

forward

Today multiculturalism emerges as a significant discourse. Istanbul, with its history, cultures and location has the potential of being a unifying factor between East and West, and in this potential can be called a cultural metropole. However in order to realize this potential it is essential to simultaneously experience the current international cultural processes, to amalgamate and allow the variety in art and yet be able to express individualities in their own way.

The 3rd International Istanbul Biennial is an important step taken in this course, therefore, it is appropriate to organize this Biennial in a way that will eventually introduce various aspects of art which speaks about multiculturalism and direct it towards new possibilities. Nevertheless, a formally structured Biennial model, especially without going through a period of experience, would bring forth certain drawbacks and limitations. Furthermore, some of the well established exhibitions are now inclined to abandon such formal structures.

In the two previous Biennials held in Istanbul international art was presented within various historical sites. This Biennial on the other hand will be held in the recently renovated Feshane -the first contemporary museum in Turkey- (now the Greater Istanbul Municipality Nejat F. Eczacıbaşı Art Museum). The variety of identities and cultures can now be unified under one roof.

A significant line of artistic endeavor is coming from the cultures which, until recently, were "marginal" and thus have been excluded from the international culture and art politics. One of the main objectives of artistic activities should be to propagate the difference and tolerate their coexistence by supporting new experiences and discourses.