



**ISTANBUL FOUNDATION FOR  
CULTURE AND ARTS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2016**

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### **Ottomans and Europeans: Pasts and Prospectives**

Realised as the Istanbul leg of 'Ottomans and Europeans: Reflecting on Five Centuries of Cultural Relations' project led by Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) Brussels, *Ottomans and Europeans: Pasts and Prospectives* exhibition was held between 5 - 27 March 2016 at MSFAU Tophane-i Amire Culture and Art Center Single Dome Hall.

Organised with the collaboration of Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSÜ) and Cittadellarte-Pistoletto Foundation with the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union, the exhibition was curated by Beral Madra and presented the works of Leone Contini, Erol Eskici, Eda Gecikmez, Naci Güneş Güven, Driant Zeneli and Mary Zygouri.

### **35<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Film Festival**

The 35th Istanbul Film Festival took place between 7 and 17 April 2016. Screening a total of 501 short and feature-length films by 223 directors from 62 different countries in 25 categories and 80 theatres over the course of ten days, the festival was attended by over 90.000 cinephiles.

250 international guests including directors, producers, actors and actresses, press and cinema professionals have attended the festival. 100 screenings took place with the participation of the films' directors, actors and actresses, screenwriters or producers.

The AUDENTIA Award created by the co-production market of the European Council, Eurimages, to bring films by women directors to the forefront, was presented for the first time at the festival.

### **20<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Theatre Festival and The Threepenny Opera**

The 20th Istanbul Theatre Festival was held between 3 and 28 May 2016, along with the special performance of The Threepenny Opera by Berliner Ensemble and Robert Wilson that was simultaneously staged with the festival on 13-14 May. In 2016, the festival brought 31 performances to Istanbul, comprising 8 international and 23 local plays, dances and performances being staged 25 different venues.

The world premieres of 1 international production and 21 local productions were part of this year's programme. 3 international and 9 local projects were co-produced by the Istanbul Theatre Festival. Expanded its reach and content with 10 side events including workshops, panels, Q&A's, meetings with directors and writers, and film screenings, the festival was attended by a total of 25.000 guests.

### **International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Pavilion of Turkey**

The 15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, was titled *Reporting from the Front* and curated by the award winning Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena. The Pavilion of Turkey at the biennial featured the project *Darzanà: Two Arsenals, One Vessel*, curated by Feride Çiçekoğlu, Mehmet Kütükçüoğlu and Ertuğ Uçar in curatorial collaboration with Cemal Emden and Namık Erkal. For the project, a last vessel, *Başarda*, has been constructed out of abandoned materials found in the old dockyard of Istanbul and transported to Venice to suggest a new connection in Mediterranean. Visited by 260.000 people, the biennial featured projects by 88 participants from 37 different countries.

### **44<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Music Festival**

Taking place between 1 and 24 June 2016, the 44th Istanbul Music Festival hosted close to 600 local and international artists in Istanbul. With symphony and chamber orchestras, vocal concerts, and recitals included in its programme, as well as the Pre-Concert Talks, the festival featured 26 different concerts in various venues. Centred around Shakespeare's renowned line "If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On" on the occasion of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, the 44th Istanbul Music Festival's programme included concerts by Vienna Symphonic Orchestra, Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields, Venice Baroque Orchestra, Soloists of the Yehudi Menuhin Academy and Murray Perahia, Gautier Capuçon, Maria Joao Pires, Patricia Petibon and Maxim Vengerov. The 44th Istanbul Music Festival reached 23.000 music enthusiasts.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Istanbul Jazz Festival**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Istanbul Jazz Festival took place between 27 June and 25 July, 2016. Held at 20 different venues with over 250 artists including renowned names such as Joss Stone and Nile Rodgers, the festival brought 42 concerts to Istanbul's music enthusiasts this summer. The festival concerts were attended by 18.000 guests.

Eight events had to be cancelled upon requests by the artists, and some other events had to be moved to different venues due to the heavy and sensitive political climate in the country. The festival has resumed until its last day with artists who maintained their will to perform in Istanbul. "Jazz in the Parks" and "Night Out" events were postponed to September and October, proving a success.

### **London Design Biennale Participation of Turkey**

The inaugural London Design Biennale (7-27 September 2016) featured projects from over thirty countries, which were called to respond to the theme of *Utopia by Design*. Turkey's contribution to the biennale presented *The Wish Machine*, a project undertaken by the Istanbul-based multidisciplinary design studio, Autoban.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial**

Curated by Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial, titled *ARE WE HUMAN? : The Design of the Species: 2 seconds, 2 days, 2 years, 200 years, 200,000 years* hosted 120.000 visitors at the Galata Greek Primary School, Depo, Alt Art Space, Studio-X Istanbul and Istanbul Archaeological Museums between 22 October and 20 November 2016. The audiences were able to view 70 projects by 250 participants, and attend 37 panels and workshops by 155 participants, and 49 parallel events, all exploring the intimate relationship between “design” and “human” for a month.

