

PLATFORM

GARANTI
CONTEMPORARY ART
CENTER

PLATFORM 2003

**PLATFORM
YEAR
REPORT
2003**

PLATFORM INFORMATION

CONTACT

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Art Center

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GALLERY

Tuesday — Thursday

13:00–20:00

Friday — Saturday

13:00–22:00

ARCHIVE

Tuesday — Saturday

13:00–18:00

STAFF

Vasif Kortun

Öykü Özsoy

November Paynter

INTERNS 2003

Ahu Ceziker

Hande Dedeal

Deniz Erbaş

Balca Ergener

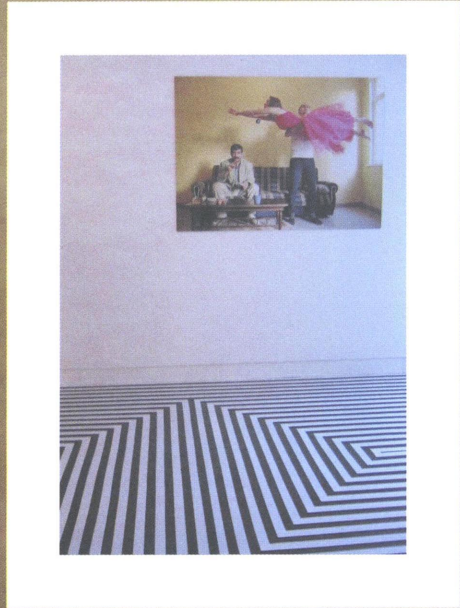
Marina Hill

Ceren Özpınar

Ece Pazarbaşı

İlkem Tunar

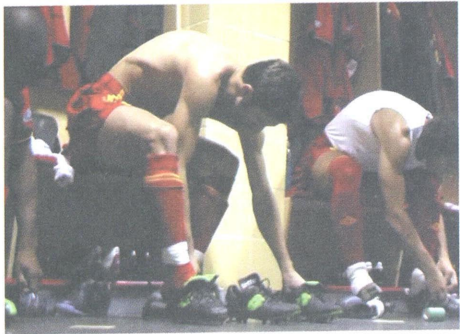
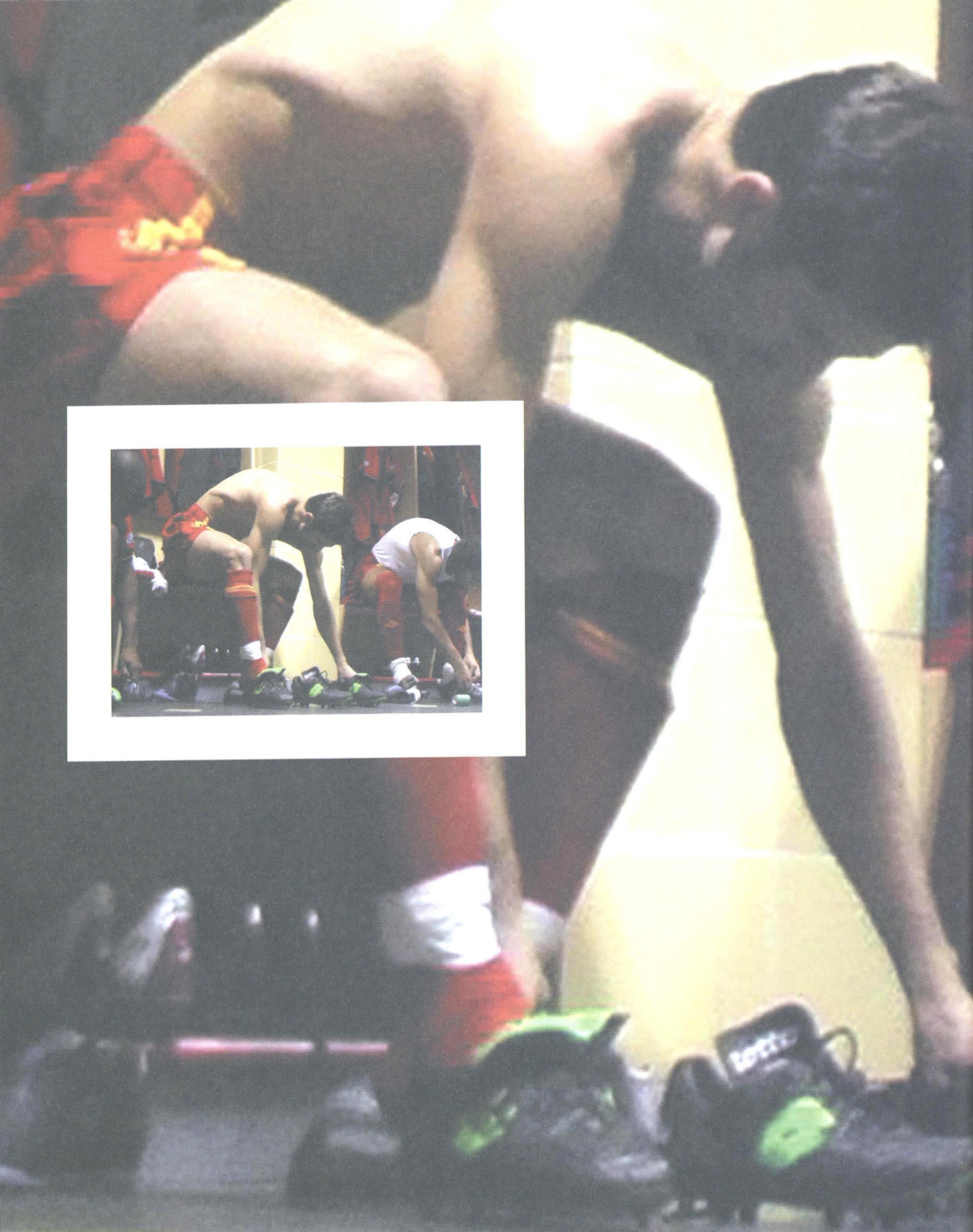






