness to the attitude of the traveller, who associates poetic ideas with his peregrinations and impressions. Örenli looks at people, at their surroundings, at the codes to which they submit day in, day out, he looks at what they think they know, he loses himself in urban landscapes and everywhere perceives what he understands is meant by the term 'distance': the disappearance of people in their own self-created illusions. According to Fahrettin Örenli, these factors all offer an insight into 'la condition humaine'.

Members of the jury for the first ABN AMRO Art Award:

Stijn Huijts, director of Museum Het Domein, Sittard and chairman of the ABN AMRO Art Foundation

Tom de Swaan, member of the Managing Board of ABN AMRO

Pietje Tegenbosch, adviser to ABN AMRO Art Foundation
Roy Villevoeye, visual artist

Hanne Wolf, member of the board of the ABN AMRO Art Foundation and acting chairman of the jury

Deborah Wolf former adviser to ABN AMRO Art Foundation

On behalf of the jury,
Pietje Tegenbosch