

ISTANBUL FOUNDATION
FOR CULTURE AND ARTS
THIRD INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL BIENNIAL

T E L E F A X M E S S A G E

ATTN: Mr. Gary Sangster

DATE: April 20, 1992

FAX: 99 1 201 547 4584

FROM: Vasif Kortun

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 1

FAX: 011 90 1 261 88 23

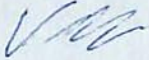
Dear Mr. Sangster:

Thank you for your fax of April 16, 1992. I have not yet spoken with Marcia Tucker or Ellen Holtzman regarding the New Museum's position. Just like the USIA, they too have failed to contact me regarding the matter. Although their position is different than the USIA, I can not help but regard their attitude as unprofessional. I also do not know anything of a visit by Marcia Tucker to Istanbul.

We can not provide independent funding for your exhibition. I have a different kind of project in mind, which I will later tell you on the phone.

I would like to invite you to Istanbul for a lecture or discussion. Would it be possible for you to secure outside funding for your travel expenses? The Biennial would then provide the hotel accomodations.

Best Regards,



Vasif Kortun

Yıldız Kültür ve Sanat Merkezi - Beşiktaş 80700 - İstanbul- TURKEY

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In Visible Borders/The Istanbul Biennale

Fax Cover Sheet

Fax To: **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts**
The International Istanbul Biennale

Attention: **Vasif Kortun, Director** **Fax No.** **011.90.1.2618823**

From: **Gary Sangster,** **Date:** **April 16, 1992.**
Co-Curator, In Visible Borders

Vasif Kortun:

I am sure that you have been fully informed of the USIA decision to withdraw sponsorship from **In Visible Borders**. Unfortunately, USIA's funding partners decided not to proceed with an "independent" project. According to Ellen Hoffman, Director of The New Museum, the museum will not be able to seek alternative funding for the exhibition. We are extremely disappointed by this remarkable turn of events. It is astounding that the US embassy, resistant to a strong and diverse exhibition, is also alarmed that they should suggest the exhibition "would not be good for Turkish-American relations". I simply cannot believe this or understand why they should draw such a conclusion about an exhibition of contemporary art.

At this stage, that it is probably too late to secure funds elsewhere for this exhibition. So I wish to express my regret that the project will not be shown in Turkey. (Unless, of course, independent funding could be found by someone else.)

In light of the incredible demise of the exhibition, I would like to ask if you could invite me to participate in any of the events that you will be conducting as part of the Biennale or as an adjunct program to coincide with the Biennale. I would be pleased to discuss the nature of the project, as well as the aesthetic and political ramifications of the USIA's decision to withdraw their funding.

I understand that Marcia Tucker, Director of The New Museum, will be in Turkey just prior to the opening period of the Biennale. If I could also attend, as a guest of the Biennale, I believe it could be very important to have an extended discussion about this exhibition, and the role of the USA in international exhibitions and cultural exchange.

Please fax at the Jersey City Museum on 201.547.4584, or write to me at the address below. My new home telephone number is 212.749.1192.

Once again please accept my deepest regrets at the USIA's unaccountable decision.

Yours sincerely

Gary Sangster

If there are problems with this fax please call me at home on 212.749.1192 (Phone only).

Gary Sangster Senior Curator, Jersey City Museum, 472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302 (Ph. 201.547.4514 and Fax: 201.547.4584)