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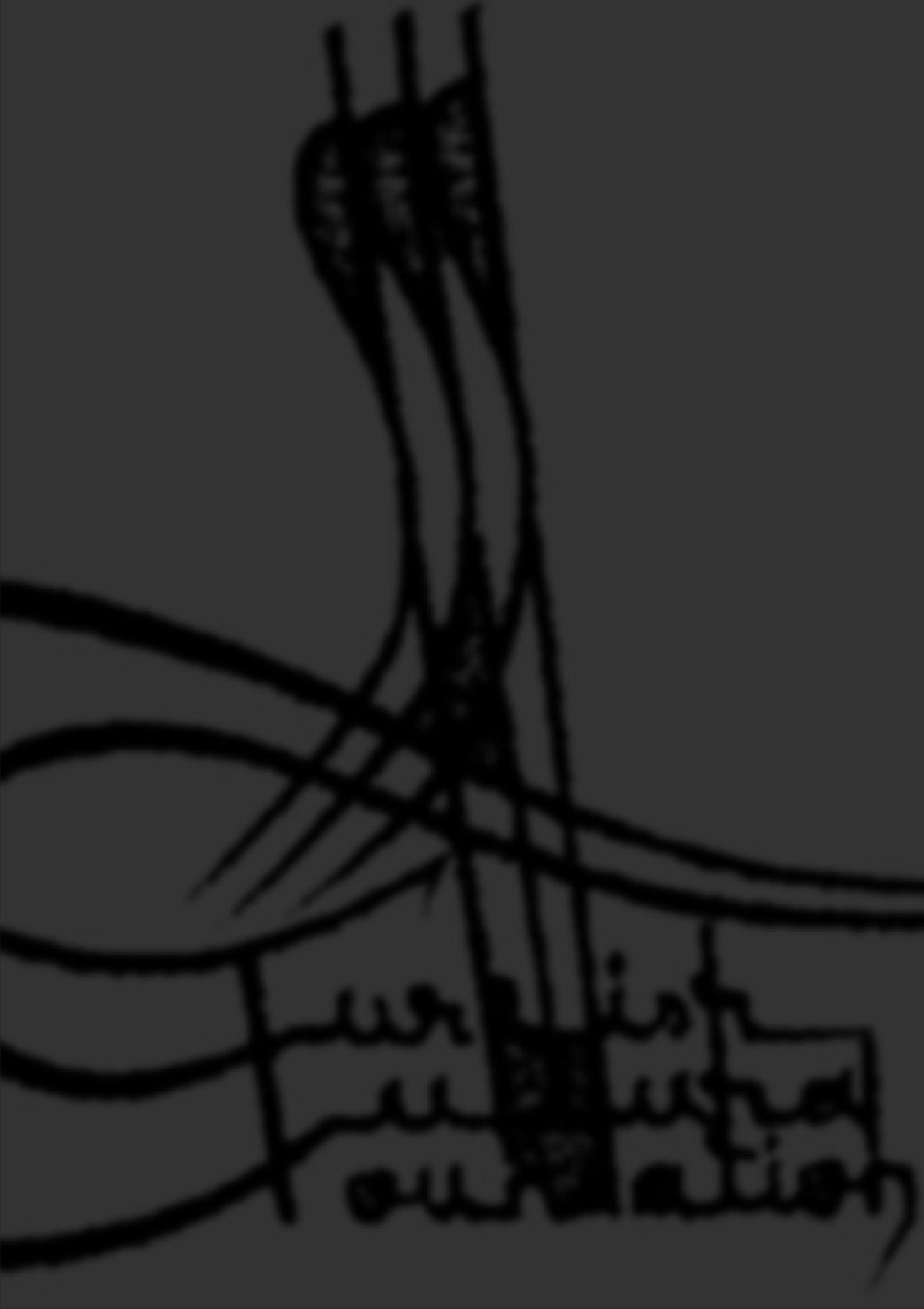
ISTANBUL

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12th SOFA NEW YORK:
APRIL 16 – 19, 2009
PARK AVENUE ARMORY

