

EVREN JUNGUR

b. 1980, Istanbul, Turkey
Lives and works in Istanbul

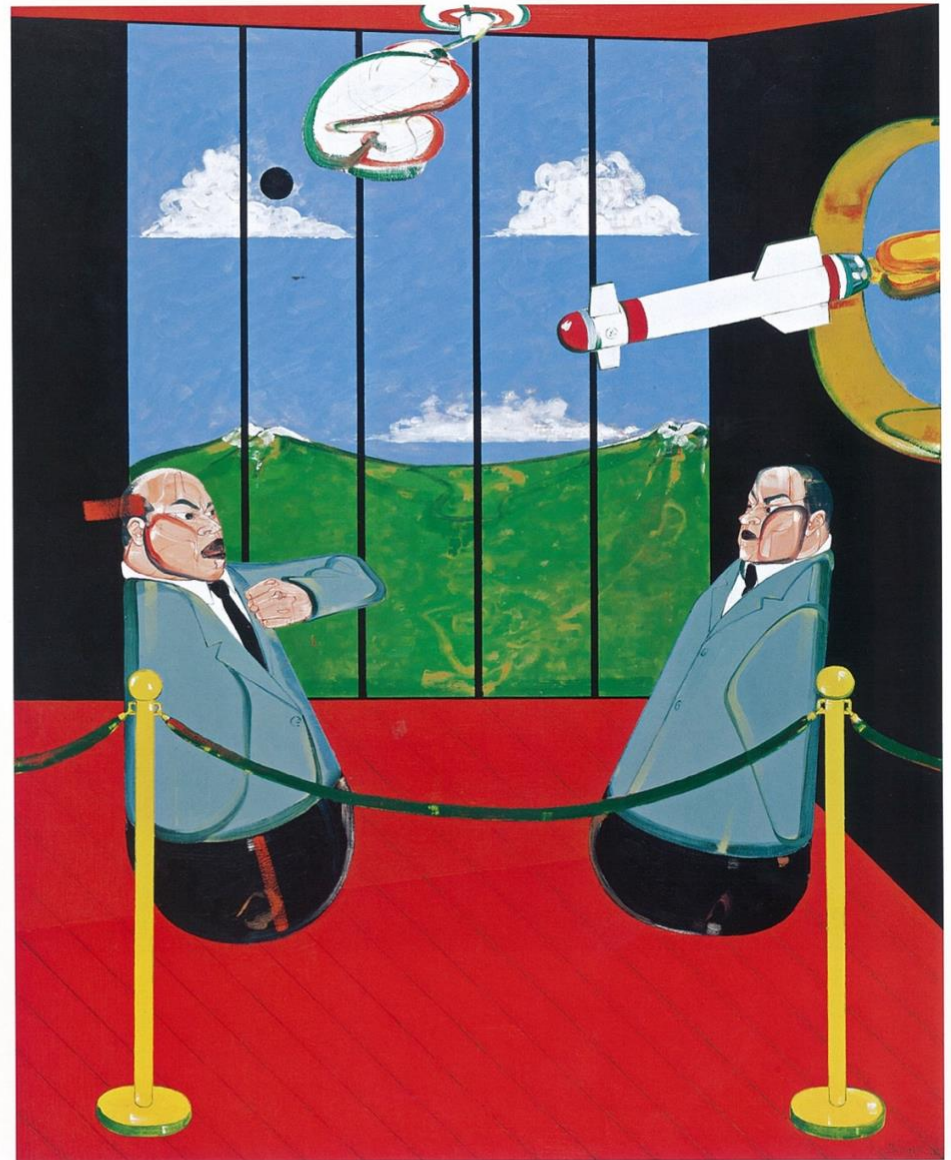
Evren Sungur approaches painting from an aesthetic point of view that celebrates austerity and severity. Aggressive colour schemes predominate, in canvases that often measure over 2 metres (6½ feet) in height. In some works, angular, rigidly posed, unsympathetic figures shock the viewer with their graphically sexual positions. Sungur calls this the 'aesthetics of his generation', a jarring sensory overload that initially startles, then compels the viewer irresistibly to return to the depicted scene. The paintings have their conceptual basis in ideas about human nature and male/female relationships, but these are articulated through a palette and appearance mostly reminiscent of Chinese propaganda art of the early 20th century. Sungur refers to his work as being reflective of humanity's

