

Participants Spaces of Culture Mobility Program

November 2018

Diyarbakır

Mordem Sanat/Huner/Art

Mordem was established in 2018. It is a very new initiative with prior experience in the region and it is also a new performance hall. It aims to give trainings in all branches of art, especially theatre, in Diyarbakır. Mordem will organize workshops, seminars, lectures, concerts and performances in different areas of art and culture with a wide network of collaborations.

Visitor: Mr. Savaş Işık

Function: Co-founder/Art Director

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Mordem-Sanat-608337612835119/>

Amîdart

Amîdart was established in 2017 as a non-profit culture and art initiative. It aims to revive cultural and artistic areas in Diyarbakır. One of the main activities is performances of fairy tales. It aims to recreate storytelling, which is one of the ancient traditions of Diyarbakır in different languages, embracing children and adult audiences in the city. It organizes workshops and seminars on fairy tales performances. It also holds story nights and concerts to contribute to the cultural scene.

Visitor: Mr. Fırat Aygün

Function: Photographer at Amidart, Amidart Volunteer, Coordinator of Events

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Merkezka%C3%87-Art-Colective-360133651084184/>

Tango MED Dance, Art and Sports Center Association

Tango MED Dance, Art and Sports Center Association, which was established in 2011, aims to carry out cultural and art activities in Diyarbakır. It has organized national and international interdisciplinary cultural and art activities, most of which focus on dance, and through which all art lovers, especially children, young people and women, can have access to culture and art activities of quality. In the last 6 years, it has been a platform where national and international cultural and artistic experiences are shared with Diyarbakır by festivals, workshops, dance days, exhibitions and film screenings.

Visitor: Ms. Esra Balyan

Function: Board member, Dance Trainer, Counselor

Website: <http://www.tangomed.com/index.asp>

Ma Music Center

Ma Music Center was established in 2017 after the long tradition of music conservatories in the municipality, and it has realized activities for all age groups to improve their musical backgrounds. Besides these activities, it aims to provide quality music education opportunities and gain socialization

opportunities for different social groups in Diyarbakır. While children and young people receive a music education in their own mother tongue and culture (Kurdish), they have the opportunity to get to know the cultures of the world as well. Ma Music instructors and trainer candidates continue to develop their academic levels and create awareness in the cultural field.

Visitor: Mr. Veysi Aydın
Function: Tambur, Bağlama & Cello Teacher, Archives and Classification Manager
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Ma-Music-Center/>

Merkezkaç Art Collective

Merkezkaç Art Collective is a non-profit organization that works in Diyarbakır, Batman and Mardin. As an independent art collective, it aims to uncover the potential of contemporary art in the region in general and to include it in the international production processes. One of the aims is to address the shortcomings of inadequate educational levels in the arts departments of universities and fine arts high schools, in the context of contemporary art. The collective's work focuses on photography, video, performance and contemporary arts.

Visitor: Mr. Murat Kartal
Function: Photography Teacher, Photographer and coordinator at Merkezkaç
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/merkez kac>

Gaziantep

Gate of Sun

The project aims to provide Filmmaking courses for participants who are interested in the media industry in Turkey and Europe. It also aims to bridge the cultural gap between people from Syria and people from Turkey or Europe by having them take part in these courses together and hopefully even collaborate for their own filmmaking projects. This kind of approach is very new in this field and is unique as it uses human development as a method to work on and interactivity as a tool to achieve the goal. In addition, its mission and target is to empower and support in particular younger people aiming for a career in media and communication with the best possible training in filmmaking, media camping and communication which also supports their personal development and language skills in Turkish, English and Arabic.

Visitor: Mr. Mahmut Elcuma
Function: Board member and Financial Officer
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Gate-Of-Sun>

Çiğdem Aktuna Ahmad

From her name you can notice that she represents two mixed cultures. Her main profession is in the field of finance and administration, but she has been working for international non-governmental organizations which are working in terms of the Syrian crisis. This work gave her a very suitable environment to deal with multi-cultural societies.