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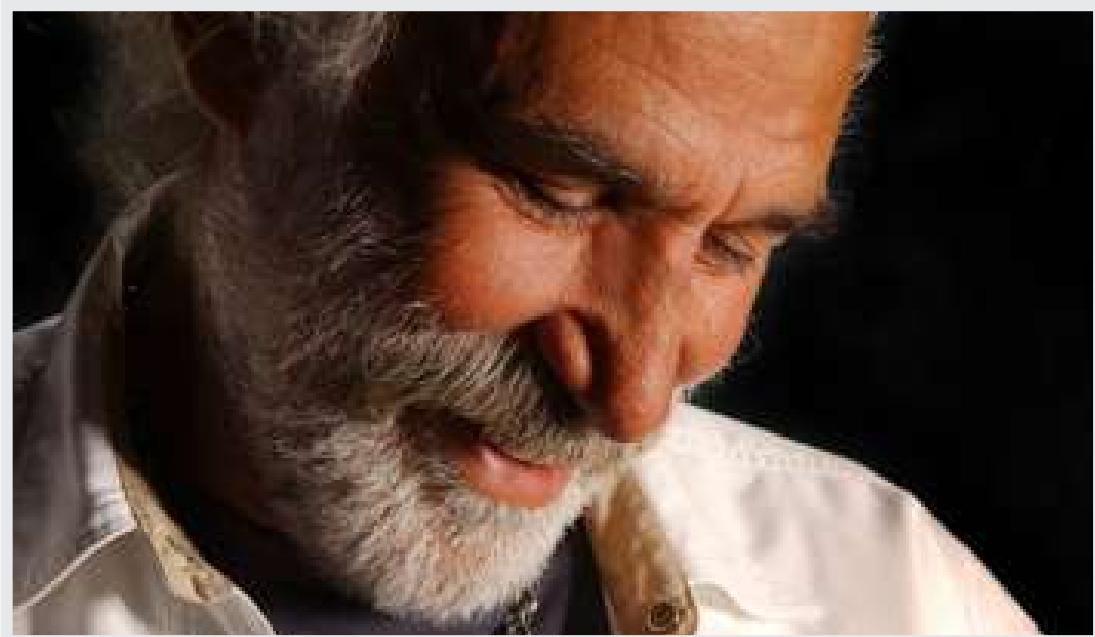
THE TURKISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION AT SOFA

One of the goals of the Turkish Cultural Foundation is to contribute to the promotion and recognition of Turkish arts and artists worldwide.

To this end, the Foundation supports the participation of Turkish artists at international art events. The Turkish Cultural Foundation is pleased to pioneer the showcasing of Turkish art and artists at SOFA and to present contemporary Turkish artists, aspiring and established, to art lovers, art galleries, and international artists at SOFA.



Mehmet Aksoy



Mehmet Aksoy is a graduate of the Sculpture Department of the Istanbul Fine Arts Academy and received a coveted state scholarship to continue his artistic education in London. While living in Germany, Mr. Aksoy became the founding member and president of the Berlin Association of Turkish Academician Artists.

He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, such as the second-place prize in the Luther Platz Sculptural Competition (1982), the second-place prize in the Bundesgartenschau Sculptural Competition (1985), the Rumi Peace Award (1997), Artist of the Year award in plastic arts at the "Troy Culture and Art Awards" (2004), the Middle East Technical University (Ankara) Distinguished Service Award (2004) and ArtIstanbul Honorary Artist Award (2008).

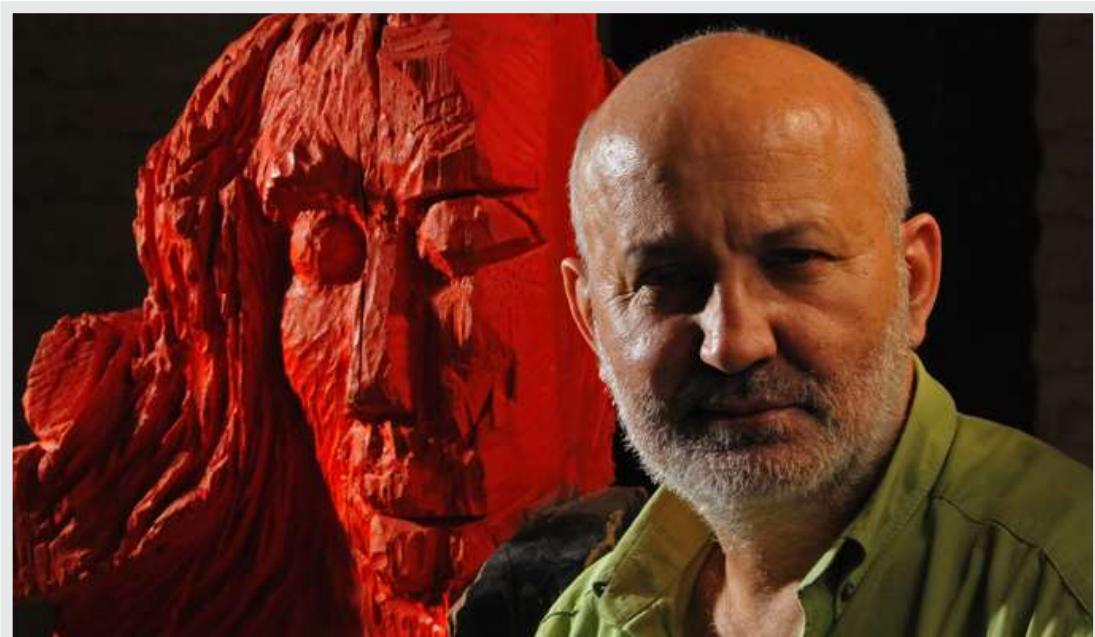
Mehmet Aksoy's sculptures often contain sensual figurative elements, but he is strongly rooted in a modernist sensibility with strong conceptual and abstract elements in his work. He works primarily in stone but also incorporates other material, fusing metal or differing stones in a single sculpture.

