

İSTANBUL EINDHOVEN SALTVANABBE MODERN TIMES

İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe: Modern Times

September 21 – December 30, 2012

SALT Galata

The collaboration between SALT and Van Abbemuseum, *İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe*, evolves over the course of three exhibitions presented across both SALT venues throughout 2012. The final exhibition, *İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe: Modern Times* opens on September 21 and presents a selection of artworks from the Van Abbemuseum collection from the beginning of the Twentieth Century until 1960s along with corresponding works from the same period in Turkey.

The exhibition starts from the early Twentieth Century and ends with the epistemic shifts of the 1960s. It incorporates stories of Western and “other” modernities. *Modern Times* provides clues about half a century’s modern artistic practice and its disposition to revolutionary, nationalist, modern order, and its rational and progressive character. The project transmits the belief of modernist thought as an inherent outcome of scientific and technical understanding. It connects the avant-garde, and formalist perspectives of modern art with the perception of modern times proposing the demolition of the old and the construction of a new order.

In this historical voyage of sorts, the exhibition presents competing modernities of the centers instituting their social and political agenda on the peripheries, along with the aesthetics, forms, contradictions and localities of interaction. Selected works from Turkey are expected to enter into a dialogue with works from the the Van Abbemuseum collection

and provide clues about how political and cultural modernization was perceived and interpreted in Turkey.

The exhibition includes works by Pierre Alechinsky, Hakkı Anlı, Avni Arbaş, Yüksel Arslan, Ferruh Başağa, Jean Bazaine, Nurullah Berk, Roger Bissière, Georges Braque, Marcel Broodthaers, Jean Brusselmans, Cihat Burak, Corneille, Adnan Çoker, Robert Delaunay, Nejad Melih Devrim, Abidin Dino, Victor Dolphijn, Raoul Dufy, Edgar Fernhout, Leo Gestel, Juan Gris, Hans Hartung, Zeki Faik İzer, İlhan Koman, Herman Kruyder, Ger Lataster, Fernand Léger, El Lissitzky, André Marchand, Fikret Mualla, Mübin Orhon, Pieter Ouborg, Pablo Picasso, Serge Poliakoff, Selim Turan, Theo van Doesburg, Geer van Velde, Hendrik Nicolaas Werkman, Theo Wolvecamp, Andrzej Wróblewski, Ossip Zadkine and Fahrelnissa Zeid. There is also archival and documentary material from the period.

This first exhibition in the series *İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe: Post '89* was followed by *İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe: 68-89*.

İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe: Modern Times, curated by Zeynep Yasa Yaman will be on view until December 30 at SALT Galata.

İstanbul Eindhoven-SALTVanAbbe

SALT and Van Abbemuseum are collaborating on a series of exhibitions that bring together works from the Van Abbemuseum collection with selected local positions in the framework of the 400th year of diplomatic relations between Turkey and the Netherlands. The project aims to enhance and celebrate

the growing cultural exchange between the two countries.

In 2005, the Van Abbemuseum presented an exhibition composed from the museum collection and a selection of works shown in the previous eight İstanbul Biennials. Titled *Eindhovenİstanbul*, this exhibition afforded visitors in the Netherlands the opportunity to see works that were produced for one of the most significant international exhibitions of the last years in combination with the Van Abbemuseum's renowned modern and contemporary artworks. No longer focused only on West Europe and the United States, a broader idea of the geography and politics of culture was captured in the exhibition. This idea pivoted around global changes that took place during and after the year 1989 and the spread of what might be termed "a global poetics of the contemporary" that eventually had its effect on Europe's own sense of identity and cultural values. The exhibition thus represented a radical reassessment of the idea of an international collection as previously understood in the Van Abbemuseum and established the basis for the museum to subsequently formulate a new purchasing policy adapted to the global-local dialectic.

Seven years later, during the anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Turkey, a new opportunity has arisen to reverse the direction of flow. The collaboration between SALT and Van Abbemuseum is realized in the context of a global cultural shift. While institutions in West Europe and the United States are experiencing financial hardship, and losing their traditional cultural support structures and audiences, new power corridors and cultural hubs are being established. İstanbul, Mumbai and Moscow are such examples, where emerging markets and new

economies produce a rising demand for institutional cultural services. The new situation presents challenging possibilities and ethical perplexities for West European museums that have sophisticated collections. The SALT and Van Abbemuseum partnership is a fertile context for debating the role of art museums in the 21st century in the multivalent complexities and changing context of this epic shift.

NLTR 400: 400 years of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Turkey



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Press contact
Ceylan Yüceoral
T +90 212 334 22 40
press@saltonline.org

Zeynep Akan
T +90 212 334 22 45
press@saltonline.org

SALT
founded by Garanti
Bankalar Caddesi 11
Karaköy 34420 İstanbul Turkey
T +90 212 334 22 00
saltonline.org