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Institution²





Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center was initiated in September 2001. Located in Beyoglu, the most vibrant part of Istanbul, Platform acts as a central meeting point in the city for cultural exchange between contemporary artists, curators and critics. The building contains an artist archive, research and lecture spaces, Istanbul Residency Program (open to international contemporary visual artists, critics and curators of contemporary art) and on street level a gallery committed to exhibiting contemporary art from Turkey and abroad.

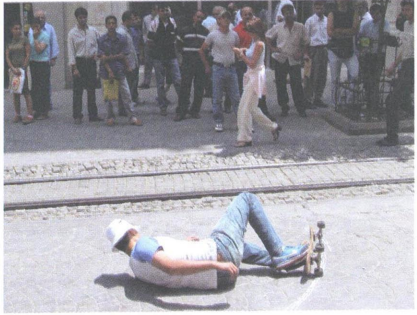
In 2003 the gallery had over 98,000 visitors. The program consisted of group exhibitions and solo shows with work by artists including Tobias Bernstrup, Esra Ersen, Nick Relph and Oliver Payne, Ömer Ali Kazma and Shahzia Sikander. Throughout the year a series of lectures by arts professionals, curators and artists such as Vicente Todoli, Iain Borden, Maria Hlavayova and Roderick Buchanan, as well as a continuous program of

workshops and film/video events added to the program. At the start of 2003 the Istanbul Residency Program was initiated with the first artists Libia Pérez de Siles de Castro and Ólafur Árni Ólafsson staying for 6 months with support from Fonds BKVB. Since then IRP has expanded dramatically with a further seven arts organisations supporting the program. In addition, projects, events and short term residencies are supported within the structure of IRP, which in 2003 allowed Platform to be the main point of artistic activity and artist base in the city, a position especially evident during the 8th Istanbul Biennial.

In December Platform took part in *Institution*² curated by Jens Hoffmann at KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki. Platform was invited to present its activities alongside ten other contemporary art institutions from Europe, which included BAK, Utrecht; Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw and Rooseum, Malmö.

Platform's program for 2004 aims to establish a more post-curatorial approach with a number of invited international arts organisations and city exchanges relocating their practice in the gallery space. In April following the presentation on e-flux of the third and final instalment of *The Next Documenta Should Be Curated By An Artist*, Platform hosted a book launch and conference with participants Daniel Buren, Jens Hoffmann, Vasif Kortun, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Serkan Özkaya, Martha Rosler, Natascha Sadr Haghghian, Tino Seghal and Anton Vidokle. And, this September Platform will open the first solo exhibition in Turkey by artist Tracey Emin.

