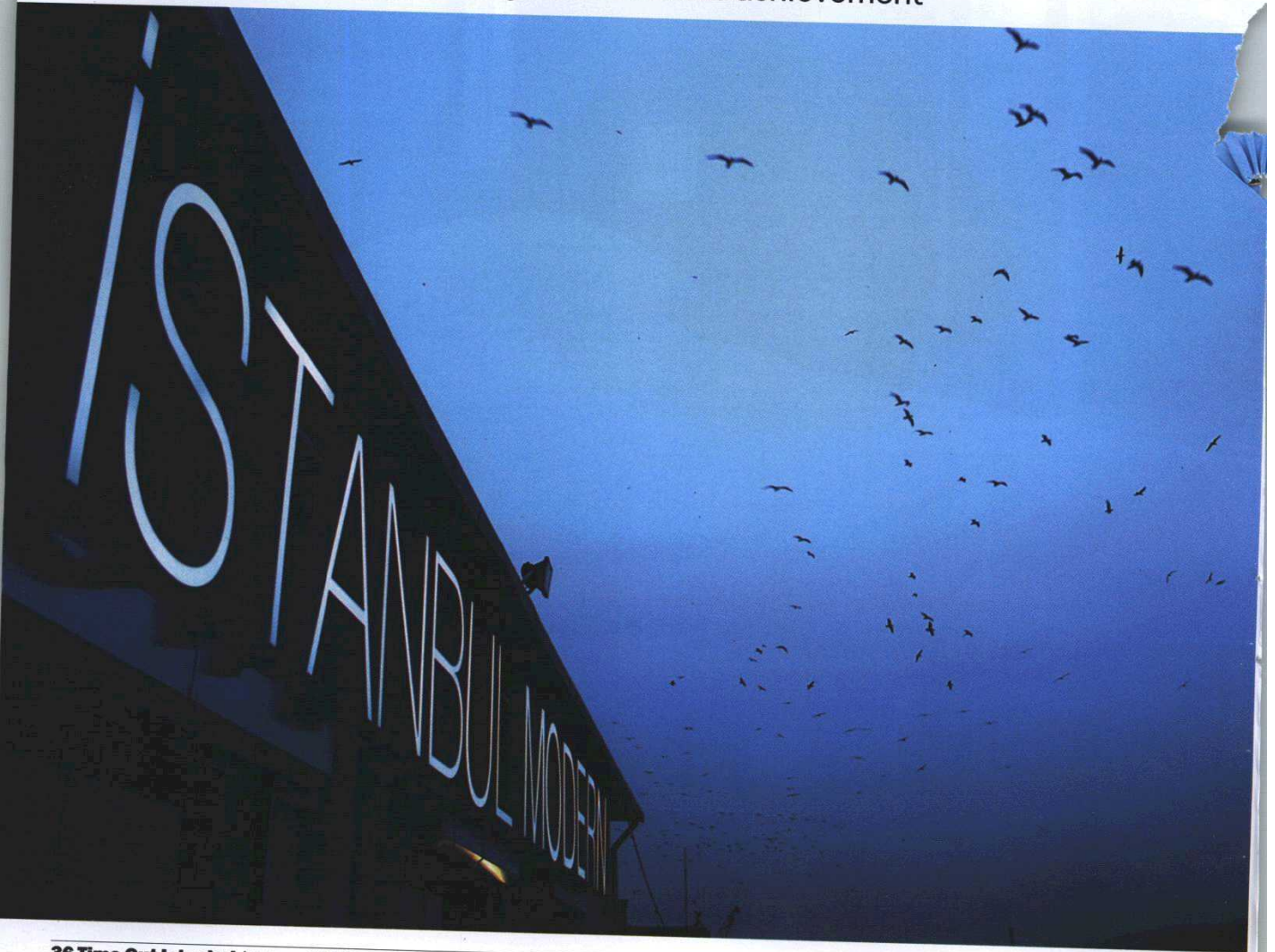


İstanbul Modern celebrates its seventh year

Istanbul Museum of Modern Art is a multidimensional complex, a social platform that brings together different disciplines and takes on awe-inspiring collaborative projects. **Merve Arkunlar** looks back on seven years of artistic achievement



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How the dream became reality

