

**THE PAVILION OF TURKEY TO PRESENT *WE, ELSEWHERE*
BY İNCİ EVİNER AT THE 58TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION,
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA**



İnci Eviner, sketch from *We, Elsewhere*, 2019.

We, Elsewhere, a new work by İnci Eviner will be presented in the **Pavilion of Turkey at the 58th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia**, to be held from 11 May through 24 November 2019. Organised by the **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSŞ)** and sponsored by **Fiat**, the Pavilion of Turkey will be curated by **Zeynep Öz** and located at Sale d'Armi, which is one of the main exhibition venues of La Biennale di Venezia.

We, Elsewhere is created as a site-specific installation for the Pavilion of Turkey at the 58th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia and makes use of elements such as reconfigured objects as well as drawings, video, sound, and performance. It is an investigation into the spaces that we create, and are created for us as a result of collective displacement. The exhibition ruminates on how subjects who find themselves in these spaces react and interact with one another and with their memories. Various elements of sound, reconfigured objects and characters crafted by Eviner evoke the sense of a search for the missing, the erased and that which is *elsewhere*. A certain aggression and abruptness comes out in the characters' everyday behaviour informing their identities in transition. The space itself, in which visitors are invited to walk along the ramps, courtyards and edges, displays permeability, allowing views through cuts and cracks along the walls. The paths punctuated by the objects suggest the way in which memory eases conflicts. Together, the characters, the space and the paths tell a story akin to Hannah Arendt's narrative of struggles in *We Refugees*.

At the press conference held at **Salon İKSŞ** on **Tuesday, 12 February**, where the conceptual framework was announced, **İnci Eviner** said: *"These figures are constantly changing places through the space to find their other halves. This effort is actually an attempt to reclaim their interrupted and invalidated memory and bodies. In doing so, mythologies and memories, the habits of everyday life, their joy and sorrow need to be picked up one by one and put into place. I try to keep myself in and out of events to witness all of this. The responsibility of being a witness is in the questioning of being "us".*

Regarding Eviner's practice and her new work, **Zeynep Öz** said: *"Eviner uses the architectural component in *We, Elsewhere* as the stage on which elements of action come together in order to think through issues of migration and confinement in shaping continuously shifting subjectivities."*

İnci Eviner received prizes from the Sharjah Art Biennial in 2017 (13 Prize); she was also invited to artist residencies such as Rauschenberg Foundation in Florida, Headlands Center for the Arts in California, SAM Art Projects in Paris and MAC/VAL Paris. She displayed her works in important solo exhibitions such as *Beneath the Horizon* at Galeri Nev Istanbul (2017), *Who's Inside You?* at Istanbul Modern Museum, Turkey (2016); *Runaway Girls* at The Drawing Center New York, USA (2015); *Broken Manifestos* at Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France (2011); *Harem* at Art in the Auditorium in Whitechapel Gallery London, UK (2009). Eviner also attended a number of biennials worldwide including the Liverpool Biennial (2018), Gwangju Biennial (2018) and 13th Istanbul Biennial (2013). The artist's works are included in globally important institutional collections such as Deutsche Bank Collection, Center Pompidou in Paris, Istanbul Modern Museum, Guggenheim and TBA21 Wien. Eviner is also a lecturer at Kadir Has University, Faculty of Art and Design. She lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey.

Zeynep Öz is a curator based in Istanbul. She is currently curating the BACA Award exhibition of Marwan Rechmaoui at the Bonnefantenmuseum. She was one of the interlocutors of the Sharjah Biennial 13, curating the biennial's off-site project in Istanbul in 2017, as well as Co-Curator of the Aichi Triennale 3 in 2016. Öz was the co-founder and director of the Spot Production Fund from 2011 to 2017, during which she curated the *Produce series (I, II, III)*. She also curated the film programme *Greatest Common Factor*, at SALT, Istanbul (2016), the project *Plastic Veins* at Home Works VI, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut (2013), and *Selling Snails in the Muslim Neighborhood* at the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (2013). Öz has been on the curricular and selection committees of Home Workspace Programme of Ashkal Alwan in Beirut since 2015.

İnci Eviner works with names from different disciplines for *We, Elsewhere*. The architectural design of the project was created by **Birge Yıldırım Okta** and **Gürkan Okta**, whereas the sound design is by **Tolga Tüzün**. The video which will be reflected in Pavilion of Turkey will include the performance artists and dancers **Canan Yücel Pekişten**, **Melih Kırac** and **Gülden Arsal**. Director of photography of the video is **Aydın Sarıoğlu** and the video post-production team includes **Cem Gökçimen** and **Cem Perin**.

The exhibition's visual identity and the upcoming book, which will accompany the exhibition and will be available at the opening of the Pavilion of Turkey, are designed by **Okay Karadayılar** and **Ali Taptık (ONAGÖRE)**.

The Advisory Board of the Pavilion of Turkey at the 58th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia consists of **Serhan Ada** from **Bilgi University**, Department of Arts and Cultural Management, Suna and İnan Kırac Foundation Culture and Art Enterprises General Manager **Özalp Birol**, curator and Art Advisor at Istanbul Modern Museum **Paolo Colombo**, **Prof. Dr. Zeynep İnankur** from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Western and Contemporary Art and curator at Arter **Başak Doğa Temür**.

The Pavilion of Turkey at La Biennale di Venezia is coordinated by **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV)** and realised through the sponsorship of **Fiat**, with the production support of **SAHA Association** with the contribution of the **Ministry of Culture and Tourism** and under the auspices of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey**. The Pavilion of Turkey's long term venue opened at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia in 2014 for the first time, upon a 20-year allotment of the Arsenale with İKSV's initiation and the contribution of 21 supporters.

For further details: <http://pavilionofturkey19.iksv.org/>

For high-resolution images: <http://www.iksvphoto.com/#/folder/e3fb3u>

For videos: <https://files.secureserver.net/OfQMlgZ5uXt4wK>

*Videos from the press conference will be available from 12 February 23.00 (GMT +3)

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