

In September of 2003, Platform completed its second year of programming. Within this period of time, we have reached an audience of 150 thousand. This is an unusual achievement for an institution that is solely devoted to contemporary art. There will be many who cannot remember their previous visits to Platform because we gave priority not to an institutional front but to our activities. This year Platform was chosen as one of Europe's 10 most inspirational art institutions to make the most of their local situation and we were invited to the Museum of Contemporary Art (KIASMA), Helsinki, to take part in the *Institution²* project. This project and many others position platform as a serious focal point for contemporary art within the international community further allowing us to have a positive influence on artists from Turkey and other institutions in Istanbul.

Our audiences' and participants' understanding approach towards Platform's presentation of the untested and the undistinguished; Garanti Bank's respect for and trust in professional knowledge and its vision for acknowledging institutional autonomy, has accelerated the institution's pace of progress to its present state. Our primary deficiency during this initial period was not adequately refining the exhibitions and projects with suitable educational programs. This brochure that we are going to renew with each upcoming exhibition will convey more thorough information on each project, by reflecting on Platform's exhibitions and activities over the forthcoming 12 months. In January, elucidatory information regarding our program will be available via our internet site which will be launched at www.platform.garanti.com.tr.

We are not only a gallery that organizes exhibitions but an institution that serves as a catalyst for the participation of artists from Turkey in international projects. We are normalizing the relationship between "here" and "there"; with our archives and library, we are trying to collate an unequalled source of information for artists, art students, and researchers. Having attained the participation of prominent international funding institutions, the Istanbul Residency Program (IRP) that started in 2003 and to which artists outside of Turkey have been invited, is on its way to becoming one of the leading "residency" programs in the world.

Platform is trying to be itself; it is trying to create its own values. Not static, conservative or afraid of change; we are trying to create an institution that is clear-visioned, un-compromised, far-reaching and lasting.

Throughout 2004 we will continue to grow up with you, raise questions, provoke when necessary, and invite you to share this freedom of space called art.