

Creative Time
New York /USA
Ref. Artistic Director Position

December 27th, 2018

Dear Evaluation Committee,

I am writing to apply for the Artistic Director position in Creative Time. Given my extensive curatorial vision, experience, and achievements, I believe that I am a strong candidate for the position.

With a specific focus on art in public domain, I have been curating and directing international projects and exhibitions for more than 25 years, researching and experimenting on the critical relationship between art and the social. Since I believe in the power of art in stimulating subjective transformation that may have an impact on the construction of new subjectivities, thus, foster the social change, I have been working on the issues related to the politics and culture of space, making of publics, and how to create models of co-creation and collaborative endeavour.

I curated major international exhibitions like the 13th Istanbul Biennial, "Mom, am I barbarian?" (2013) whose main inquiry was on how the multiple publics come together, co-exist and act collectively. Previously, I curated the Pavilion of Turkey "Plan B" at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011), and co-curated biennials including the 5th SCAPE Biennial of Art in Public Space, Christchurch, "Wandering Lines: Towards A New Culture of Space" (2008), the 2nd Moscow Contemporary Art Biennial (2007) and 25th Biennale of São Paulo, "Citades: Metropolitan Iconografias" (2002).

In order to create a public forum on the urban transformation plans for Istanbul, I have initiated the exhibition series, "Istanbul Pedestrian Exhibitions" whose first edition "Personal Geographies, Global Maps" was realized in 2002. This was the very first urban public exhibition in Turkey, which centred on the 'pedestrian', which proposes human scale in the use and experience of the city, and the second edition was realized in 2005. Additionally, in 2015, I established the Cappadox Contemporary Art program realized in the frame of the Cappadox Festival, Cappadocia, which was initiated and organized by Turkey's leading entertainment and marketing company, Pozitif.

I was among the first executive directors of the Istanbul Biennial (1993-2000) and invited to be the Artistic Director of SKOR (Stichting Kunst en Openbare Ruimte), Foundation for Art and Public Domain in Amsterdam (2008 - 2012), which was one of the prominent art institutions functioning in the public domain in the Netherlands. My role in the Istanbul Biennial & SKOR Foundation was extensive as I took over the position in the Istanbul Biennial in its initial stages of its establishment and at SKOR in its late phase. Hence, both institutions required me to radically restructure and revise organizational structures, content development and social interaction strategies. Unlike Creative Time, most of the art institutions take social engagement programs as secondary to exhibition programs. I tried to change this balance in both institutions in the favour of social interaction.

In the last 4 years I have been curating and directing the contemporary art program of the Cappadox, which is an annual, multidisciplinary festival that brings together contemporary art, music, gastronomy and outdoor events in the unique geography of Cappadocia. Each year with a new theme, and staged in different locations in various towns and valleys, I commissioned site-

sensitive and context-responsive projects from international artists (12 to 20 projects in its each edition). The theme of the most recent edition realized in June 2018 was on "Silence" in reference to John Cage's iconic performance 4'33' and to the accelerating political oppression in Turkey. However, because of the recent severe economic crisis in Turkey, unfortunately it became impossible to realize the upcoming edition. Thus, for the last two months I have been searching for a suitable position in a respected dynamic institution from which I can continue to learn, contribute internationally, deepen my research, and realize my ambitions.

I have been following the program of Creative Time with appreciation. It would be exciting to be a part of an institution that is open, flexible and courageous enough to experiment with new ideas and models in an effort to respond to the emerging political, economic, social and discursive tendencies and transformations in the society as well as international and national art milieus. Beside continuing the successful programs such as the Creative Time Summit, the In Situ events and many others, my dream for Creative Time is to increase the share and accessibility of art in public domain for the experience of not only art lovers or the Creative Time community but also the society at large, the unintentional audience and passers-by. To this end, I would like to initiate an experimental exhibition format like the Istanbul Pedestrian or Cappadox exhibitions that take the audience to a walk through a promenade either in a specific neighbourhood of New York or in a green leisure area such as the Central Park or the Brooklyn Park.

Creative Time is one of the most prominent and influential institutions focused on art in public domain around the world. Thus, I believe it provides the right context for me to fulfil and materialize the outcomes of my research, accumulation and ideas.

I do hope that we'd have the opportunity to work together.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards,



Fulya Erdemci

Independent Curator