Exhibitions



Coming Up

18 January – 17 February

Tobias Bernstrup, Chicks on Speed, Fischerspooner,
The Icelandic Love Corporation, Kyupi Kyupi,
Mark Leckey and donAtella.

Work by artists in *Coming Up* blurred the distinction between 'pop-video' and 'art-video', a shift towards popular culture which offered our audience the chance to question how different forms of culture are perceived and what constitutes an artist's video work to be classified as art.

Coming Up introduced work by six internationally renowned contemporary artists working with music and video, to provide a temporary alternative to the top 10 hits that blare out from the numerous music shops on Istiklal Caddesi where Platform is located.

Mark Leckey: The problem I have with art galleries compared to music is that they're pretty fucking boring. And the more music I make, the less interested I get in art. (Contemporary p.57, Nov '02)

Curated by November Paynter

With support from Deitch Projects, NY; Goethe Institut, Istanbul; Swedish Institute, Sweden.

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Here

21 February – 22 March

Hüseyin Alptekin, Esra Ersen,
Gülsün Karamustafa

Here referenced and discussed issues of migration, refugees, new 'minorities' and 'foreigners' in Istanbul.

Platform is located on Istiklal street, an area that has played host to many different ethnic groups. The climate on the street has fluctuated between extreme and violent forms of hostility and unconditional hospitality.

Although the new ethnic textures range from Iranian Restaurants to Moldavian Markets, Reggae Bars to African Cafés, what lies beyond these spaces of leisure and entertainment is a hinterland of destitute people with no security, protection or rights.

Curated by Vasif Kortun

Lecture by artist Gülsün Karamustafa. Esra Ersen's new work produced for this exhibition was later exhibited in the 8th Istanbul Biennial.

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20 Minus Minutes

5 – 6 April

Libia Pérez de Siles de Castro and
Ólafur Árni Ólafsson

Libia and Ólafur were the first artists to participate in the Istanbul Residency Program (IRP) and during their 6 month residency they organized and produced the exhibition *20 Minus Minutes* for the gallery. The artists (originally from Spain and Iceland) created a performance-based, multi-media environment, involving physical and mental interventions, which throughout the exhibition's run continued to include and involve visitors, as well as the gallery's immediate surroundings. They framed this exhibition with their own words: "The environment will fluctuate as it transforms and decays during the run of the exhibition. The project is not fixed within the walls of the space, nor within the duration of time. We will continue to meet people in and

around the space as part of the on-going project."

The residency and exhibition were supported by the FONDS BKVB (The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture).

During their residency period Libia and Ólafur also worked on the project *Searching For A Clay Language!*, which was hosted at the art collective Oda Projesi's space in Galata, Istanbul from 2 - 16 March.

www.libia-olafur.com
www.odaprojesi.com

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Shadows and Ghosts

3 – 31 May

Hüseyin Alptekin, Esra Ersen, Kutlu Güreli, Ebru Özseçen, Şükriye Sarı, Mithat Şen, Hale Tenger, Mürüvvet Türkyılmaz

Shadows and Ghosts included recent and new work by contemporary artists working in Turkey. It aimed to highlight both responsiveness to appearances and a commitment to an exploration of ways of communicating the limitations experienced in different spaces.

'Shadows, we may imagine, are where ghosts hide. But in a similar way to the work in this exhibition even the illuminated spaces of video projection may be haunted - ordinary scenes rendered extraordinary by the desires which they provoke, turning the art gallery into a space which other spaces haunt. Work which explores a range of possibilities of what may be thought of as sculpture - casts in metal, in resin, work which

extends across the floor, growing like some form of artificial life; but also work which re-imagines the components of painting - surface, support, model, body.'

Engaged with memory and the future, the art in *Shadows and Ghosts* demonstrated that leaving aside the fantasies of our fears we can make room for the as yet unknown.

Curated by: Lewis Johnson.