The biennial engaged with junior designers and local design shops. The 146 submissions from 68 cities in 36 countries responded to the biennial’s open call and 5 videos were selected among them for the exhibition. In addition, 39 brands brought their designs to 16 districts of Istanbul with the Creative Districts programme.

Articles written by 50 writers, scientists, artists, architects, designers, philosophers, historians, archaeologists and anthropologists for the Superhumanity project have reached more than 100.000 people worldwide through e-flux, starting mid-September. *Design Chronology Turkey / Draft*, a project inaugurated with and exhibited at the biennial, have put 200 years of history of design in Turkey under spotlight under 13 headings such as packaging, graphic design, communication and advertisement.

A workshop named “Sustainability in Fashion Design” was held with sponsorship from H&M and in collaboration with the Consulate General of Sweden and Swedish Institute, with the participation of 19 young designers and students of textile and fashion design.

The biennial was featured in 186 news in 110 different newspapers and magazines from 26 countries, including *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *El Pais*, *El Mundo*, *ABC*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Icon*, *Monocle*, *Wallpaper\**, *Dezeen*, *Domus*, *ArchDaily*.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Filmekimi**

In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the autumn film week was realised between 7 and 16 October in 5 different towns. A total of 291 screenings were realised in 10 movie theatres, reaching 90.000 cinephiles and an occupancy rate of 95%.

### **Salon İKSV**

In 2016, Salon İKSV hosted more than 100 concerts of great diversity from the contemporary musicians around the world, in addition to 45 National Theatre Live screenings and 14 theatre plays as part of the “Play Salon”. More than 23.000 people participated in the events.

## **İKSV Galas**

Inaugurated by the Istanbul Film Festival in 2016, İKSV Galas feature periodical and one-off premieres of substantial films to keep the festivalgoers' interest alive throughout the year and to address and gain a wider audience. Reaching a 100% occupancy rate at 10 premieres realised every month except April and October in 2016, İKSV Galas seen the first ever national screening of *Café Society* (Woody Allen), *One More Time with Feeling* Nick Cave (Andrew Dominik), *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* (Tim Burton) and *La La Land* (Damien Chazelle) to name a few. 1590 cinephiles have attended the screenings.

## **Cité des Arts Artist Residency Programme**

The "Artist Workshop of Turkey" was rented for a duration of 20 years until 2029 on the occasion of "Cultural Season of Turkey in France" that was held by İKSV. Located in one of prime Parisian art institutions, Cité Internationale des Arts, the workshop continues to provide a platform for artist engaging in visual arts. Artists Mükerrrem Tuncay, Burçak Bingöl, Deniz Aktaş and Güneş Terkol from Turkey participated in the programme in 2016, making a total sum of 27 artists having benefited from the residency programme since 2009.

## **Aydın Gün Encouragement Award**

Launched by İKSV in its 40th year to contribute to the development of future musicians, the recipient of this year's "Aydın Gün Encouragement Award", awarded each year to promising young musicians in the field of classical music, was young marimbist Elman Mecid. The "Aydın Gün Prize," is valued at 15.000 TL.

## **Talât Sait Halman Translation Award**

Initiated by İKSV in 2015 and named after the first Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, President of the İKSV Board of Trustees since 2008 until his passing on 5 December 2014, and a prominent literary figure, the annual Talât Sait Halman Translation Award supports outstanding translations of literary works including poetry, short stories and novels into Turkish. The owner of the 15.000 TL worth prize was Ahmet Arpad in 2016, with his translation of Anna Segher's novel, *Transit*.

## **Cultural Policy Studies**

İKSV has published its fifth cultural policy report in the February of 2016. Titled *Cultural Planning for Local Authorities*, the report aims to constitute a source for local governments to include culture to their strategic planning processes. Received with enthusiasm both by the press and local artistic and cultural institutions, the report was the most exposed of the reports to date.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial Press Conference**

The 15th Istanbul Biennial's title and conceptual framework was announced by the curators Elmgreen & Dragset at a media conference in December. The media conference started with a live act involving 40 people, each asking a question as to what constitutes *a good neighbour*, the revealed title of the 15<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial. Previous edition of the Istanbul Biennial, curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev and taking place in 36 venues marking it as the most dispersed biennial to date, had attracted 400.000 visitors.