

2014 TCF Cultural Exchange Fellowships Experiences and Observations of Fellows

Bariş Can Aksakal



I would like to express my gratitude to the Turkish Cultural Foundation for funding my participation in the exhibition and events at the Glass Factory Museum. I was able to take my work one step further with your generous support. It became an important experience in my career; I owe my endless thanks to the Turkish Cultural Foundation.

Feraye Aysel Alver



During my residency, I worked on a video installation project. There were 7 papier mache sculptures of my auto portrait and I used a sound (lullaby) and video art on them. With this Project I tried to tell that when you read a book or a novel, you are going to be part of it and you feel yourself instead of the characters. Each of the figures is my auto portrait but all of them are different from each other. I created a composition with the figures, video and with sound. I also conducted a workshop about this composition with students from the art

school. Students and others visited my atelier to observe the process and we talked about their questions and my art life process. At the end of my residency, I had an exhibition in Amilly.

Sena Başöz



I would like to thank the Turkish Cultural Foundation for its support. It was an important step in my career to perform in an art metropolis like Berlin. I met fellow artists and made connections for other potential performances and collaborations. Spending a good amount of time with my fellow collaborator allowed me to connect better with her artistically. It helped us develop our project and paved the way for a potential new project. We started working on a new audio-visual

performance piece while I was there and did an artistic research.

Lea Bouchoucha



The Turkish Cultural Foundation's Cultural Exchange Fellowship program enabled me to work for four weeks as a foreign correspondent in Turkey while being immersed in Istanbul's rich culture. I attended daily class in multimedia journalism and international reporting at Bahçeşehir University. My work was published on Women's eNews (www.womensenews.org), a New York City-independent daily news service, which covers issues that are of particular concern to women nationally and internationally. After

working this summer in Turkey, I have been selected to undertake an internship at Le Figaro, a leading national newspaper in France. Women's eNews also asked me to come back as an editorial intern for this fall semester at their New York office. In many ways, my experience in Turkey has been life changing. I am immensely grateful for your support in helping to maintain this one-month summer multimedia journalism laboratory in Istanbul.

Robin Cameron



Participation in the show made a strong impact on me as an artist. It was refreshing to travel to a new country and showcase my works in a foreign environment. I was intrigued by the culture, beauty and craftsmanship of Istanbul. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the opening as well as help to install the work and have an artist talk in the gallery. I met several of the other artists in the show that I didn't know previously and also visited with a Turkish artist that I knew from Graduate school. TCF helped me to explore a new country and connect with other artists. Thank you for the continued support for emerging artists.

Zeynep Dadak



The Blue Wave/ Mavi Dalga was among the 10 films in the competition selected from the best film festivals around the world in 2014. By participating at the Jeonju International Film Festival, The Blue Wave/ Mavi Dalga has shown its potential in the Asian Market as well. Thanks to this opportunity, important alliances have been made for our upcoming projects. With the support of the Turkish Cultural Foundation, my experience at the Jeonju International Film Festival has not only been a great opportunity for me to present my film to the

East Asian audience, but also to further extend my network in the international film market.

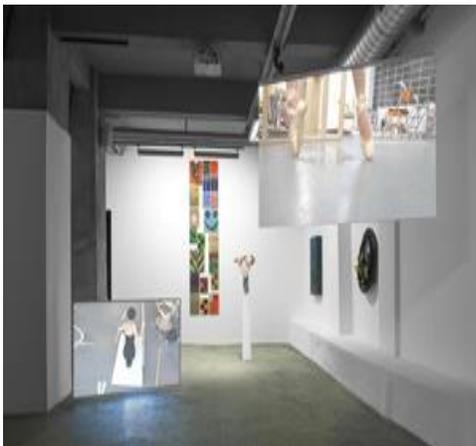
Özgür Demirci



Compulsory elective was a project based on creating simulation of political election. The Project was formed by the participation of audiences. The installation was located in a public space of Plovdiv, during the festival many people participated in the installation. The main intention of the project was to collect the answer of "Have you ever been forced to make a choice? If yes, what?" question. Through the project, I had a chance to work with the local people and art professionals and to jointly create critical participatory work. It was also very beneficial to get positive feedbacks from the

audiences. During the festival I was invited to talk about my project on BNR (Bulgarian National Radio).

Anna K. Edzgeradze



With the help of the Turkish Cultural Foundation Fellowship, I was able to travel to Istanbul in connection with the exhibition "The Built Environment - Lower East Side in Istanbul" at Mixer Arts. One week in Istanbul city was not only enjoyable, but also informing to my practice as an artist. My work crosses to borders of art, design and architecture, seeing the various architectures of Istanbul, grasping the structure of the city and having experienced the famous mosques was such a creative time. My time in Istanbul was so rewarding to me as a professional artist. I found

Istanbul such unique and multi-cultural diverse city. I hope to continue a dialogue with the people I met and worked with. I am thankful for the financial support of the Turkish Cultural Foundation that made all this experience possible.