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Zenith

5 – 28 June

adeline morlon art direction–Jens Ullrich and Alex Jasch with Andreas Bunte & Florian Baudrexel

The installation *Zenith* referenced our one-space sense of reality, by revealing alternate realities that go unnoticed, but continue to co-exist at the same time. These comparative realities can be understood to represent differences in geography, differences in cultural perception or personal differences in ideas and attitudes about the same subject.

The installation comprised a salt sculpture, a painting created during the artists' stay in Istanbul, a sound work emanating from the back vault space and a change to the lighting conditions of the gallery, which resulted in the fluorescent beams flickering on and off producing a continuous electrical buzzing sound.

adeline morlon art direction are based in Düsseldorf, Germany where they direct a contemporary art space of the same name. The two partners Jens Ullrich and Alex Jasch emphasise working with artists rather than for them, and gear their activity towards spirited collaborations, even when these take the form of solo exhibitions.

adeline morlon art direction also presented documentation of past projects and spoke about their practice as an artist run space.

With support from Goethe Institut, Istanbul.

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Making Space

10 July – 03 August

Can and Deniz Altay, Alex Morrison, PAC, Oliver Payne and Nick Relph, Robin Rhode

Making space brought together five artists and artist collectives, whose work develops outside authoritarian systems, creating or referencing minor acts of rebellion. Their art works critique the meanings and modes of operation in the contemporary city. Some specifically dealt with Istanbul and Ankara to suggest ways of imagining a future urban make-up created by those engaging directly with the city and its everyday spaces.

Work on display in the gallery dealt with spatial appropriations to challenge our understanding of the functions of the built environment, as well as suggesting ways to re-imagine the city through different urban practices such as graffiti and skateboarding.

During the course of the exhibition architect and theorist Iain Borden gave a lecture on how the public make their own space in the urban context, artist Robin Rhode created performances both in the exhibition space and out on the streets and there were additional screenings in the gallery of new works by Oliver Payne and Nick Relph and the skateboard documentary *Dogtown and Z - Boys*.

Curated by November Paynter

With support from British Council, Istanbul; Pro Helvetia, Switzerland.

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Packaged Paradise

20 September – 16 November

Shahzia Sikander

Biennial Exhibition

Shahzia Sikander was born in Lahore, the central heart of Pakistan and it was there that she attended the National College of Art to study the techniques of miniature painting. While still a student, Sikander challenged tradition by mixing elements of popular culture from around the world with the styles of Persian, Mughal, Kangra, Deccan and Rajput miniature painting. Sikander is now based in New York and recently introduced her interest in digital manipulation to her practice, adding another layer to the miniature drawings and painted motifs she creates and allowing her the freedom to subvert content and merge media into her experimentation.

At Platform, Sikander created a site-specific wall painting, which extended over two surfaces of the entrance-facing wall, introducing the viewer to a world of lavish colors and swirling compositions. The reverse side of the wall was enlivened by an animation. Sikander also exhibited a second animation and a number of wall hung paintings.

This exhibition was curated by Dan Cameron within the structure of the 8th International Istanbul Biennial.

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What Remains

4 December – 10 January '04

Ömer Ali Kazma

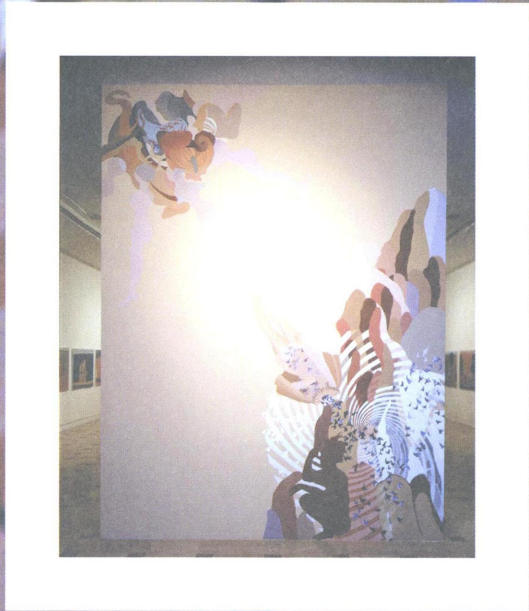
This video installation at Platform comprised approximately 30 minutes of edited video footage from the life of Galatasaray soccer players and their coach Fatih Terim. The camera follows the players in scrimmages, trips, dressing rooms and places of non-event. What the viewer sees are not the matches themselves, but those moments of expectations, frustrations, joys, sorrows and pain of young men. The camera meets them at eye level without any valorization. The editing of the work is done in bursts as opposed to long takes that perpetually frustrate the viewer's need to grasp in full and homogenize an all too familiar subject.