NEW YORK





Yunus Tonkuş



Yunus Tonkuş graduated from the Turkish State Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Ceramics (1973-1977). He continued his education at the Stuttgart Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Sculpture (1975-1985) and attended sculpture workshops in Carrara, Italy in 1983.

Mr. Tonkuş served as professor at the Stuttgart Academy of Fine Arts in 1985-86, and at the Technical University of Braunschweig in 1986-1991.

Yunus Tonkuş's distinct works have been displayed in 30 solo and group exhibitions as well as national and international exhibitions, symposiums and workshops. His sculptures have been acquired for permanent collections of the Stuttgart Academy of Fine Arts, the Braunschweig City Museum, the Akademie Wolfenbüttel in Germany as well as for private collections in the USA, France, and Japan.

In his sculptures, Tonkuş uses any material available, such as serigraphy, wood, stone, bronze and nails. Choosing the appropriate material for the work he will create, the artist is open to different materials because he feels new excitement at the emergence of new techniques and forms. Wishing to avoid bringing an artificial appearance to his materials, Tonkuş loves and uses them in their natural states - stone as stone, wood as wood. Yunus Tonkuş states that sometimes, the creative process is a silent adventure, a search, in which we don't know what we're after. At such times, touching stone, wood or bronze is a silent motion... To him, the name of this touch is sculpture.

