

Dear Mrs. Coffin:

It gives me great pleasure to see that United States is considering a significant participation in the Third International Istanbul Biennial.

I have read the correspondence between the Foundation and you, and have also been briefed on the progress of U.S. participation by my assistant, Mrs. Ayşıl Mutver.

Attached you will find a letter, I have sent to the guest countries. As you will find out, the theme of the Third Biennial is youth, cultural plurality and cultural liberalism. I intend to install all the works together rather than in national blocks.

I understand that the General Director of the Foundation, Mr. Gün has previously offered you the Military Museum in Istanbul. But, having the rest of the works in one location and U.S. in isolation at another space may create problems. The association with the Military Museum, furthermore, may also open a whole can of worms.

At the moment we are drawing up feasibility reports for the locations in consideration, but I can not give you a guarantee on the space before December 1990. If the space can not be secured, I will go back to the original idea and disperse the works around the city as in the two biennials before. In this case, you would get the Military Museum. This is an option I rather not think of at this time.

In either case, day-light lamps and tight security will be provided. I can not yet make a commitment about the dehumidifiers. As you know, even a large number of European museums have no dehumidifiers. I am actively seeking to obtain them, and I will keep you informed. I am sure you understand that I can not offer a privilege which I would then have to deny to another guest country.

I am terribly sorry about the lateness of this letter, but I officially accepted the directorship of the Biennial only three weeks ago, and I was not able to make a legitimate offer before the validation of my program at the advisory committee.

At a conference in Venice during the Venice Biennial, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Rex Moser, the program officer of ARTS AMERICA, from U.S.I.A., who was very positive united States' participation in the Istanbul Biennial. I think they will be understanding of the changes that have come late on the Foundation's part.

So as to avoid contradictory information, please contact me or my assistant Mrs. Mutver at the Foundation. Please understand that I could only give you promises that I am sure I can keep. I will be teaching at Bilkent University this fall, and will relay you my fax/phone number as soon as I have my line connected.

My best wishes and continuing success in your work. Thank you again for your co-operation and participation in the Third Biennial.

Sincerely,

Vasif Kortun

Director
Third International Istanbul Biennial