"Football is the most popular sporting rite. It is celebrated in cathedrals, which are the stadiums, where the crowd invades the terraces at each match. The unifying rite is also a game and a show: its communication by television and all the other media invades our domestic space. Contemporary art, in its irresistible identification with the vital impulse offers us a poetic image of the round ball: a daily mythology." PIERRE RESTANY

During *What Remains* John Peter Nilsson and Roderick Buchanan were invited to talk about sport as a subject of contemporary art. Roderick Buchanan also presented a series of film, video and documentary screenings over the course of the exhibition.

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Lectures & Screenings

CARLOS BASUALDO

29 January: Curator of *Structures of Survival*, Venice Biennial 03 and Independent curator and critic.

SALLA TYKKÄ

5 February: Finnish artist Salla Tykkä discussed her work and video art as part of the Moderna Museet Contemporary Film and Video Program. Screening: *Thriller*, 2001; *Lasso*, 2000; *Power*, 1998; *Bitch - Portrait of the Happy One*, 1997; *My Hate is Useless*, 1996.

CHARLES ESCHE

26 February: Director of the Rooseum Contemporary Art Center, 'Collectivity, Hospitality and Responsibility.'

VICENTE TODOLI

27 February: Director of Tate Modern, London and former Director of the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art in Porto, Portugal, 'Serralves Museum.'

JENNIFER REEDER

28 February: Moderna Museet Contemporary Film and Video Program Screening: *Johnny Take a Dive*, 1999; *A Double Image Both in Focus Simultaneously*, 2001; *Skin Job*, 2002; *Teen Age Sex Angel*, 2002; *Tiny Plastic Rainbow*, 2003.

FLORIAN ZEYFANG

12 March: German artist Florian Zeyfang discussed his practice.

GÜLSÜN KARAMUSTAFA

18 March: To coincide with the exhibition *Here*, artist Gülsün Karamustafa discussed her practice and her contribution to the exhibition.

HASSAN KHAN

28 March: Moderna Museet Contemporary Film and Video Program Screening: *tabla dubb no.9*, 2000; *this is THE political film*, 1998; *the eye struck me and the lord of the throne saved me*, 1997; *fuck this film*, 1998; *sometime/somewhere else*, 2001; *six questions to the Lebanese*, 2001; *100 portraits*, 2001; *transitions*, 2002; *transmission*, 2002.

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HITO STEYERL

25 April: German artist Hito Steyerl discussed her video documentaries as part of the Moderna Museet Contemporary Film and Video Program. Screening: *Land of smiles*, 1996; *Babenhausen*, 1997; *The empty centre*, 1998

MARIA HLAVAJOVA

2 May: Director of basis voor actuele kunst (BAK), in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 'Lost and Found: re-thinking the art institution today.'

JESPER NORDAHL

30 May: Moderna Museet Contemporary Film and Video Program Screening: *Derv*, 1999; *Wiederkäuen*, 2000; *Scorched dust*, 1998; *Initiation Ritual*, 2000; *Kanon*, 2000; *Crazy girls*, 2001; *Kawaguchi*, 2001

ADELIN MORLON ART DIRECTION

3 June: adeline morlon art direction presented documentation about past projects and spoke about their practice as an artist run space.

IAIN BORDEN

11 July: Director of the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, London, 'Making Space in the Unknown City.'

ROBERT FLECK

13 September: Director of ERBAN Fine Art School of Nantes, France. 'A discussion with artist Serkan Özkaya.'

JOHN PETER NILSSON

11 December: Freelance critic, independent curator and currently the editor for NU-E, a webportal for text and art spoke on sports and culture in a lecture entitled 'Sporting Lessons.'

