

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 - 2002 August Exhibitions:

- **“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 painting 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), MillaToivanen (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, WWW 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. WWW 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, Borga Kantürk, Servet Koçyiğit, Hakan Onur, Serkan Özkaya, Dener 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 Altındere, Tina Carllson, 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, 31 July 2002
- Ayse Erkmen; Artist, 2 July 2002,
- Sener Özmen; Artist, 7 December 2001

Curatorial Positions

- Jérôme Sans; Co-director Palais Tokyo, Paris, 23 July 2002,
- Francesco Bonami; Artistic Director of the 2003 Venice Biennale, 17 July 2002,
- Dan Cameron; Chief Curator, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, 23 March 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, 7 September 2001
- Hans Ulrich Obrist; Curator, Musée de l’art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, “Rumour City, Sonic City, Invisible City ”; 10 May 2001
- Charles Esche; Director Rooseum, Malmö, “After the Planners”; 16 May 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; 6 April 2002

“Women Who Wear Wigs”

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

Other Lectures:

- “Charles Merewether; Researcher Getty Center, Los Angeles, From Fact to Fiction: Counter Archival Projects in Contemporary Art”; 17 November 2001

Events:

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