

Fatum Doçi. *Seeds*, 2017-2018.

Installation, dimensions variable.

Pumpkins, willow tree branches, hydraulic tubes, light bulbs.

On the occasion of the 2018 ARDHJE Award for Young Visual Artists from Albania, organized by ZETA Contemporary Art Center in Tirana, Fatum Doçi proposed a project entitled “Farat” (Seeds). The work consists of eight pumpkin shells installed onto the same number of hydraulic tubes, which are entirely wrapped in willow branches; each of them has a miniature light bulb hidden inside, connected to the electric power socket on the wall. The way Doçi treated the external surface of pumpkin shells (or their ‘skin’) for over two months of his work on this project is similar to the manner he treats the surface of small stones in his imitation-jewelry workshop in Shkodra. The etching technique applied in both cases results in ‘magic lamp’ light effects: the warm reddish light around the darkened exhibition space is projected from the inside of each pumpkin shell through delicately engraved wholes. This resonates with effects created by mashrabiya – wooden screens that mask the exteriors of buildings in traditional Arabic architecture so to protect privacy of those inside while allowing them to have a view onto the street without being seen. Doçi created a sculptural format for an installation that feeds the exhibition space with voluminous and material suggestions taken from nature and vegetation (and not surprisingly so, given the fact that the cultivation of plants has been rooted in his family tradition). In his curatorial text for the 2018 ARDHJE Award Finalists Exhibition, Alban Hajdinaj stressed out that Doçi’ installation assembles “bewildering hybrids”, overcoming the gap between industrial technology and natural production as diverse, but not irreconcilable sources of energy.