RODDY BUCHANAN

20 December: Roderick Buchanan discussed sport as the subject of his own video works and those of other contemporary artists. A program of films and videos selected by Buchanan was shown throughout What Remains.

Screenings: By Roderick Buchanan: *Chasing 1000*, *Endless Column*, *Gobstopper*, *Ten in a Million*, *Warsaw*, *Ten in a Million*, *Trondheim, 83/03*, *Unofficial Envoy of the Tartan Army*. Other artists: *My Way*, Carlos Amorales; *Cars Fight*, Turpin Brothers; *This Sporting Life*, Julie Henry; *Voetbal*, Marijke van Warmerdam; *Boxing*, Vibeke Tandberg *Motorsport and Drawing*, Rachel Lowe.

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Platform hosted Projects

During the Biennial

CONTEMPORARY HAMAM

24/25 September: A series of open workshops organised to bring together Swedish and Turkish architects and artists in a mutual brainstorming to discuss the proposal of a 'Contemporary Hamam.' During this process the group also considered new building technologies, which could be applied to recreate the experience of space and light found in old Ottoman baths.

With lectures by Ahmet İğdiriligil, Anders Wilhelmson, Ayla Ödekan, Vasif Kortun, Gökhan Karakuş and Vesa Honkonen.

Directed by Maria Ängquist Klyvare and Ulla Kastrup, both based in Stockholm.

DEFINITELY MAYBE

18 - 21 September: A series of 6 Swedish performance based events located around the city to coincide with the 8th International Istanbul Biennial. The title

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Definitely Maybe is a reference to a more unsure and complex future that has replaced the ideological scheme of social democracy and the historical visions of functionalist Sweden. *Definitely Maybe* played with the images we are constantly given by a country wanting to profile itself internationally and the generalizations of national identities.

Moving from the base of 6 stations, art works in different public spaces, the viewer is confronted with clichés of Swedishness; solidarity, "the Swedish girl", neutrality, the wireless well to do country of the very North.

Artists / projects: People's Park, Raketa, Miss Universum/Catti Brandelius, New Beginnings, Linda Tedsdotter, Monika Marklinger.

With a two day series of lectures and conversation with the curators and the artists.

Curated by Joanna Sandell and Veronica Wiman.

WITHOUT YOU I AM NOTHING

October: 'The acts of selling, buying and bartering are daily negotiations in which two parties must enter a complicit bond

based on faith, presumed trust and mutual benefit. At the core of this exchange lies a complex dynamic that is bound to desire, need and ethics - that ultimately puts to test one's own personal value system.' For *Without you I am Nothing* three artists were invited to situate work amidst the street culture of trade and negotiate immediate consumer transactions in Istanbul.

Artists: Daniel Bozhkov, Danica Phelps, Anton Vidokle & Julieta Aranda

With an afternoon of conversations with the curator and the artists.

Organized by Regine Basha.

Platform Co-organized & Hosted Projects

URBAN FLASHES

4 - 11 September: Initiated by Ti Nan Chi in Taiwan in 1999, *Urban Flashes* is an ongoing project dedicated to the

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interactive exchange between academic institutes, professional organizations, city governments and relevant authorities in the field of architecture, urbanism, the arts and the environment across the world. A week of urban design workshops with the participation of international architects, curators, artists and filmmakers were held at Platform with discussions concentrating on Istanbul's progressive development and the role the city currently plays in the international urban sphere.

With discussions from Ti-Nan Chi, Orhan Esen, Gülsün Karamustafa, Oda Projesi, Heterotopia, Nicholas Boyarsky, Peter Lang, Karl-Heinz Klopff, Sohn-Joo Minn, Namık Erkal, Esra Akcan, Çağlar Keyder, Suha Bekki, Anna Ferrer & H.H. Lim, Marco Casagrande, Robert Mull, Svein Hatloy & Jochen Becker, Vein, Ahmet Özgüner, Osman Vlora, Vasif Kortun and others.

*SOUTH...EAST...MEDITERRANEAN...
EUROPE...;

14 - 16, December: A conference and conversation series within the context of "In The Cities of the Balkans", the 2nd part of "The Balkans Trilogy", a project

initiated by Kunsthalle Fridericianum, with writers, critics, curators and artists from Sofia, Skopje, Jerusalem, Cairo, Belgrade, Beirut, Zagreb, Istanbul, Tirana, Pristine, and Sarajevo. The meeting focused upon rethinking artistic production, cultural geography and possible future collaborations in South-East Europe and the South-East Mediterranean, otherwise known as the Balkans and the Middle East.