The idea of giving İstanbul a permanent museum of modern art was first devised by Nejat F Eczacıbaşı, a chemist, entrepreneur and philanthropist who's contributed immensely to the city's culture and arts scene. Eczacıbaşı first began to vocalise his idea for the complex during 1987's First International Contemporary Art Exhibition, known today as the International İstanbul Biennial. By the time the Third İstanbul Biennial rolled around in 1992, it was decided that Feshane, where the biennial took place, would house the museum. After Feshane proved to be unfit to host such a long-term project, the quest to find a good location and expand the collection went on for 11 years. Finally, after the Eighth İstanbul Biennial was held in Antrepo 4 in 2003, the space reopened its doors as Turkey's first private museum for modern and contemporary art exhibitions on December 11 2004. Since then, İstanbul Modern's 8000 square-metre area – featuring permanent and temporary exhibition halls, a photography gallery, a new media area, a library, a cinema and a design shop – has been home to educational programmes, workshops, parties, talks, concerts and special events.

A word from the museum

İstanbul Modern Executive Board Chair **Oya Eczacıbaşı** shares her thoughts on the evolution of Turkey's first museum for modern and contemporary art

'S ince its establishment, İstanbul Modern has propelled the development of modern and contemporary art in Turkey, provided a forum for sharing our country's cultural identity in the national and international art arena and created opportunities for art lovers to enjoy the finest examples of world art.

'Seven years ago, with the establishment of Turkey's first privately-funded museum of modern and contemporary art, we set out to create a genuine museum environment that would provide a multi-faceted platform for communication and culture. We believe we have achieved this and set a precedent for other museums in Turkey seeking to make cultural activities an integral part of our daily lives. Through a wide range of interdisciplinary events, İstanbul Modern has succeeded in creating a new awareness in Turkey of museums as institutions of learning and communication and awakened public interest in visiting them, thus contributing to the development of a new museum culture in our country. We have also played an important role in promoting the development of powerful sponsorship relationships, modern museum management models and extra-museum events to enhance the visibility of art.

Through national and international exhibitions and retrospectives, İstanbul

Modern has provided a space for diverse disciplines and pioneered both modern museum practices and interdisciplinary management models in Turkey.

'In 2009, İstanbul Modern received a Special Commendation at the Thirty-Second European Museum Forum in recognition of its "excellence in conception, innovative approach to interpretation and attention to the needs of visitors". In 2010, it was presented the Presidential Culture and Arts Award for its success in "achieving an active art movement by significantly changing the limiting structure of the classic exhibition approach, hosting exhibitions and events of international quality and introducing an original approach to the culture and arts industry."

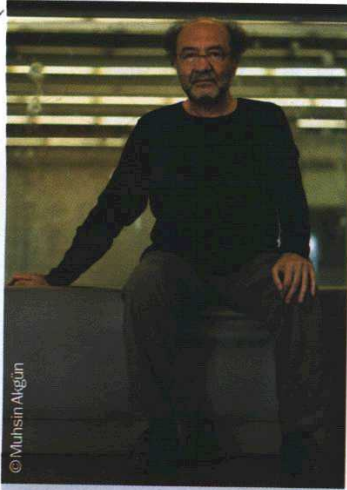
'İstanbul Modern has not limited itself solely to exhibiting works of art; it has also transformed itself into an institution for art education. Our museum makes art accessible to diverse segments of society both within the museum and without through a wide range of educational programmes for children, young people and adults. Hundreds of thousands of children and young people have benefitted from these programmes since the museum's establishment seven years ago. We have also organised exhibitions abroad that reflect our international identity and collaborated on projects with a variety of international museums, art institutions and collections. In the period ahead, we will continue to promote Turkey's contemporary art abroad while expanding the museum's art education programmes to more regions of our country. We want İstanbul Modern to make its mark on Turkey's future through its contributions to art education.

'I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that our success to date largely derives from the exceptional collaboration we have achieved between public administrations, local government and the private sector. I believe we have created a new form of partnership that is without equal, even among international museums.

'İstanbul Modern's establishment represented a significant milestone in the transformation of Turkey's contemporary art environment. Today, as one of the most important showcases of the development and the creativity of Turkish society, İstanbul Modern symbolises the vibrant encounter underway between art and society in Turkey.'



Oya Eczacıbaşı



© Muhlisin Akgün

Sarkis

'Most of the time, my connection to certain cities and places has to do with births: the birth of a work or exhibition is the birth of a starting point; it's also the birth of passions and moments you cherish, their transformation into memories and their existence there until they become a productive force.'

'My exhibition "Site", held in 2009 at İstanbul Modern with help from all of the institution's employees, features all these things.'



