

Proje4L Istanbul Museum of Contemporary Art

The museum is located in a 1.600 meters square annex of an office tower, Harmancı-Giz Plaza. The founder of the museum is the architect and real estate developer Dr. Can Elgiz.

Proje4L encourages experimental exhibition projects. Special attention is given to the needs of new audiences. Proje4L is conscious of the fact that contemporary art prospers only in an environment of a growing and diversified audience. It considers the museum as a mutual space, and a conduit between different communities.

The exhibition program does not discriminate between local and global, national and international art. Open to novel proposals, the program supports the development of a critical dialogue. Proje 4L collaborates with other institutions on exhibitions and programs, and partnerships with non-art institutions and networks. It studies, documents and pursues exhibitions from private and public collections. The museum publishes literature in conjunction with exhibitions, events and educational programs.

2001 September - 2003 January

Exhibitions:

· “Under the Beach: The Pavement;” 22 November 2002 – 17 January 2003

The exhibition brought together a young generation of artists from Turkey living in the country and abroad, along with two artist collectives. The reversal of the infamous May 1968 slogan 'Under the pavement: the beach' ('sous le pavé: la plage'), points to the fact that in recent years many of us have given up the capacity to dream, play and offer collective action, beyond the world as it is known to us. Artists in the exhibition had consistently integrated themselves back into these structures, working as healers, rectifiers, social hackers and alternative economy producers. The artists in the exhibition were: Nevin Aladağ, Fikret Atay, Seyhun Babaç, Yetkin Başarır, Başir Borlakov, Ali Demirel, Karolin Fişekçi, fiinasi Güneş, Sefer Memişoğlu, Ahmet Öğüt, Fahrettin Örenli, Erkan Özgen, Ferhat Özgür, Zeynep Soleyman, Erinç Seymen, Aslı Sungu, Cengiz Tekin, Nassan Tur, Seçil Yersel, Demet Yoruç. The group projects were: KUTU (Ali Batı, Gökçen Cabadan, Elmas Deniz, Borge Kantürk, Gökçe Süvari, Evrim Yiğit); ODA PROJESİ.

· “Coming Under Light;” 19 September – 9 November 2002

Curated by Haldun Dostoglu, the exhibition asked the question “who is a collector?” Established by Sema & Barbaros Çağa, the collection has been put together in a span of 25 years. It includes over 300 paintings, from the 1914 generation to Early Republic Period, from the post-1950 Turkish Painting to young contemporary artists with a particular emphasis on the 1920 & 1930 generation.

- **“Arne Jacobsen”; 19 June – 10 August 2002**

Arne Jacobsen was one of the most talented architects of the Twentieth Century. This exhibition is initiated by the Danish Design Center, and the Danish Center for Architecture and produced by Proje4L in collaboration with the Royal Danish Consulate in Istanbul.

- **“Stop for a Moment: Painting as Narrative,” 5 April – 15 June 2002**

This exhibition consists of figurative works with emphasis on painting’s capacity to act as a story – hence, painting as narrative. The works investigate various ways of making particular, private experiences accessible and public. The artists are Vanessa Baird (NO), Birgir S. Birgisson (IS), Niklas Engvall (SE), Robert Lucander (FI), Elina Merenmies (FI), Milla Toivanen (FI), Lene Væring Jensen (NO). The exhibition is initiated and produced by NIFCA in collaboration with Proje4L, and curated by Kari Immonen and Mika Hannula

- **“Women Who Wear Wigs”; Kutlug Ataman; 1 - 28 March 2002**

First Shown at the 48. Venice Biennale, WWWW is a video installation featuring four women from Turkey who discuss when, where, why and how they wear wigs. The work, operates at the limits of documentary, fiction and contemporary art. WWWW comprised of four projections running simultaneously.

