

HALIL ALTINDERE

TURKEY

Halil Altindere is one of the most prominent Turkish contemporary visual artists and cultural voices, with a practice that ranges from video to sculpture, photography, installation, and performance. His signature aesthetic is one of uninhibited energy, and his process is directed towards the sociopolitical process of remodeling Turkey through a cultural awakening. He has been projecting these messages through his often surreal and satirical works since the 1990s. The works blur reality and fiction, and each piece proposes a way to advance the emancipation of Turkish communities. This stands in stark contrast to the outdated structures and oppressive regimes of Turkish Nationalism, which are reinforced through state sanctions and social behaviors more than ever today. The works are direct and open in their criticism of military apparatus, patriarchal hierarchy, and governmental policies, but he also touches on themes of migration and identity, both through the lens of Turkey and by highlighting how much influence the West has on visual trends and formats. One such project is *Space Refugee*, which is a film that, from an ironic distance, proposes to make cosmic space a haven for refugees. Borrowing aesthetically from socialist realism, he casts Soviet cosmonauts in a heroic

1
Köfte Airlines
2016, photography
Dimensions variable

light and offers not only space for people seeking sanctuary but also ideas that cannot seem to live on this Earth without being weaponized. (PR)

