

Dear Mr. Sangster,

I have just received your fax yesterday evening which contained a series of inquiries about the U.S. participation in the Third Istanbul Biennial from Ms. Noreen Tomassi who was in Istanbul very briefly.

I should first say that I understand your worries, since I guess you have not been to Istanbul in the last few years, and you probably know very little about the Istanbul Biennial.

While I am not yet equipped to answer your inquiry fully, and although the restoration of the building is going on, we have yet to receive in March from Gae Aulenti, who has undertaken the project of the restoration, the design for the interior. That includes lighting, location and the types of the fixtures, other electrical outlets and the wall solutions. I am eagerly waiting for her design project, so that we designate and finalize the exhibition areas.

Enclosed, you will find four photographs of the interior of the exhibition areas. As you will see the spaces are divided by columns at a distance of five meters from each other in symmetrical/square order. You will also notice that the we will receive indirect, natural light from the roof via double-insulated, UV protected glass.

The works will be insured and there will be round the clock guards in the museum. I will soon inform you on the issue of climate control.

As far as your trip to Istanbul goes, I think it would be best if you come after May. We would be able to do preliminary work prior to your visit and finalize the nitty gritty when you are in Istanbul.

While in Istanbul, it would also be a good idea if we can arrange for you and Ms. Laura Trippi to give lectures, preferably on issues that border on your exhibition is somewhat an indirect manner. We are currently embarking on writing informative articles in Turkish journals on the artists in your exhibition. I would appreciate any and all pertinent material you would be able to send us on the artists. Please also include your final list, as I understand there have been some changes.

I have to say that I am extremely pleased about the New Museum's proposal, I am also thrilled that the organizing institution is the New Museum.

The project interests me in more ways than one. As someone who sees things from my geographical position, I think that your exhibition will be a positive intervention and example for artists in Turkey. The areas of inquiry are also quite legitimate for the people here as well, and they will hopefully request their own positions in a more critical light. It is a plateau which many so desperately miss here.

I look forward to hearing from you and Laura Trippi.

Sincerely,

Vasif K. Kortun
Director, Third International Istanbul Biennial