© Muhlisin Akgün

İnci Eviner

'İstanbul Museum of Modern Art has created opportunity for the appropriate discussion and definition of certain terms and circumstances in the Turkish art scene. The museum is not only an archive that keeps social memory alive but also a space that's open to different disciplines examining exhibition methods and the very concept of a museum. This is also an educational opportunity for those who want to be groomed in the subject of art management.'

'Turkish artists have been a part of the international art scene for some time, with the museum playing an important role in developing this dialogue.'

The collection



İstanbul Modern's collection dismantles the conventional approach to permanent collections by focusing on forms of expression that aren't limited to painting and sculpture. This is the first museum to incorporate video and installation into the permanent collection, a model that's undoubtedly inspiring for private collectors. Atölye Modern also contributes to the museum's influence by offering vision and insight to new collectors via classes on collecting contemporary art.

Collection favourites

The Dr Nejat F Eczacıbaşı Foundation collection is at the core of İstanbul Modern's permanent collection. This collection, on long-term loan at İstanbul Modern, dates back to the 1980s and has its roots in the first examples of classic and modern art.

The collection features Kutluğ Ataman's most notable works, 'Women Who Wear Wigs', '1+1=1' and 'Turkish Delight'. İstanbul Modern also displays Sarkis' most important installations seasonally and is the largest collector of Hüseyin Çaglayan's works in Turkey. The collection also features the most iconic works of leading modern and contemporary artists like Ayşe Erkmen, İnci Eviner, Mehmet Gülerüz, Burhan Doğançay, Fahrelnissa Zeid, Nejad Devrim (with the first abstract painting in Turkish art), Selma Gürbüz, Haluk Akakçe, Canan Tolon, Mustafa Horasan, İrfan Önürmen, Serkan Özkaya, Şükran Moral, Azade Köker, Hale Tenger, Osman Dinç, Ramazan Bayrakoğlu, Nur Koçak, Neşe Erdok and Seyhun Topuz.

The latest additions to the collection were works by Şükran Moral, Canan Dağdelen, Tülay Tura Börteçene, Canan, Nilbar Güreş and Nur Koçak, who are featured in the 'Dream and Reality' exhibition.

How does the collection of a modern art museum take shape?

İstanbul Modern Chief Curator Levent Çalıkoğlu:

'It's formed by making the right decisions at the right time. When the museum focused on



Levent Çalıkoğlu

contemporary art, the art economy wasn't as interested in works of contemporary art. This pioneering approach gave the collection opportunity to flourish.

'The iconic works of many contemporary artists joined the collection during this time. Additionally, the modern works accumulated during the process of establishing the museum allowed İstanbul Modern to account for a large time frame in both economic and art historic terms.'

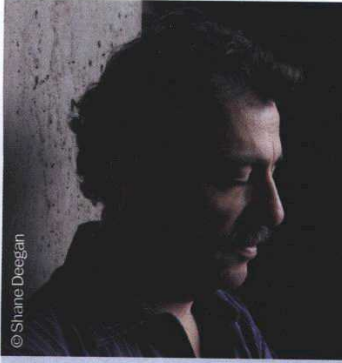
'Collecting shouldn't only be thought of in terms of budget. The main criteria in the expansion of the collection are the sincerity in İstanbul Modern's relationships, its firm vision, the assurance it gives to the art scene, its progressive stance on different tastes, visual encounters and new habits and, of course, its unyielding passion for art.'

Now at Modern

'New Works, New Horizons'

This exhibition examines the history of modern and contemporary art in Turkey through the most significant artists, works and recorded developments. Texts, paintings, sculptures, installations and video works all combine to create a platform for social, cultural, economic and political readings in this permanent exhibition.

DID YOU KNOW?
İstanbul Modern has hosted four permanent exhibitions to date



© Shane Deegan

Kutluğ Ataman

'For the past seven years, İstanbul Modern has been filling a significant void in Turkey. One of the essential dynamos of our art world.'

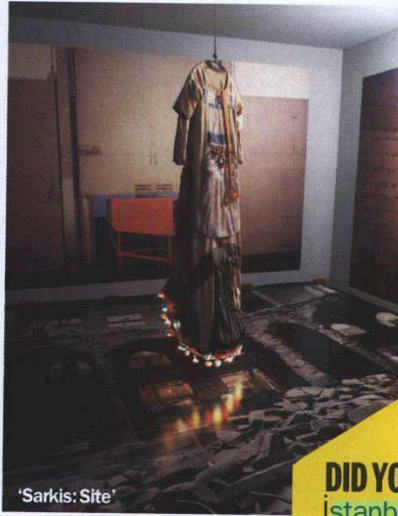


Gülsün Karamustafa

'I remember the initial working conditions in the Antrepo building, which was opened for the first time in the incredibly cold and snowy days of November 1995 for the Fourth İstanbul Biennial. This was achieved through the devoted effort of artists from all around the world to use this extremely difficult venue as best as they could for art, even in its most primitive conditions.'

