

portfolio.

M E R V E N

2024

merven
.ART

About

Merven (Merve Nur Kocak) was born in Artvin/Turkey in 1997 and later moved to the Netherlands at the age of 21. She pursued her studies in Illustration at Willem de Kooning in Rotterdam and graduated in June of 2024.

Merven is a highly creative individual whose work primarily revolves around emotions and memories. Merve often gets her inspiration from nature and culture and always tries to incorporate it into her artworks. If she is not in her studio working away, she is on the move, exploring the world.

Achivements

2021 - Eurovision Spain Poster Design -
Rotterdam

2024 - Golden Duck Natura Show Winner -
Budapest

2024 - The Holy Art Gallery - New York

2024 - Willem de Kooning Graduation Show
Outdoor City Campaign Winner - Rotterdam



My Technic & Approach

In my artwork, I use mixed media and abstract painting to express my emotions and memories. Each piece is a reflection of my inner world, layered with textures and colors that convey feelings beyond words. To offer a glimpse into the story or theme behind each painting, I incorporate small illustrations as symbolic hints. These details used to be created with Posca pens, but recently, I've started using embroidery to add more texture and depth. The tactile quality of embroidery brings a new dimension to my work, blending the softness of thread with the raw energy of abstract painting.



Contact

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Works of Merven



Kerid - 2023

100x150 cm, Mixed medium, on canvas

Inspired by my journey to Iceland, while painting this artwork, I tried to capture the essence of Kerid, a mesmerizing place that left a lasting impression on me. The vivid palette reflects the unique colors of the Icelandic landscape, offering a glimpse into the emotions I experienced there.

Works of Merven



Yusufeli - 2024

100x150 cm, Mixed medium, on canvas

This project focuses on my hometown, Yusufeli, Artvin in Turkey. The piece explores Yusufeli's transformation into a submerged dam. Once destroyed by water, Yusufeli has inspired me to use water to create an artwork that captures my lasting memories of it.

Works of Merven



Fly - 2022

100x150 cm, Mixed medium, on canvas

During my time living in Rotterdam, I was often struck by the contrast between the city's hustle and the serene presence of birds along the river Maas. This piece is my attempt to encapsulate that experience – capturing the elegance and peace of the birds in their natural habitat, set against the backdrop of a bustling urban environment. It's a tribute to those quiet moments of beauty and peace found in the chaos of city life.

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The Lights - 2023

100x150 cm, Mixed medium, on canvas

Tromso, I witnessed the inspiring, unbelievably beautiful Northern Lights, a spectacle that completely captivated me. This piece is born from that unforgettable experience, drawing inspiration from Norway's stunning natural beauty and the ethereal dance of the lights. It's my attempt to capture and share the magic and wonder of those moments under the Arctic sky.

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Works of Merven



Clouds - 2024

100x150 cm, Mixed medium, on linnen

"Clouds," is about the soft, fleeting nature of memories and emotions. The light colors and abstract shapes feel like a sky full of shifting clouds. Little details, like a flower vase and tiny figures, add a sense of connection and story. It's a calm, dreamy piece that reminds us of life's delicate beauty.

Works of Merven



Trail of Seagulls - 2024

60x80 cm, Mixed medium, on canvas

During an Iceland road trip, I painted the dance of seagulls tracing circles in the shadow of a mountain. Their movements and the autumn colors of the landscape come alive on canvas, reminding me of the beauty. Small details, like the birds in the sky and a tiny figure on the right, create a story of exploration and connection to the natural world. It's a peaceful, imaginative piece that invites you to look closer and get lost in its layers.

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