NEW YORK



Seçkin Pirim

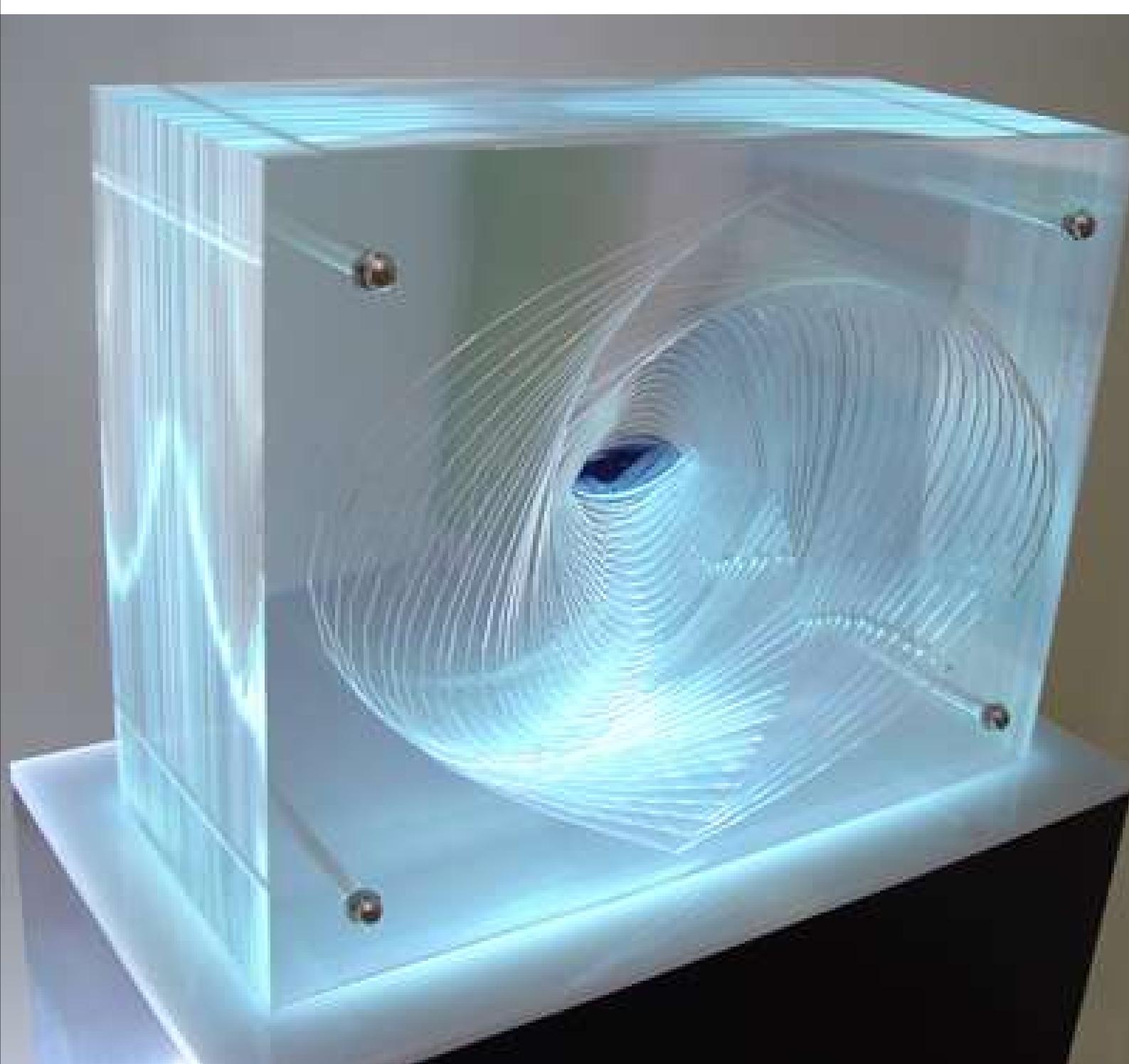


Starting his artistic education at the Istanbul Anatolian Fine Arts College in painting (1991), Mr. Seçkin Pirim graduated from the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts (Istanbul) Painting Department in 1995. He also received his master's degree from the Sculpture Department of the same university.

Mr. Pirim has had many solo exhibitions and participated in many group exhibitions and received numerous awards, including first prize at the IMMB Metal-Plastic Industrial Design Contest in 2005, "Design of the Year" at 2003 Istanbul International ADesign Fair and first prize in the Istanbul Mint Memorabilia Coin Design in 1997. Several of his works are on public display.

An intersubstitutable dual language game lies within Seçkin Pirim's work, where a structural and mathematical ideal meets a romantic-creative sensibility. His designs are the product of a visual and conceptual counteraction regarding the multiplication of the singular and the imaginary singularity of the plural. Just like a railroad track leading to infinity or a minaret stairway based on a spiral movement may represent both itself and an inextricable part of the function it pertains to, his designs reveal both the inside and the outside of the total image that takes shape before our eyes. In doing this, he does not appeal to the centuries-old ideal of bringing to light what lies within the mass, on the contrary, he constructs a movement with the potential to progress with a rhythmic oscillation within the three-dimensionality of the world.

NEW YORK





Esma Pacal Turam



A graduate of the University of Marmara Fine Arts Faculty, Sculpture Department (1987), Esma Pacal Turam also taught at the same department (1988). She attended the Department of Arts at the University of Minnesota as a visiting artist where she worked on bronze molding. Under a scholarship from the Austrian Government, Ms. Turam studied at the Salzburg Internationale Sommer Akademie Für Bildende Kunst on Paper Sculpture at Prof. Andreas Von Weizsäcker's workshop (1994).

A paper sculptor, Ms. Turam's projects use a mixture of paper and silicon that bring out the textured beauty of both materials. Her works have been inspired by architecture and people. She is constantly intrigued by inhabitants of large cities and enjoys watching the fast-flowing activity of urban life. She watches people while they watch the world go by. The dome, for example, representing a metaphorical "temple," is the focus of individuals who come together and create the crowd.

She has exhibited her artwork independently and in group exhibitions at numerous shows and exhibitions internationally and in Turkey.

NEW YORK



THE TURKISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION AT SOFA

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Meric Hizal



Meric Hizal graduated from the Sculpture Department of the Istanbul Fine Arts Academy in 1979. She continued her studies and was awarded certificates in Salzburg in 1977, in Paris in 1981-82 and in Como in 1992. Currently, she is an instructor at the Mimar Sinan University. Prof. Hizal has had 10 solo exhibitions and is the recipient of 14 awards, such as Award of Art Association (1999), Artist of the Year in Plastic Arts Sculpture Branch (1997-1998), Sedat Simavi Visual Arts Award (1995), 46th State Sculpture Competition Award (1985), and the second-place prize in Tuzla Naval Academy Ataturk Monument Competition (1985).

She has participated in 15 symposiums on experimental sculpture in Turkey and abroad in countries such as the former Yugoslavia, France, Israel, Lebanon and Japan as well as producing 15 sculptures for public spaces.

For many years Prof. Hizal has been an artist who starts off with forms in nature and transforms them. In search of the dialect between natural forms and perceived forms, she got absorbed into forms that complete one another, transform to each other within dialectic concept. In other words, she brought her idea in mind into a form with a plain shape; she transformed this idea into form.

12TH SOFA NEW YORK: APRIL 16–19, 2009 PARK AVENUE ARMORY NEW YORK

12TH SOFA NEW YORK



Meric Hizal

The Sun Warms Everyone, 2000 limra stone, brass plate, plexiglas

19.7 x 19.7 x 35.4"

photo: Erdal Aksoy

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