'Today, İstanbul's modern museum – which contributes significantly to our art career through its rich collection, international recognition, notable exhibitions and activities – is located here. I believe this position wasn't obtained easily. Happy birthday, İstanbul Modern.'

Exhibitions



'Sarkis: Site'

İstanbul Modern's been home to many momentous exhibitions and firsts in its two main exhibition spaces. The top floor is devoted to permanent exhibitions, while the gallery on the lower floor hosts three temporary exhibitions a year: one retrospective, one that casts a general look at the history of modern Turkish art and one contemporary art exhibition. A brand new section has been added to the programme in the past year: pop-up exhibitions. Different pop-up projects that stay on display for a brief period of time and generate interesting discussions are featured in this section. Some of these projects were the Armenian architects' exhibition, 'The Last Roll of Kodachrome' and Dice Kayek's 'İstanbul Contrast' (2010).

The permanent exhibition space, on the other hand, has hosted 'New Acquisitions' (2005), where works that İstanbul Modern took into its collection right after its opening were displayed, Fikret Mualla Retrospective (2005), 'Center of Gravity' (2005-2006), which was the museum's first international event, 'Two Generations of the Rainbow' (2006), in which Fahrelnissa Zeid and Nejad Devrim's works were displayed together, 'Time Present, Time Past' (2007), which refreshed the memory of the İstanbul Biennial's twenty-year history, 'Cihat Burak Retrospective' (2007-2008), 'In Praise of Shadows' (2009), which focused on the effects of the traditional shadow theatre on cinema at the start of the twentieth century and current contemporary art and the first recent retrospectives in Turkey of important artists such as Sarkis in 'Sarkis: Site' (2009-2010), Hüseyin Çağlayan in 'Hüseyin Chalayan: 1194-2010' (2010) and Kutluğ Ataman in 'Kutluğ Ataman: The Enemy Inside Me' (2010-2011).

Let's not forget İstanbul Modern's exhibitions abroad, which took place in Vienna, Salzburg, Paris, Thessaloniki,

Moscow, Graz, Dornbirn and Seoul.

The museum also aims to meet with design culture once every two years, as evidenced by 'Design Cities' (2008), a collaborative effort with London Design Museum, and the Hüseyin Çağlayan exhibition that brought together fashion, design and technology. For the new design-based exhibition, all eyes are turned to the 2012 Design Biennial.

Now at Modern

'Dream and Reality – Modern and Contemporary Women Artists from Turkey'

Curated by Levent Çalkoğlu, Fatmagül Berktaş, Zeynep İnankur and Burcu Pelvanoğlu, the selection in this

exhibition focuses on the multi-disciplinary works of 74 women artists from the 1900s to the present.

'Dream and Reality' also offers an opportunity to get to know women artists who haven't grown as famous as they deserve to be as well as rediscovered moderns and female heroines of the past 40 years.

> January 22

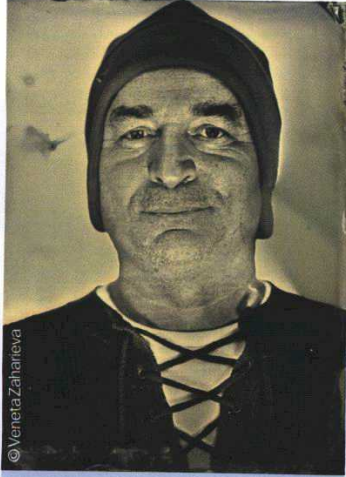
INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

İstanbul Modern has an International Advisory Committee that consists of the directors and chief curators from leading museums around the world.

The all-star cast includes: MoMA Director Glenn D Lowry, Centre Pompidou Director Alfred Pacquement, Moderna Musset Director Daniel Birnbaum, Schirn Kunsthalle Director Max Hollein, SF MoMA Director Neal Benezra and Tate Modern Chief Curator Sheena Wagstaff.

Premieres at İstanbul Modern

Ramazan Bayraktar, Olafur Eliasson, Tomas Saraceno, Nil Yalter, Jeff Wall, Ernesto Neto, Gordon Matta Clark, Ghada Amer, Jeff Koons, Richard Wentworth, Bill Viola and Tony Cragg are only 12 of the artists whom we met thanks to İstanbul Modern, through their works that premiered in the museum collection or mixed exhibitions.