With lectures and discussion participation from Réne Block, Natasa Ilić, Vasif Kortun, Suzana Milevska, Jack Persekian, Shkelzen Maliqi, Lucezar Boyadjiev, Eleni Laperi Koci, Migjen Kelmendi, Lejla Hodzic, Christine Tohme, Mai Abdu ElDahab, Katerina Gregos, Boris Buden.

Funded by Förderung aus Mitteln der Kulturstiftung des Bundes and organized in collaboration with Kunsthalle Fridericianum Kassel.

Platform elsewhere

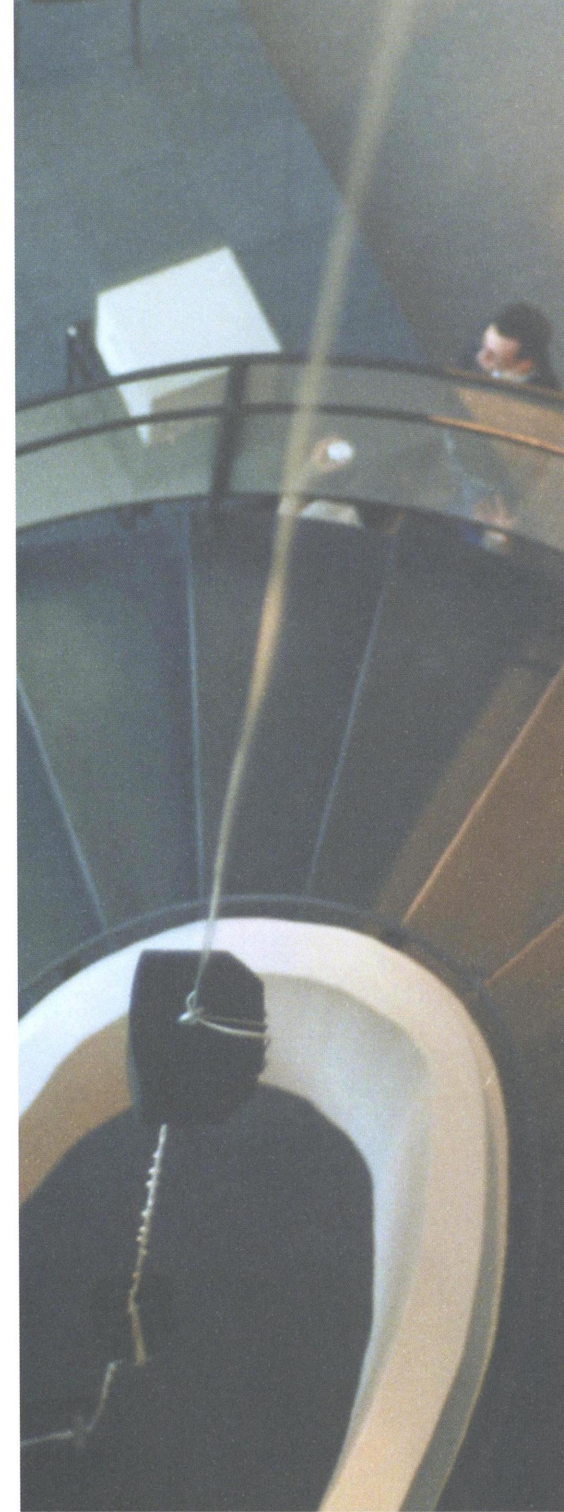
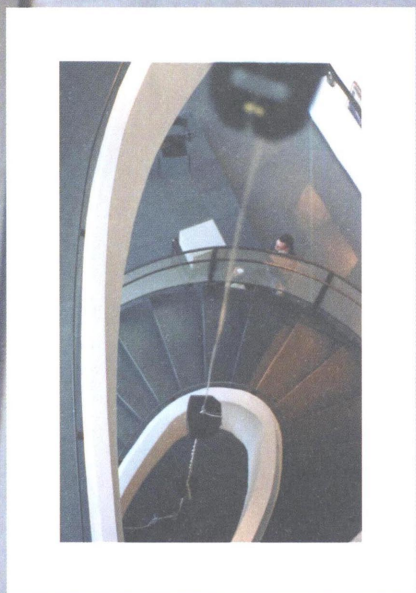
INSTITUTION²

