



MAK

Press Release

SIGNS TAKEN IN WONDER
Searching for Contemporary Istanbul

Press Preview	Tuesday, 22 January 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Opening	Tuesday, 22 January 2013, 7 p.m.
Venue	MAK Exhibition Hall Weiskirchnerstraße 3, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	23 January – 21 April 2012
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.
Main Sponsor	OMV

The MAK exhibition *Signs Taken in Wonder. Searching for Contemporary Istanbul*, presents a topical snapshot of contemporary art production in the context of the city of Istanbul. Works by artists from three generations, born between the 1930s and 1980s, develop an imaginative narrative about the culture and history of this many-faceted metropolis equally shaped by European, Oriental and Asian influences. The exhibition will envelop the MAK Exhibition Hall in a subtly atmospheric impression of the city on the Bosphorus.

This seminal exhibition project was made possible by the integrated, international oil and gas company OMV, which focuses its cultural sponsoring activities on cultural exchange in the area of contemporary art between the company's core markets in Austria, Romania, and Turkey. This contribution by OMV produces important cultural dialogue over-and-above its economic engagement in these regions.

Starting from the significance of literature in informing collective notions about foreign cultures, narration as a subject of contemporary art is the defining curatorial theme of the exhibition. The exhibition takes its inspiration from an essay written by Homi K. Bhabha that describes the moment of wonder and amazement of the discovery of a new and foreign language and culture. A similar spirit informs Franco Moretti's book about world literatures and culture in translation—*Signs Taken for Wonders* (London, 1983)—and what that translation means for construction of “world views.” Similar reference can be found in texts by the Turkish authors Orhan Pamuk and Mario Levi and in work by international authors like Pierre Loti.

Signs Taken in Wonder intends to produce a narrative of personal worlds in a time of rampant globalization. Featured in the exhibition are works that explore introspection, personal and visionary narration and dialogue, documenting a far-reaching external-and-internal movement and transformation. Works by Turkish artists find their synergetic counterpoise in examples of international contemporary art that cast light on Istanbul's cultural memory.

The *Searching for Contemporary Istanbul* is reflected by artists who live and work in the city, including international artists based there, Turkish artists living abroad, and international artists who have made work about the city.

In the center of the show is an intervention by artist Cevdet Ereğ, winner of the 2012 Nam June Paik Award. He develops an expansive minimalist installation for the central exhibition hall which is illuminated through the museum's 19th-century skylight construction. Alluding to the museum's history and built-structure, Ereğ makes daylight a formative element of the exhibition and uses temporary architecture to make a metaphorical statement reflecting his interest in rhythm and space.

The multiplicity of artistic approaches presented in the exhibition reflects the MAK's mission as a universal museum of applied art and the cross-boundary dialogue and exchange between applied art, design, architecture and contemporary visual art that it engages in. The exhibition includes works that use ceramics, textiles, design, architecture, and various different production techniques (installation, painting, sculpture, photography, and video).

Emre Hüner's major installation *A Little Larger than the Entire Universe* (2012) that was recently on show in "Manifesta 9" collects fragments and narratives as diverse as the NASA space-program, utopian dreams, ceramics based on forms taken from nature, hand-tools, creating a dialogue between science, progress, and visionary thinking. German artist Marcel Odenbach's two-screen video *Männnerggeschichten 1* (*Men Stories 1*, 2003), meanwhile, underscores male ritual played exemplified by being shaved at a barber's shop.

A number of women artists are building a feminist context within the exhibition combining traditional crafts with new technologies. Füsün Onur is producing a new hand-beaded textile work for the MAK exhibition. Onur has reserved the right to turn away from major histories and grand statements to produce an immensely personal and feminist position—connected to private worlds and the quasi-traditional realm of handicraft. Onur has been influential on a younger generation of artists prepared to carve out personal niches inside programmatic discourses of identity and gender politics. CANAN's delicate video-animation, *İbretnüma/Exemplary* (2009), painted

after the style of Moghul miniatures and ceramic decoration, tells the story of a young-beauty living under the aegis of Islamic doctrine in the 20th century and the difficulties this causes in her life.

Participating Artists: Hamra Abbas / Murat Akagündüz / Yeşim Akdeniz / Eylem Aladoğan / Meriç Algün Ringborg / Hüseyin Bahri Alptekin / Halil Altındere / CANAN / Aslı Çavuşoğlu / Cengiz Çekil / Banu Cennetoğlu / Mutlu Çerkez / Antonio Cosentino / Canan Dagdelen / Lukas Duwenhögger / Cevdet Erek / Erdem Ergaz / Murat Gök / Nilbar Güreş / Sibel Horada / Emre Hüner / Aki Nagasaka / Olaf Nicolai / Marcel Odenbach / Ahmet Ögüt / Füsun Onur / Mario Rizzi / Nasra Şimmes / Erdem Taşdelen / Cengiz Tekin / Güneş Terkol / İrem Tok / Uygur Yılmaz.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication published by MAK, Vienna / Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern.

