

Asareh Akasheh

Paper as Skin

*I am a descendant of the house of trees.
breathing stale air depresses me.
a bird which died advised me to
commit flight to memory.
the ultimate extent of powers is union,
joining with the bright principle of the sun
and pouring into the understanding of light.
it is natural for windmills to fall apart.
why should I stop?*

Forough Farokhzad

I do not believe in borders and in art, limits play no role. This residency provided the opportunity to transcend borders, to feel peace and make a deep connection with nature and with people who live in a different world.

Where I come from, the body has always been taboo. It has been ignored and marginalized by the act of hiding and covering it. My own body has thus always been something alien to me and I was never able to completely understand it. In my art work I strive to achieve a profound understanding of this relationship through the experience of pleasure and pain. The pleasure and pain I experience through skin is a path to a better understanding of my own body and mind. Skin is what separates me from the other, but at the same time, it is through skin and the feeling of touch that I connect to the other.

The production process of my works is time-consuming. It arises from my interest in making changes, a form to be made gradually, step by step: creation and destruction, using events and accidents and providing an opportunity for them to emerge on the path of the works' formation to eventually let them live beyond the circle of my presence.

In the project *Paper as Skin* I have made papers from the bodies of decaying plants and natural pigments; the raw material was formed by collecting, slicing, boiling, and squashing the plants, which in a long and laborious process eventually turned into a "skin" of nature. In the end, I transferred (monotype) my own skin and my partner's skin onto them to eternalize the touch of our skin on nature's skin.

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