Anıl Eraslan



During the music sessions we had every day, we experienced a lot of different music genres and everybody was so motivated and creative. For the final concert I composed the piece called 'Requiem for Musicians.' Besides many compositions made by musicians, Improvisation was of course the basic element which made us come together. I had an excellent time during this residency. I'm filled with energy, motivation and lots of beautiful music and also had the opportunity to get closer to many different cultures, which will have important influences on my future musical projects.

Manasi Ghanekar

I thank Turkish Cultural Foundation for giving me this wonderful opportunity. It gave me an opportunity to learn a different culture, bring the two traditions closer and create harmony among two nations through the art of dance which has tremendous power to connect the souls. I look forward for further connections and interactions with Turkish culture and association with Ege University to develop long term cultural relationships.

Özlem Uzun Hazneci



We have completed the five concert tour entitled: Jack Bowman Organ and Arts Concerts, for which you provided me funding. In the concerts, contemporary Turkish art was carefully selected to enhance the Bach music and projected on a large screen through each of the sections of the concert. In addition to the concert, we participated in social events in which we interacted and talked with residents about the arts in Turkey. I found people in the US very interested in contemporary Turkish art. We had interesting discussions of commonalities between art in Turkish and the US. I am grateful to the Turkish Cultural Foundation for the grant that I received. Thank you for your support for Turkish artists.

İdil Kemer



During this five-week residency, I had a great opportunity to improve my skills as a dance artist and an instructor on many levels. Seeing the opportunities in the dance/performance art world in general in such a nice, calm city encouraged me to create opportunities for dance in Istanbul. It gave me hope to build solidarity among young dancers and artists; to do my own work and widen the field of professional improvisation and yoga teaching in Turkey.

Mehmet Kömürcü



This was my first time to go abroad and to participate in a glass workshop in Europe, where I could exhibit my skills. I was also very happy to visit the house and workshop of a glass artist Bertil Vallien, with whom I have previously worked at the Glass Furnace Foundation. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Turkish Cultural Foundation for giving me this opportunity. I am grateful to your generous support to Turkish glass artists.

İpek Kotan



The workshop was not just a place where I learned new techniques of working with clay, but also a chance to connect with people of very different backgrounds and cultures. In terms of my work, I feel that this workshop helped open a door to a completely new world of art and design. I would like to express my gratitude to Turkish Cultural Foundation for funding my participation at BASEhabitat. I am very happy to have been able to learn these techniques and I look forward to integrating them into my own practice, making it more earth-friendly, more energy efficient, original

and sustainable.

Brenna MacCrimmon

I was most fortunate to have been granted a fellowship to travel to Turkey and take some time to investigate the shadow puppet tradition "Karagöz" for a month this past fall. Thank you again to the Turkish Cultural Foundation, which made my visit possible.

Kathleen Madden



I was delighted and greatly supported by the Turkish Cultural Foundation's grant I received to travel to and be in residency in Istanbul in September for the installation, opening on September 19, 2014, and subsequent public programs of "The Built Environment: Lower East Side in Istanbul" an exhibition I curated at Mixer in Tophane. Being able to curate "The Built Environment" definitely increased my capacity for curating exhibitions with contemporary artists. Being able to work with emerging artists active today is a different and important experience and will certainly make an impact on my professional development. Thank you again for your generous

support, and most of all for being part of a community in Turkey that is open to a discourse about contemporary culture and how it resonates in our lives.

Ahmet Özdeniz



During my stay in Boda, Sweden, I exhibited my works in the exhibition "Glass Unlimited - Made in Istanbul" at The Glass Factory Museum and gave a workshop. I met many Swedish glass artists and spend a good time with them. I am grateful to the Turkish Cultural Foundation for funding my participation and giving me this opportunity.

Şirin Pancaroğlu



It was an honor to be performing music from our part of the world in front of such an elite group of colleagues in attendance from everywhere in the world. Both concerts were received as energetic and highly entertaining events, as communicated by many colleagues after the concerts and during the whole course of the congress. In addition to performing concerts, attending board meetings, I listened to many concerts and attended lectures on various aspects of harp playing, teaching and

leading as a professional musician. Congresses act as a very stimulating factor in assessing one's own development and the journey ahead. I enjoyed meeting professionals in my area and visiting with persons such as my teacher, Distinguished Prof. Susann McDonald from the Indiana University Jacob's School of Music.

Sümer Sayın



The project is a thread installation between two historically important buildings: the Museum of Ethnography and the Museum of History, which are both old Ottoman Houses, in the city of Plovdiv. When the work was shown in the night time, the window had light coming from the interior which lit the street in the direction of the threads.

Ufuk Şener



I am thankful to Turkish Cultural Foundation, which enabled me to go through this process. I hope that more young people present us on this arena, more jobs are done and art return into a structure determining its own dynamics.