Press materials and photos are available for download at MAK.at/press.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

For further information please visit MAK.at/Istanbul

Guided tours

Sat, Sun 3 p.m.

Regular information service and short tours Sat 1–3 p.m.

Special guided tours by advance booking

Gabriele Fabiankowitsch, Head of MAK Educational Program and Guided Tours

T +43 1 711 36-298, education@MAK.at

Artist's Talk

Wed, 23.1.2013, 3 p.m., Halil Altindere, Canan Dagdelen, Cevdet Ereğ, Emre Hüner, Aki Nagasaka (Moderation Bärbel Vischer / German and English)

Curators guided tours

Thu, 7.2.2013, 5 p.m., Bärbel Vischer

Sat, 20.4.2013, 1 p.m., Simon Rees & Bärbel Vischer (German and English)

MAK SeniorInnen

Wed, 20.3.2013, 3 p.m.

Tour of the exhibition, rounded off with coffee and cake at the *ÖSTERREICHER IM MAK* restaurant.

MAK4FAMILY

Sat, 13.4.2013, 2–5 p.m.

Advance registration requested for workshops and MAK Seniors program: T +43 1 711 36-298

EVENTS

Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.

Screenings

Murat vs. Ismail (Mario Rizzi, Turkey, 2006), OV with English subtitles

Tue, 22.1.2013, 8 p.m.; Wed, 23.1.2013, 2 p.m.; Tue, 12.2.2013, 7 p.m.; Tue, 26.3.2013, 7 p.m.;

Tue, 16.4.2013, 7 p.m.; Sat, 20.4.2013, 2 p.m.

Kazın Ayagi (Mario Rizzi, Turkey, 2012), OV with English subtitles

Tue, 5.3.2013, 5.30 p.m.

MAK Lecture Hall

MAK NITE LAB

Tue, 12.2.2013, 8 p.m., Cevdet Erek
Tue, 26.3.2013, 8 p.m., :mentalKLINIK
Tue, 16.4.2013, 8 p.m., Korhan Erel
MAK Columned Main Hall

Panel Discussions (English)

Wed, 23.1.2013, 4 p.m., Eylem Aladođan, Paolo Colombo, Ahmet Öđüt, Bige Örer (Moderation Simon Rees)
Tue, 5.3.2013, 7 p.m., Gülsen Bal, Vasif Kortun, Mario Rizzi (Moderation Simon Rees)
MAK Lecture Hall

Women's Fabric Workshop

with Güneş Terkol, Thu & Fri, 7. & 8.3.2013
MAK Columned Main Hall

Free admission to the MAK for all women on the International Women's Day (8.3.)

Special Program

Wed, 23.1.2013, 2 p.m., Screening, *Murat vs. Ismail* (Mario Rizzi, Turkey, 2006)

3 p.m., Artist's Talks, Halil Altındere, Canan Dagdelen, Cevdet Erek, Emre Hüner, Aki Nagasaka (Moderation Bärbel Vischer)

4 p.m., Panel Discussion (English), Eylem Aladođan, Halil Altındere, Paolo Colombo, Ahmet Öđüt, Bige Örer (Moderation Simon Rees)

Finissage

Sat, 20.4.2013, 1 p.m., Curators guided tour, Simon Rees & Bärbel Vischer (German and English)

2 p.m., Screening, *Murat vs. Ismail* (Mario Rizzi, Turkey, 2006)
MAK Lecture Hall

3.30–6 p.m., City tour with Ash Çavuşođlu, Meeting Point: Cash Desk Weiskirchnerstraße

Events, unless otherwise mentioned, in German

Press Fact Sheet

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Curators	Simon Rees, MAK Bärbel Vischer, Curator, MAK Contemporary Art Collection
Main Sponsor	OMV
Publication	The exhibition is accompanied by the catalogue <i>SIGNS TAKEN IN WONDER: Searching for Contemporary Art about Istanbul</i> , edited by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, Simon Rees and Bärbel Vischer, texts by Vasif Kortun, Mario Levi, Markus Neuwirth, Bige Örer, Nikos Papastergiadis, Simon Rees, Gerhard Roiss, Christoph Thun-Hohenstein and Bärbel Vischer, German/English, 168 pages, MAK Vienna. Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern 2013. Available at the MAK Design Shop.
MAK Admission	€ 7.90 / reduced € 5.50 / family ticket € 11 Free admission for children and teens up to 19
MAK Press and Public Relations	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuser T +43 1 711 36-233, 229, 212 presse@MAK.at www.MAK.at

Vienna, 22 January 2013