

## Contemporary Art

### Let us cultivate our garden

Exhibition Dates: May 19 – June 12

"Let us cultivate our garden" is a quote from the last sentence of Voltaire's classic novel *Candide*<sup>1</sup>. This sentence summarizes the worldview of an old farmer Candide meets in Istanbul (Constantinople), after traveling the whole world in pursuit of happiness. It also holds a proposal against contemporary life styles that generate speed and heat.

"Let us" in the title anticipates acting together while "garden" and "cultivate" lead to metaphorical conceptions: Garden implies our immediate environment, lives and relationships. Likewise, cultivate involves the acts of humbly developing, shaping and transforming, even preparing the Future in harmony with nature.

Departing from this theme that leads to further connotations such as the human-caused planetary changes, climate change, deforestation, loss of farmland, water and air pollution and loss of biodiversity, the Cappadox art programme will point out water, seed and food, resources of all living beings through political and cultural lenses. It will take soil as the value parameter and reflect on alternative living practices, which are not necessarily centered on human beings.

The contemporary art program of Cappadox is curated by **Fulya Erdemci** and **Kevser Güler** (Associate Curator) with the participation of 15 artists and collaborators including **Asunción Molinos Gordo (Cairo, Muscat and Guzmán)**, **Ayşe Erkmen (Berlin and Istanbul)**, **Cevdet Erek (Istanbul)**, **Christoph Schaefer (Hamburg)**, **Hera Büyüктаşçıyan (Istanbul)**, **John Körmeling (Eindhoven)**, **Maidier Lopez (San Sebastian)**, **Marilá Dardot (São Paulo, Lisbon)**, **Murat Germen (Istanbul)**, **Murat Şahinler (Istanbul)** and **Nilbar Güreş (Vienna and Istanbul)**.

Contemporary art program of Cappadox 2015 titled **Cappadocia Struck**, shared diverse artistic gestures commenting on the different modes of perceiving and

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<sup>1</sup> Voltaire, *Candide*, New York: Dover Thrift Editions, 1991, p. 87.

experiencing this special geography. As we consider the manifestations on Cappadocia in continuum, building up on each edition, the artists who participated in the **Cappadocia Struck**, were invited for two editions in order to extend the researches they started in 2015 and reconceive this historically and culturally laden region today. Besides there are artists invited for the first time whose practices specifically address our relationship with nature.

For 2016, the program will focus on the shift from an agrarian livelihood to an economy more reliant on tourism that Cappadocia has been going through. Drawing on this, the artists will focus on farming, “fast” tourism and the relations of production under transformation. Furthermore, with site-specific and context responsive interventions, they will bring to the forefront the area’s living culture, inhabitants, voices, textures and even blossoming flowers.