

Art For...
(1st Part)
10 December 2004 – 15 January 2005

In Turkey, the practice of contemporary art has progressed dramatically over the last fifteen years, rapidly receiving international recognition and entering the global circulation of art work shaped within a locality. Despite this interest by international collections and museums, until recently little attention was paid to these artists and their work in Turkey, where many continued to work and live.

The work lacked agencies that made it accessible to a larger public, a recognition in the media space, and private support or a core base of collectors. Has this produced a situation of "art for export"? Did artists consciously, or unconsciously rechart their practice with another kind of audience in mind? Were there any demands from the international scene placed upon them? Was there intellectual mutuality of language between the 'explorer' (European) and the 'explored' (the other)? Is contemporary visual culture more jeopardize or at-risk in the place in which it is produced? How do cultural producers tackle being compromised? What are the implications of living increasingly in a double-community? Despite the weakness of her institutions, did Istanbul feel the urge to export and advertise itself.

Art for... is a program that will present examples and artefacts from the productions of recent years in an informal and audience friendly situation. Over the course of this process exhibition, artists, critics and professionals will be invited to address the issues listed above.

Art for... is organized within Platform Contemporary Arts Center's "Normalization" program, supported by European Cultural Foundation. Parallel programs are being developed by Rooseum, Malmö- Sweden and WHW, Zagreb- Croatia and a joint publication will emerge from these three interpretations of the concept of Normalization. Platform's program was launched on October 2, 2004 with conferences by Can Altay (Ankara), Solmaz Shahbazi (Tehran/Berlin), Phil Collins (Belfast, Brighton). In addition the artist Nurullah Görhan from Kızıltepe- Mardin is participating on the Istanbul Residency Program and he will be joined in the new year by Yael Bartana from Israel. Some of the artists expected to contribute in *Art For...* include: Gülsün Karamustafa, Osman Bozkurt, Cevdet Erek, Esra Ersen, Halil Altındere, Hatice Gülerüz, Köken Ergun, Neriman Polat, Şener Özmen, Erkan Özgen, Yetkin Başarır, Leyla Gediz, Seçil Yersel, Aydan Murtezaoğlu, Bülent Şangar.