In addition to her profession in finance and administration she has always been in touch with a mixture of different cultures and art all through the years since 2007. When she was a student at university her interest in photography started and since she was a child she was involved in painting and visual arts. All of that gave her a very good base of ideas that she could employ in her future photography career.

She started an initiative of gathering a group of five international photographers and organizing a tour in different European countries like Romania, Spain and Serbia. For them it was the best mobilization of cultures and integration between all the ideas that each one of them could bring in. Nowadays she is being hosted by one of the biggest cultural institutes in the world what she considers the best continuation of her cultural growth and experience. Continuing her photography work she aims for active participation, wishes to contribute an added value and wants to learn from the valuable experiences that are contributed by other artists.

Visitor: Ms. Çiğdem Aktuna Ahmad
Function: Photographer
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/aktunacgdm>

Spaces of Culture Gaziantep

“Spaces of Culture” provides spaces and resources for the realization of cultural projects within the visual and performing arts, as well as networking, training and development opportunities for local institutions, cultural professionals and community members interested in these fields. Together with partners from the Turkish and European cultural scene, this project contributes to a wide and diverse program of arts-based community exchange in the regions it covers.

Rawan Altakriti graduated from the scenography department at the High Institute for Dramatic Arts in Damascus, Syria in 2012. She worked in several television series, cinema movies and theater plays. In 2014 she started to work in civil society initiatives as a cultural consultant, where she could combine her interest in civil society and her experiences in the field of culture and arts. She was managing the cultural forum “Binaa” in Damascus for one and a half year followed by working for a women’s initiative supervising and designing exhibitions and cultural events before moving to Turkey in 2016. Since then Rawan is living in Gaziantep and is currently working as the local coordinator for “Spaces of Culture”.

Visitor: Ms. Rawan Altakriti
Function: Local Coordinator Spaces of Culture
Website: <https://spacesofculture.com/>

Izmir

K2 Contemporary Art Center

Active since 2003, K2 Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit contemporary art organization that works under the auspices of cultural entrepreneur and former arts lecturer Ayşegül Kurtel. It offers the first and only sustainable contemporary art venue in Izmir. K2 especially works with artists who are at the beginning of their careers, as well as giving more established artists an opportunity to create new works. K2 offers platforms where art is created, discussed and mediated to the public. PORTIZMIR (Izmir International Contemporary Art Triennial), organized four times since 2007 and K2 Urla

Breathing Zone (K2UBZ), an artist residence in forestland can be highlighted as the pioneering cultural initiatives of K2.

Visitor: Ms. Begüm Tatari

Functions: Ms. Tatari works as the General Coordinator of K2 Contemporary Art Center. Her responsibilities include organizing events, carrying out corporate communication activities, correspondences with artists, collaborators, solution partners and the press.

Website: <http://k2.org.tr/>

Apeiron Collective

Apeiron is a subculture music collective that aims to support artists performing in Izmir and to improve dialogue amongst them. Apeiron Collective is organizing a yearly open air indie music festival called 'Epic Fair', along with concerts, parties and movie premieres as occasion serves. Without genre discrimination, they primarily esteem production. So, they are helping only producers to stage their shows. Apeiron Collective is established in the beginning of 2014 by two people. Recently, it operates as a trio.

Visitor: Mr. Can Çetin

Functions: As a co-founder and the only designer within the collective, Mr. Çetin is invariably responsible for design, management, booking and promotion.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/apeironcollective/>

Açık Stüdyo (Open Studio)

Açık Stüdyo is a performance research center and the first independent black box studio in Izmir. The studio hosts the works of contemporary performance collective 'budalasultan' and contemporary performance festival Visibility in Art Festival - Izmir as well as it is open to the works of independent artists from different disciplines and backgrounds.

Visitor: Mr. Şafak Ersözlü

Function: Şafak is a performer, director and cultural manager who is also an MA student at MSGSU contemporary dance department at dissertation stage. He is the co-founder and the artistic director of Açık Stüdyo.

