

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: Ms. MARCIA TUCKER  
FAX: 99 1 212 4315328  
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

DATE: March 30, 1992  
FROM: Vasif Kortun  
FAX: 261 88 23

ATTENTION:

FAX MESSAGE OF URGENT IMPORTANCE

PLEASE RELAY THIS FAX MESSAGE TO Ms. TUCKER IMMEDIATELY.

A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HER AT 10:30 REQUIRES THAT SHE READS THIS FAX  
MESSAGE FIRST.

-----  
Yıldız Kültür ve Sanat Merkezi - Beşiktaş 80700 - İstanbul- TURKEY  
TEL: 260 45 33 - 260 90 72 - 261 32 94 - 258 74 98 - 258 74 99  
TLX: 26687 iksv-tr  
-----



# İSTANBUL KÜLTÜR VE SANAT VAKFI

Ms. Marcia Tucker  
New Museum of Contemporary Art  
New York

İstanbul Mar.30, 1992  
Bölüm : Ist. Biennial  
Sayı :  
Konu : U.S.A. exh.

Dear Ms. Tucker:

Following is a brief history of the exhibition proposal of the United States in the Istanbul Biennial.

The theme of the Istanbul Biennial, production of cultural difference, was seen by us in continuum with divergent exhibitions such as the Magicians of the Earth and the Decade Show, this time from a different geography.

I appealed to the U.S.I.S. in Istanbul nearly two years ago if they would be able to see if a version of the Decade show could be organized for the Istanbul Biennial, which finally lead to your institution's exhibition proposal.

As far as I learned from Noreen Tomassi of the Arts International, the exhibition was approved by the board in Washington and a final set of slides along with a list of captions was sent to Istanbul.

The slides were submitted to me by the U.S.I.S. in Istanbul for a review. I returned them with a report of hearty approval on the very same day. The understanding was that both U.S.I.S. (Ankara and Istanbul) and the higher ranks of the Consular staff in Turkey were quite displeased, in fact enraged by the proposal. I must mention here that these are people who have very little to do with the Arts. The slides were sent back to Washington to be reviewed by the U.S.I.A. Since then I have not heard anything in writing from them.

As a result of incessant calls to the States, two weeks ago, I found that the U.S.I.A. declined from supporting the show officially. Last week, I also found out that the Arts International has been unofficially informed that the Rockefeller and the Pew Charitable Trust may not be supporting the show either.

I was made to understand that this issue has runner higher up than I could possibly imagine, and that Neither Istanbul nor New could do anything about it.

Needless to say that I would like this exhibition to come to the Biennial. It is too late for us to come up with funding in support of the exhibition.

The show is censored and forced to die. Is there anything you could do about it? I am all up in arms, and will do anything in my capacity to mediate this scandal to the international public.

I will call you at 10:30 (E.S.T.).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'V. Kortun', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vasif K. Kortun  
Director  
3rd Int'l Istanbul Biennial

**TheNewMuseum**  
 OF CONTEMPORARY ART

 583 Broadway  
 New York, NY 10012  
 212-219-1222

*X*  
*Adrian*


---

**FAX COVER SHEET**

DATE: April 1, 1992

TO: Vasif Kortun

ATTENTION:

FAX NUMBER: 011 90 1 261 88 23

From: THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Fax Number: (212) 431-5328

NAME: Ellen Holtzman

TITLE: Managing Director

(# of pages including this: 1 )

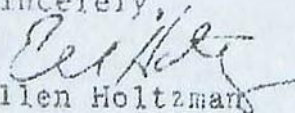
---

**Message or Comments:**

Dear Mr. Kortun,

We are unable to give you a date and time to arrange a phone call with Marcia Tucker. She is currently serving on jury duty and we have not had the opportunity to meet to discuss how The New Museum wishes to proceed. We hope to do so within the next week.

Sincerely,

  
 Ellen Holtzman  
 Managing Director

---

 IF THERE ARE ANY MISSING PAGES OR IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH  
 THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL ..... (212) 219-1222  
 TO FAX A REPLY, PLEASE CALL ..... (212) 431-5328
 

---