

Last week of January. It's time for our second session with the group. This time the destination is Istanbul. What a joy and excitement to visit Istanbul after 9 years. A lot has changed since my last visit to this megalopolis ...

Reshape Meeting

Workshop 2: Transnational / postnational artistic practices



I go to the city by bus. Throughout the trip, I'm excitedly looking through the window...

The workshop program also includes meetings with artists and cultural workers. Some of them are my friends. I look forward to meeting them. Many authors I know have decided to leave the country because of the complex processes that this country went through and some of them stayed here and decided to continue their "battles".

I admire their courage.



ISTANBUL
The magnificent districts of Beyoglu and Karakoy

Here is the hotel we are staying at

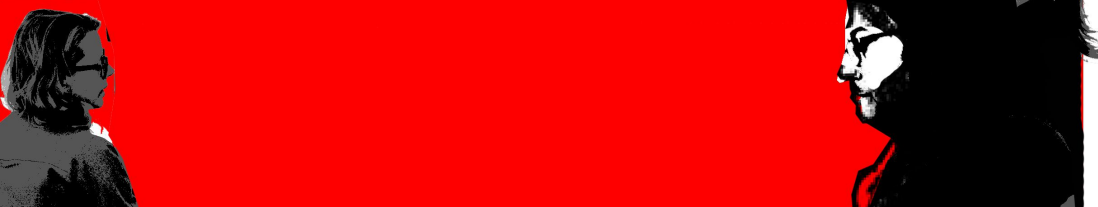


The excitement is growing and is mixed up with a little fear of the growing coronavirus, so, I'm moving around the airport with a mask ...

The first day is dedicated to visiting several institutions in the Kadıköy district in the Asian part of the city.



I was fascinated by the transformation that happened here. On my last visit this part of Istanbul was quite traditional and in recent years numerous spaces, galleries and fine restaurants have opened. For a moment it gives me the feeling that I'm in Berlin.



First day of the working session at SALT Galata
We are ready to continue our joint work!!!



Artistic practices and creativity are directly and closely linked to mobility. A great part of the art and architecture that we know would not have existed if it weren't for the urge to travel, to discover, the need to go beyond the limits - territorial and intellectual - of the known. To reflect on mobility today means to widen the perspective, to go beyond the concepts of travel, discovery and displacement; it calls for an analysis of the social, political, economic and cultural phenomena linked to it.

In the global era and the liquid times in which we find ourselves, mobility is one of the more diffused practices and one that more needs to be investigated and analysed.



In the days ahead, we try to work on our proposals and reflect on important mobility issues.

The phenomenon of mobility, in conjunction with the evolution of the means of communication and transport, transforms our way of life and contributes to the formation of "horizontal identities". As the writer Amin Maalouf suggests: "Things have changed so much in a few years that we feel infinitely closer to our contemporaries than to our ancestors. Would I be exaggerating if I said that I have more in common with a passer-by chosen at random in a street of Prague, Seoul, San Francisco or Barcelona, than with my own grandfather? Not only because of appearance, clothes, habitat or tools that surround us but also because of moral concepts, ways of thinking. And also because of beliefs. (...) In short, each of us is the deposit of two inheritances: one, "vertical", comes from our ancestors, the tradition of our village, of our religious community; the other, "horizontal", comes from our time, our contemporaries. It is the latter which, in my view, is more determining, and is more so each day that goes by."



Short breaks between sessions are always good for different kind of activities.
Group massage, for example :)



During our visits of some of the institutions and art spaces we meet Asena Günal from the Depo, a culture and arts center in Tophane district, which gave us insightful view about the current situation in Turkey and especially in Istanbul's art scene and what means to make art in troubled times...



I was very happy that we also meet an old friend of mine, Zeyno Pekünlü. Zeyno is an amazing artist working on video art. In her practise, she deciphers the processes of information production and distribution through several methods such as montage, rearrangement and decontextualization..



In the previous weeks we have been working in smaller groups which focus was on the visa issues, daily rituals or the creation of the model for a ideal institution, The idea now is to create some tools and practices than can support the artists and art workers on their every day struggles, that would shift the focus from the individual to the common, that would strengthen singular voices and that would help us to understand our own privileges - and make use of them.

With Marinka and Heba beside the imagining the model for the ideal institution we are developing a questionnaire and we would like to address the urgent problems we are facing with and within our practice and constant mobility.

We strongly believe that we can contribute to the process of improvement of mobility and the way of hosting understanding each other's needs and difficulties. By answering this questionnaire we would like to get your personal experience in order to understand each other better, to learn more about the context you are working with and the struggles you go through. Based on this we will work further to propose a sketch of a model based on our needs.



MOBILITY OF KNOWLEDGE
MULTITASKING
ISATION → MULTITASKING
GETTING RID OF (GENIUS) PARTS
DEVELOPMENT ≠ GROWTH
CULTURE OF CONNECTIVITY
LISTENING
TO REDEFINE NOTION OF SUCCESS
PRACTICES
FAIR, CLEAR, TRANSPARENT
RESPONSIBILITY
ACTIVIST
ON, NO EXPECTATIONS
ACCESSIBILITY
REDISTRIBUTION
OUT OF E