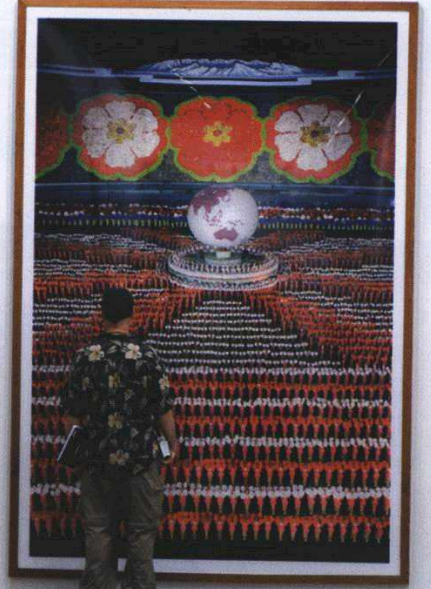
Murat Germen

'İstanbul Modern holds a special place for me because I had the chance to closely watch the museum's emergence by means of contributing to and visualising the building process of the debut exhibition, 'The Making of İstanbul Modern'. These days, the museum is a platform of expression, sharing and producing for me; the institution that successfully carries the heavy weight of being a "first" and continues to be so is now a medium where I get the chance to closely watch the emergence of innovative art.'

Photography

İstanbul Modern sets a separate place aside for photography. The leading names of modern and contemporary photography are on display in the Photography Gallery. Some of the most noteworthy artists and exhibitions to have visited the gallery include 'Meeting' (2005), which featured photographs by Ara Güler, Bennu Gerede, Lütfi Özkök, Mustafa Kapkın, Ozan Sağdıç, Sedat Patkay, Sıtkı Kösemen and Şakir Eczacıbaşı, 'In the Light of the Republic: The Photographs of Othmar Pferschy' (2006), which featured the works of Othmar Pferschy, who took on the difficult mission of introducing the young republic and Turkish people to the world during the initial years of the Turkish Republic, 'True Stories' (2006), which consisted of the works of French photographer, writer and painter François-Marie Banier, Gökşin Sipahioğlu's retrospective, 'Right Place, Right Time' (2006), 'Who Are You? Ahmet Polat' (2007) by the first Turkish-Dutch photographer to win the 'Young Photographer' award at the Twenty-Second Infinity Awards held by the International Center of Photography, 'Way' (2010), in which Murat Germen examines the concept of being on the way via different associations, and 'Yao Lu's New Landscapes' (2011) by one of the premier artists who promotes contemporary Chinese photography to the world and who won the 2008 BMW Paris Photo Prize.

Even before the exclusive gallery space was set aside for photography, other important artists



'Andreas Gursky'

DID YOU KNOW?
İstanbul Modern has hosted 23 photography exhibitions to date

graced the museum. The first photography exhibition to take place at the museum was the mixed exhibition, 'Appearances as We See Them', which displayed a selection of Turkish photographers from the post-republic era. After that, the museum hosted '60 Years of Magnum' (2007), which featured photographs by Ara Güler, Martin Parr, Antoine D'Agata, Jim Goldberg and Costa Manos and world-renowned German photographer Andreas Gursky's retrospective of 35 photographs (2007). Additionally, Thomas Radbruch's 'Rusty End' (2010) and Lars Tunbjörk's 'I Love Boras' exhibitions were displayed in the outdoor section of the gallery.

Now at Modern

'Uncanny Encounters'

Curated by Levent Çalıkoglu and Çelenk Bafra, this exhibition consists of recent works by six young Turkish female artists. The participating artists are: Silva Bingaz, Banu Cennetoğlu, Çınar Eslek, Zeren Göktaş, Zeynep Kayan and Melisa Önel. The exhibition runs simultaneously with 'Dream and Reality'.

> **January 22**



'Yao Lu's New Landscapes'

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DID YOU KNOW?

800 films have been shown at **Istanbul Modern** to date



Cinema

Istanbul Modern Cinema aims to be an alternative film screening platform through its programme that introduces the up-and-comers of Turkish cinema and gets us one step closer to world cinema history. This is one of the essential destinations for cinephiles in the city who seek the latest developments in the art of cinema as well as extraordinary films and documentaries. The cinema stage has previously held special screenings to show respect for top directors like Federico Fellini, Lars Von Trier, Hayao Miyazaki, Ferzan Özpetek and Oliver Assayas. The cinema programmes are free of charge for museum visitors.