Website: <http://acikstüdyo.com/>

Cenkhan Aksoy

Cenkhan Aksoy is an artist, researcher and event coordinator graduated in 2015 from the Painting Department of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dokuz Eylül University. He is currently completing an MA education at the same institution. In collaboration with artist Etem Şahin, he co-curated several exhibitions at independent art initiative "Stüdyo Devam". In 2013 he staged his first solo exhibition "by oneself" at TORUN collective in Ankara. His latest solo exhibition "Feral Troop" was shown at NomadMind, an open arts and culture platform in İzmir. Aksoy is one of the organizers of the "Darağaç" project, a contemporary art exhibition using public space in the industrial area of Alsancak, İzmir.

Visitor: Mr. Cenkhan Aksoy

Function: Artist, researcher and event coordinator

Website: <https://daragacizmir.blogspot.com>

Esra Okyay

Esra Okyay is implementing the KABO (Kendine Ait Bir Oda) project which aims at opening space for non-profit arts and culture events since January 2015. Inspired by the quote from A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf: "Create your own separate room and free time", it gets its name from the same book emphasizing the room and creative production relationship. Starting as a personal initiation at Esra Okyay's atelier, the project evolved gradually into a nomadic structure and it keeps on hosting events while being a guest in different towns and places of İzmir. Now, since February 2018, it has its own exhibition and project area, an 8m2 room inside Kirkmerdiven Café. Graphic designer Umut Altıntaş has created its visual identity and gives support for the publicity of the ongoing events. Developing its identity in cooperation with the artist circle, from its beginning to the present, KABO continues to be a platform that gathers young artists, art students, experienced artists and people from the cultural area together.

Visitor: Ms. Esra Okyay
Function: Cultural Manager & Artist
Website: <http://kendine-ait-1oda.blogspot.com>

Ezgi Ceren Kayırcı

Ezgi Ceren Kayırcı's recent professional competencies include functioning as an editor, event coordinator, content writer, web & content editor and asst. event designer of 6x6x6 İzmir project. She graduated from Istanbul Bilgi University, Faculty of Science and Literature, Department of Comparative Literature in 2010. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Philosophy in Social Sciences Institute at Ege University. After working as a project coordinator at K2 Contemporary Art Center 2014-2016, she became the program coordinator of 10th İzmir International Puppet Days. She took part in conceptualizing Lokall İzmir City Guide as the content editor. She co-curated Amphibian Exhibition with Ali Kemal Ertem in 2017. She is currently one of content editors of Pla+form magazine published by İzmir Culture Pla+form Initiative and 6x6x6 İzmir.

Visitor: Ms. Ezgi Ceren Kayırcı
Function: Cultural Manager
Website: <https://6x6x6izmir.com>

Recep Tuna

Recep Tuna stepped into the professional life with being responsible for fundraising at ARI Movement while he was studying Economics at Yıldız Technical University in Istanbul. The movement was an NGO working with the youth on the values of participatory democracy i.e. rule of law, transparency, ethics and accountability. In 2005, he was employed by the Dutch Consulate General in İstanbul to be responsible for press, cultural affairs and civil society support programs. Highlights of his time at the Palais de Hollande in Istanbul can be mentioned as the state visit of her Royal Highness Beatrix, former Queen of the Netherlands to Turkey in 2007, Istanbul being one of the European Cultural Capitals in 2010 and the commemoration of 400 years of diplomatic relations between Turkey and the Netherlands in 2012. Recep quitted his job at the Dutch Consulate in 2017 and moved to İzmir. There, he became the local coordinator of the Spaces of Culture project. He recently established his culture, arts and entertainment consultancy and organization company, Alla Tuna Concept. Besides his cultural profession he also organizes thematic parties and performs as a DJ.

Visitor: Mr. Recep Tuna
Function: İzmir Project Coordinator - Spaces of Culture
Website: <https://spacesofculture.com/>