- **“Look Again”; 21 December 2001 – 23 February 2002**

This exhibition was organized by Vasif Kortun. The exhibition focused upon a viewer’s possibility of locating him or herself in works of art with empathy. The artists in the exhibition were from different parts of Turkey. They were Gülçin Aksoy, Nancy Atakan, Ergin Çavuşoğlu, Cengiz Çekil, Kutlu Güreli, Borgia Kantürk, Servet Koçyiğit, Hakan Onur, Serkan Özkaya, Şener Özmen, Neriman Polat, Hale Tenger, and Erdem Yücel.

- **“Becoming a Place”; 21 September – 24 November 2001**

The museum’s first exhibition was organized by the Proje4L team lead by Vasif Kortun. The exhibition emphasized questions like the urgent and far reaching urbanization of rural cultures; the stamina and resistance of traditional cultures to urban modes; the organization of inner spaces; and the appropriation and ownership of public areas. The exhibition presents a series of works and proposals by artists from Turkey and artists who have worked in the Turkish context. Artists in the exhibition were: Hüseyin Alptekin, Can Altay, Halil Altindere, Tina Carlsson, Esra Ersen, Erik Göngrich, Hakan Gürsoytrak, Gülsün Karamustafa, Aydan Murtezaoglu, Bülent Sangar, and the Oda Project.

Lectures:

Network North, NIFCA Lectures

- Erden Kosova; Critic and PhD candidate Goldsmiths College, London, July, 31, 2002
- Ayse Erkmen; Artist, July, 2, 2002.
- Sener Özmen; Artist, December, 7, 2001

Curatorial Positions

- Marta Kuzma; Co-curator ‘Manifesta 5,’ March, 8, 2003.
- Harald Szeemann; Curator and Director of ‘Factory,’ February, 20, 2003.
- Edi Muka; Curator ‘National Gallery,’ Director of Tirana Biennale, January, 3, 2003.
- Jérôme Sans; Co-director Palais Tokyo, Paris, July, 23, 2002,

- Francesco Bonami; Artistic Director of the 2003 Venice Biennale, July, 17, 2002,
- Dan Cameron; Chief Curator, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, March, 23, 2002
- Chris Dercon; “You can be a Museum or you can be modern, but you can’t be both (after Gertrude Stein)” Director, Museum Boymans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, September, 7, 2001
- Hans Ulrich Obrist; Curator, Musée de l’art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, “Rumour City, Sonic City, Invisible City ”; May, 10, 2001
- Charles Esche; Director Rooseum, Malmo, “After the Planners”; May, 16 2001

Exhibition Talks

“Stop for a Moment: Painting as Narrative”

- “Stop for a Moment: with Curators and Artists”; Mika Hannula, Robert Lucander, Milla Toivanen, Sebnem Soner ve Leyla Gediz; April, 6, 2002

“Women Who Wear Wigs”

- “Video Art: Documentary or Mockumentary”; Vasıf Kortun, Tuna Erdem, Erden Kosova; March, 26, 2002
- “Oral History / Official History and a Panaroma of Turkey”; Ayse Durakbasa, Nevval Sevindi; March, 19, 2002
- “When Subjects Speak”; Ruşen Çakır, Melek Ulagay, Demet Demir; March, 12, 2002
- “Artist and his Viewer”; Kutlug Ataman, Fatih Özgüven; March, 5, 2002

Other Lectures:

- Nermin Saybaşı; Critic and PhD candidate Goldsmiths College, March 29, 2003.
- Aydan Murtezaoğlu; artist, March 15, 2003.
- “Charles Merewether; Researcher Getty Center, Los Angeles, From Fact to Fiction: Counter Archival Projects in Contemporary Art”; November, 17 2001

Events:

- Sıfır; music and video performance; March, 1 2003.
- “Vertigo”; Tugçe Tuna; dance performance; May 16 – 25, 2002
- “Gift to Oda Project”; January 19– February 16, 2002
- “NetArt in Proje4L”; seminars; January, 10 – 11 – 12 2002
- “Resonance, Rythm, Eco, Sıfır+Kör”; music & video performance; November, 24 2001
- “From Taksim to Taksim Unlicensed Performance”; Orhan Esen; November 24 2001