Now at Modern

This month, Istanbul Modern Cinema hosts a programme titled 'Africa!', featuring a selection of 10 films selected by Illinois University professor Mahir Saul, between January 5 and 22. This selection seeks to introduce Istanbul audiences to a series of masterpieces from African cinema, which dates back to the 1960s. The films to be displayed are: Souleymane Cisse's 'Finye' (1982), Kwaw P Ansah's 'Heritage Africa' (1989), Idrissa Ouedraogo's 'Tilai' (1990), Djibril Diop Mambéty's 'Hyenas' (1992), Osman Sembene's 'Faat Kine' (2001), Joseph Gai Ramaka's 'Karmen Gei' (2001), Abderrahman Sissako's 'Heremakonon' (2002), Zola Maseko's 'Drum' (2004), Jean-Pierre Bekolo's 'Les Saignantes' (2007) and Mahamat Saleh Haroun's 'Daratt' (2006).

New Media Area and video

The museum features a New Media Area, which houses 10 computers with wireless internet access where you can catch up on the latest art trends – in other words, the online arts – of the twenty-first century. The video programme presents the themes, viewpoints and new movements of today's video art with different installation techniques. This is a platform where you can view the current works of Turkish and foreign artists as well as other works based on media and themes that tie together artists on a universal scale. Curated by Paolo Colombo, the video programme has featured the works of artists such as Samuel Beckett, Bruce Neuman, Man Ray, Hans Richter, Roman Polanski, Adrian Paci, Hale Tenger, Cristoph Büchel and Hiraki Sawa.



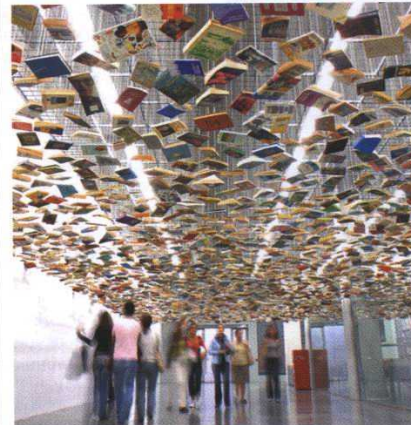
DID YOU KNOW?

Istanbul Modern has hosted 14 video programmes to date

Library

The museum library features 7,500 books, a selection of 35 local and international periodical subscriptions and private artist archives. The entire archive database can be scanned online. For detailed information, visit istanbulmodern.org.

(0212) 334 73 00. *Meclis-i Mebusan Caddesi, Liman İşletmeleri Sahası, Antrepo 4, Karaköy. 10.00-18.00 Tuesday-Sunday, open till 20.00 on Thursday. Closed on Monday. All museum facilities are wheelchair accessible. Strollers are available free of charge for kids aged six months-four years. Stools are available from the cloakroom for visitors who wish to paint. Umbrellas, large bags and luggage must be left in the cloakroom prior to visiting the museum. Entry costs 14 TL for adults, 12 TL for groups of 10 persons or more and 7 TL for students, teachers and seniors (65 or older). Entry*



to Istanbul Modern is free every Thursday. Museum members, children under the age of 12 and visitors with disabilities enter for free.

Education and events

In addition to hosting guided tours, the museum acts as a centre of public education through seminars, workshops and events that run simultaneously with exhibitions. Some of these events include the seasonal seminar and workshop programme, Atölye Modern, 'Your Thursday Artist Workshops', which bring together artists with viewers one Thursday each month, free of cost, and the Young **Istanbul Modern** events geared towards kids, teenagers and families. The museum also functions as a platform for symposia and conferences that focus on current topics and different viewpoints as well as the movements and pioneers of the history of modern art. Although most of these events are held in Turkish, it's worth checking out **Istanbul Modern's** programme for the occasional international guest. For detailed information on workshops and to make reservations, call (0212) 334 73 41 or visit istanbulmodern.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

420,000 children have visited and participated in workshops at **Istanbul Modern** to date.

ISTANBUL MODERN EXHIBITIONS BY VISITOR NUMBERS

- 'Paradise Lost' 264,175 • 'From Traditional to Contemporary' 219,000 • 'Kutluğ Ataman' 207,600
- 'Sarkis: Site' 187,000 • 'Hüseyin Çağlayan' 178,000 • 'In Praise of Shadows' 156,000 • 'Venice-Istanbul' 164,400