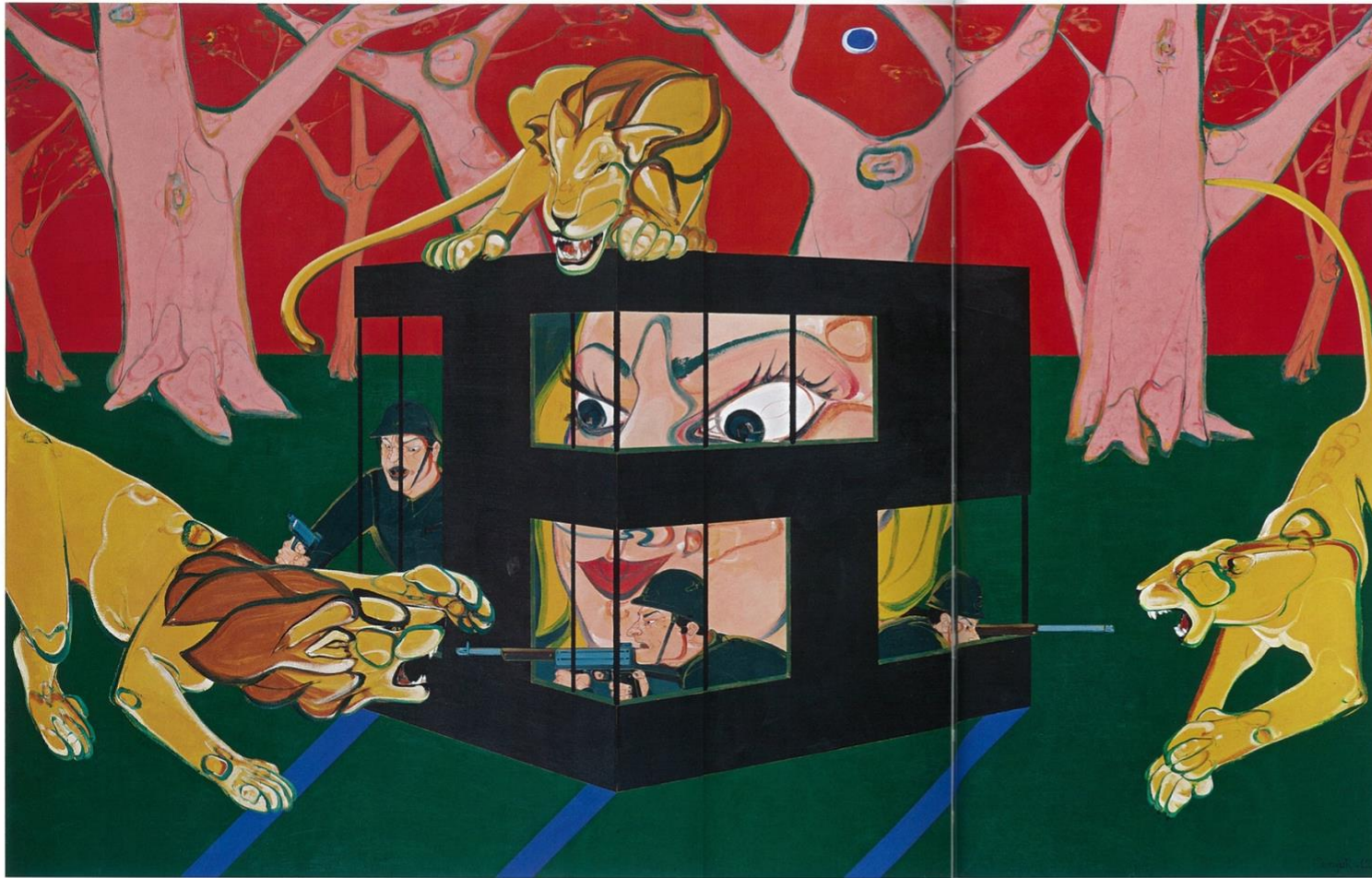
most honest state. 'I'm painting to search for the origins and motivations of my being; my persona socially, psychologically, historically and politically. I'd like viewers to see themselves in my work and to be shocked by themselves, then after a while to accept their reality and come to a new self-realization.' Sungur believes that painting is a therapeutic act, and he considers each work to be beseeching him to discover something new about himself, his process or his surroundings. 'Painting is a form of self-exploration,' he says. 'Daily news, politics, personal relationships; anything that gives me a hint of our social/personal behaviour inspires me. The duality of a person's instincts and mind takes all my interest.'



Left: Tiger Attacking His Caretaker (A Youtube Video), 2010, oil on canvas, 170 x 245 cm (67 x 96½ in.)

Opposite: Politicians, 2012, oil on canvas, 250 x 200 cm (98½ x 78½ in.)





Above: *The Birth of Civilization* (diptych), 2012, oil on canvas, 250 x 400 cm (98½ x 157½ in.)

Opposite: *Untitled*, 2012, oil on canvas, 250 x 200 cm (98½ x 78½ in.)



'My work is about human nature, basic human instincts and behaviour, including my own. Usually I paint about myself. I hope to paint humanity as it is, in its most honest state. I'd like viewers to see themselves in the work and to be shocked.'