3 December - 4 January '04

Platform was invited to present its activities in the exhibition Institution², curated by Jens Hoffmann for KIASMA, Helsinki. The Institution² project posed an inquiry into the work of ten contemporary art institutions in Europe and the results were disseminated in the forms of a seminar, exhibition and publication. Platform worked with artist Köken Ergun on a site-specific sound work for the exhibition. Daily life in the Platform office, conference and exhibition areas was recorded and then an edited version was produced, installed and played back in selected spaces in the KIASMA building.

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LO FRAGILE AS

Michael FOUCAULT
Essential Works
1954-1984



Istanbul Residency Program

Istanbul Residency Program (IRP) is housed in the same building with the Center's exhibition space, archive, and screening room. IRP was initiated in January 2003 and is open to contemporary visual artists, critics and curators of contemporary art. Each residency lasts for a period of between three and six months. There are three studios for artists as well as two additional rooms for writers.

FONDS BKVB, AMSTERDAM

Supported by Fonds BKVB, 'The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture', the first artists: Libia Pérez de Siles de Castro and Ólafur Árni Ólafsson, to participate in the Istanbul Residency Program (IRP), created an installation of new work at Platform for their exhibition *20 Minus Minutes*, 5 April - 26 April 2003. After four months in Istanbul, the artists (originally from Spain and Iceland) installed a performance-based, multi-media environment, involving

physical and mental interventions relating to the gallery's immediate surroundings. David Bade the second artist supported by Fonds BKVB arrived in Istanbul in September. David produced a series of drawings during his residency in Istanbul.

TENT, ROTTERDAM

Nicoline van Harskamp the first artist supported by TENT, Rotterdam spent three months with IRP between April and June. Van Harskamp documented the social routines and authoritarian structures imposed on security workers here in the city, and produced the publication *A Little Guide to Istanbul Guards* as well as an installation work which was exhibited in a security worker's booth close to Platform. These projects were submitted as documentation of Van Harskamp's work to the Institute of Contemporary Art's London Beck's Futures Prize for which she was shortlisted this year.

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The Turkish artist collective Oda Projesi were also resident in the IRP space from April until September 2003, in order to work on preparations for their participation in the *Structures of Survival* exhibition curated by Carlos Basualdo at the Venice Biennale and then the 8th Istanbul Biennial.

ACF, USA

With the support of the American Center Foundation, IRP has begun to focus on accepting artists in residence from countries in Northern Africa and South-Eastern Europe. Specific arts professionals and organisations in the region have been invited to nominate artists for the program starting in 2004.

OTHER RESIDENCY INITIATIVES

In addition to artist and curatorial residencies, IRP hosts international group projects and short term residencies whenever the space is available. Additional activities in 2003 included AESWAD, Curiosity Workshop (July), Malmö, Sweden; and the Urban Flashes Workshop.

LONG TERM FUNDING COLLABORATIONS

Fonds, BKVB, The Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture Support for Dutch artists and artists of

other nationalities currently living and working in the Netherlands. Six month residency periods available every six months. www.fondsbkvb.nl

OCA Office for Contemporary Art, NORWAY

Support for critics/curators based in Norway for residency periods of three months. www.oca.no

IASPIS International Artist Studio Program In Sweden, SWEDEN

Support for artists from Sweden. www.iaspis.com

ACF American Center Foundation, USA

Support for artists from countries in Northern Africa and Eastern Europe. Specific arts professionals and organisations in the region are invited to nominate artists for a six month residency each year.

IAAB, BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Support for artists from the Basel region of Switzerland for periods of 6 months starting September 2005. www.iaab.ch

Platform is presently negotiating co-operations with other international institutions and countries. If you need more information please contact: residency.platform@garanti.com.tr



MAKING SPACE

Alex Morrison

PAC

Oliver Payne / Nick Relph