

looking for the black cat...

AYŞE ERKMEN



Turkish coffee-cup readers have been perfecting their skills for the past two hundred years. In Ayşe Erkmen's video *Coffee* (2006), noted reader Fatih Özgüven carefully observes Erkmen's empty coffee cup and recites a confident and detailed account of her future, including the trips she will take, the people who will threaten her, and the objects that will keep her house safe. Although his is an impossible knowledge, he steers clear of spiritual mysticism, explicitly rejecting what he calls "that Chinese bullshit," and sticks to the physical reality of what he sees in the empty cup and on the empty saucer.

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Ayşe Erkmen was born in 1949 in Istanbul, Turkey, and she lives and works in Berlin. She has held solo exhibitions at the Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin; Kunstsammlung Nordrhein Westfalen, Düsseldorf; Sculpture Center, Long Island City, New York; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen; Kunstmuseum, St. Gallen; Secession, Vienna; and Portikus, Frankfurt. Erkmen has also presented work in group exhibitions throughout Europe, at Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne; Kunstverein, Frankfurt; and De Appel, Amsterdam; among many others.

Image:

*Coffee*, 2006

Video, 25 minutes

Courtesy of the artist and Galerie

Barbara Weiss, Berlin