

## At Platform Garanti: New Exhibition and Talk

Borga Kantürk and Ahmet Ögüt  
Back Room: Absalon, Solutions (1991-93)

20 December 2005 – 28 January 2006

### Visiting Hours:

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday: 13:00 – 20:00

Friday-Saturday: 13:00- 22:00

Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Centre presents the first comprehensive exhibition of Borga Kantürk and Ahmet Ögüt along with a performance video series by Absalon titled "Solutions" 1991-93 shown in the vault. On the opening night of the exhibition the 20 December, Kantürk and Ögüt will talk about their practices and their gallery presentations, in the first-floor lecture space at 6 pm.

Borga Kantürk, who completed a three-month artist residency supported by Platform Garanti and HIAP in Helsinki earlier this year, uses painting as his artistic medium. He makes handmade copies of everyday objects, and these experiments with 'artificiality' and 'constructedness' become an act of protest through recreating the original images while distorting and reframing them. Platform hosts a multi-layered selection from Borga Kantürk's oeuvre. There are works which designate an intimate space, introverted and secluded: play-dough sculptures, found toys, tiny, fragile statuettes; little hand-crafted scenes, which bring together elements borrowed from TV and computer games and a series of paintings emulating the famous landscape works of 19th Century romantic painters on a small-scale. In addition to his art practice, Borga Kantürk has been working as a research assistant at Dokuz Eylül University Fine Art Faculty Painting Department.

Ahmet Ögüt participates in the exhibition with three video works, one wall painting and a photographic series he produced in collaboration with Osman Bingöl. Two video works "What a Lovely Day" and "Cut it Out" propose imaginary scenarios for real situations of cause and effect. "Death Kit Train," his most recent video work will be shown for the first time at Platform in the context of this exhibition. In 2005 Ögüt completed a three-month residency at IAAB in Basel with support of Platform Garanti and Pro Helvetia. He is currently working as a research assistant at Yıldız Teknik University in Istanbul, where he is continuing his graduate studies.

Absalon is best known for his cellules – wood and cardboard constructions, painted white inside and out – that was inspired by the idea that purity of design could revolutionize the way we live. The performance videos exhibited in the vault show Absalon inside his cellules. He was one of the artists included in the 3rd International Istanbul Biennial.

### Talks:

\*Borga Kantürk and Ahmet Ögüt  
Tuesday, 20 December at 6pm.

\*A night with Adam Leech  
Wednesday, 21 December between 6-10pm  
Platform Istanbul Residency Program floor / studio no:9

The first in a series of 4-hour solo exhibitions titled 'A night with', initiated and hosted by residency artist Krist Gruijthuijsen, in his studio at the Istanbul Residency Program.

A night with Adam Leech – '13:51',

"If an individual is interested in real political difference, I would recommend becoming an activist, a politician, a social worker, a journalist, or a terrorist." A. Leech

\*Philippe Pirotte

The Crisis of the "Group Exhibition" in the Epoch of Biennials and Art Fairs  
Saturday, 24 December at 4 pm.

Philippe Pirotte will discuss the notion of the group-exhibition, and how it evolves, the changing position of the artist in the short history of curated exhibitions, and the fear institutions have of group-shows. He will also plunge into the history of the institution he directs raising thoughts on the seminal show 'When Attitudes Become Form' by Harald Szeemann to discuss the complex opposition that currently exists between biennials and art fairs.

Philippe Pirotte has been the director of the Kunsthalle Bern in Switzerland since January 2005.