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Ceylan's new painting 'Birth of Hope' from his Lost Painting series is on display at the Paul Kasmin Gallery.

## Taner Ceylan solo exhibition opens in New York

ISTANBUL

World renowned Turkish contemporary artists Taner Ceylan's inaugural solo exhibition at Paul Kasmin Gallery New York opened on Sept. 18. The gallery is showing The Lost Paintings Series, until Oct. 26.

Well-known for his provocative, emotional realism paintings, Ceylan began The Lost Paintings Series as a contemporary exploration of the Orientalist gaze in all its facets. Upsetting both Western and Eastern master narratives, The Lost Paintings Series presents Eastern figures in a fascinating navigation of history, power and narrative. Esma Sultan, Ceylan's depiction of an 18th century Ottoman Princess, renowned for her cruel disposition, draws on the empowering mythology of passionate, ruthless and assertive womanhood that characterizes accounts of her life. Visualizing feminine agency and even social transgression at the heart of history, Ceylan interrogates the historically invisible. Rummaging through the past to make a startling comment very much about the present, The Lost Paintings Series assembles a cast of lost characters and voices that embody the many silenced by both Orientalist and official nationalist histories.

### About Taner Ceylan

Ceylan began exhibiting work in 1991, in both a group exhibition, and his first solo exhibition, in Nurnberg, Germany. His performance and exhibition, Monte Carlo Style (1995), made a significant impact on the Turkish art scene. He has lectured as a member of the Fine Arts Faculty of Yeditepe University (2001-2003), and served as Editor-in-Chief of Arts for Time Out Istanbul magazine (2001-2006). Ceylan has participated in both the 8th and 9th International Istanbul Biennials (2003/5); Postcards From CAC at Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans (2009); Naked, Paul Kasmin Gallery (2009); Istanbul Next Wave, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin (2010); and Istanbul Modern at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2011). His work is included in private and museum collections including Sveaas Art Collection and the Istanbul Museum of Modern Art.

An Ottoman man gazes defiantly, cigarette in hand; a pair of male lovers betray a chaste farewell; a veiled woman stands before Courbet's *L'Origine du Monde*. In the words of curator Dan Cameron, "[Taner Ceylan makes] paintings that bespeak absolute technical mastery and precision, but which are also freighted with an emotional and sexual dimension usually absent from the genre – qualities that have set him apart from the prevailing tendencies in contemporary Turkish art – and which at times have also brought him outright abuse in the press."