Carol Szymanski

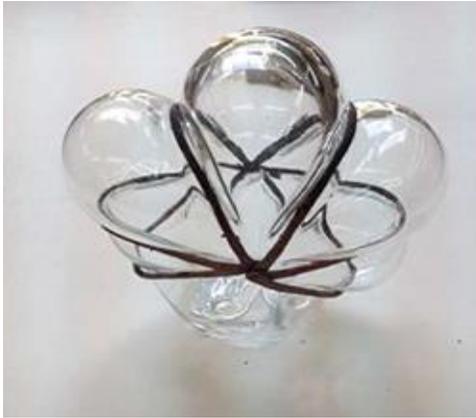
For the exhibition at Mixer, I installed 6 lithograph prints that were derived from an ongoing email project, called "cockshut dummy," which started in 2004. The grant provided by the Turkish Cultural Foundation greatly enhanced the development of the cockshut dummy project in two ways. My time in Istanbul was short, only ten days, but it was filled with very rich experiences that I will carry with me forever. I thank you very much for your kind support.

Jerome Symons



I would like to thank Bodrum Municipality for sponsoring the production of the posters. Special thanks go to the Turkish Cultural Foundation that has given me a Cultural Exchange Fellowship for having this workshop in which the participants have explored new meaning in and for the public space of Bodrum.

James Thurman



During my Residency at Cam Ocağı Vakfı (The Glass Furnace Foundation), I was introduced to another Turkish artist who regularly creates her work there, Gamze Araz Eskinazi. Given both of our current interests, it was the perfect opportunity to work together on producing pieces that combined glass and metal. I wish to offer my most sincere appreciation of the support of the Turkish Cultural Foundation that helped make this project possible. Given how much the work has already evolved and created further opportunities and workshops in the future, it is obvious that we

have found a project that holds great promise and potential for future growth and success. As the work goes out to the public, it will be with great pride that we can also credit the Turkish Cultural Foundation for its initial support.

Josh Tonsfeldt



This trip, made possible by my grant from the Turkish Cultural Foundation, has been of great benefit to my career. In addition to meeting and working with the staffs at Mixer, who have been very professional and a pleasure to work with all along the way, I made several other new professional contacts which may develop into further collaborations and cross-cultural dialogue in the future. Just as importantly, I have been introduced to the vibrant, incredibly diverse culture of Istanbul itself. My experiences and impressions of the city will carry on in my work for a long time to come.

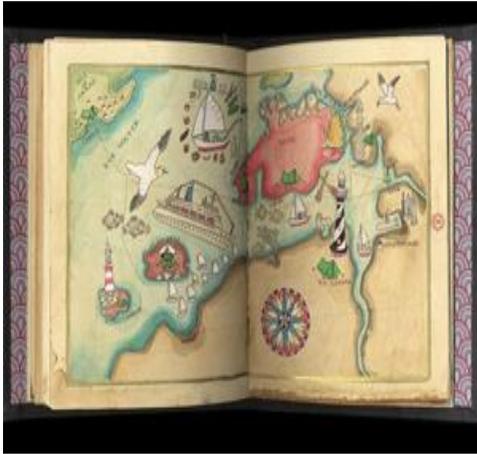
Hakan Ulus



I am very grateful for the financial support by the Turkish Cultural Foundation, with which I was able to finance my participation at the course. It's a great privilege to share the TCF Cultural Exchange Fellowship 2014 with all the other distinguished artists and scholars. The participation at the institute made a great impact of my professional development as a young composer. I learned a lot from all the three faculty composers and the fellow-composers. Because of the high grade of internationality I had the chance to see how different music can be understood in different parts of the world. Both as an artist and as a

scholar, I have acquired skills that will further advance my artistic and intellectual development.

Deniz Uster



I made works that were inspired by Anatolian myths merged with Islamic folk beliefs and Shamanism, mainly based Scottish landscape. The Spine That Binds Us Together has become the most socially engaged project in my portfolio. If Turkish Cultural Foundation had not supported me for my travel expenses, I would not have been able to travel to Cork to have further interviews and meet plenty of locals of Cobh, where Sirius Art Centre is based. The custom-made plinth for the manuscript was also transported during my journey to Ireland, which was made possible by the funding from TCF. My time in Cobh not only facilitated my project and

furnished my manuscript with colorful recollections, but also instructed me a great deal on different ways of storytelling, which is central to my art practice.

Enno Voorhorst



During my master class program, students recognized the new works and they learned many different techniques about guitar. I am very happy to participate in this master class. I did it with the support of Turkish Cultural Foundation Cultural Exchange Fellowship. Many thanks!

Manasi Ghanekar

I thank Turkish Cultural Foundation for giving me this wonderful opportunity. It gave me an opportunity to learn a different culture, bring the two traditions closer and create harmony among two nations through the art of dance which has tremendous power to connect the souls. I look forward for further connections and interactions with Turkish culture and association with Ege University to develop long term cultural relationships.