

# BECOMING ISTANBUL

Becoming Istanbul  
September 13–December 31, 2011  
SALT Beyoğlu

The second comprehensive exhibition at SALT Beyoğlu is *Becoming Istanbul*. Open from September 13 to December 31, 2011, the exhibition will be accompanied by two parallel programs: *90*, a program of 90 events focusing on contemporary issues in Istanbul, and *The Making Of Beyoğlu*, a series of workshops examining the methodology and implementation of projects initiated in the city's center.

*Becoming Istanbul* explores contemporary Istanbul through an interactive database of over 400 media. An up-to-date collection of artists' videos, photography series, documentaries, news reports, cartoons and architectural projects, the database is organized according to 80 concepts that instrumentalize typical discourses relating to the city and suggest new points of view. Its media include the visual productions of artists and researchers who have problematized actors and phenomena typically disregarded in urban discourse, as well as the declarations of decision makers involved in Istanbul's current transformations.

The exhibition's structure is far from linear. Each viewer may chart his or her own course through the database, making each experience of *Becoming Istanbul* original. The internal dynamics of the database's content as a whole, not visible in individual navigations, will also be interpreted by Burak Arıkan in a work deciphering the relationships between concepts and time.

The conceptual framework of *Becoming Istanbul* was set by Pelin Derviş, Bülent Tanju and Uğur Tanyeli in 2008. The trio also edited the publication *Becoming Istanbul*, a multi-authored critical dictionary published in Turkish, English and German. Two other books published as part of the project were *Tracing Istanbul*

(*from the air*), edited by Meriç Öner, which discussed the causes and effects of changes in Istanbul's urban texture based on the aerial photographs of Oğuz Meriç; and *Mapping Istanbul*, co-edited by Pelin Derviş and Meriç Öner, a visualization of the city through aerial maps.

Through *Becoming Istanbul*, *90* and *The Making Of Beyoğlu*, SALT shares its enthusiasm for and experience in urban research. The graphic and spatial design of these projects, to be presented on SALT Beyoğlu's second and third floors, is carried out in collaboration with design firms Project Projects and Superpool. The design solutions allowing the *Becoming Istanbul* database to be viewed individually or collectively are also intended to enrich the experience of viewers.

Designed by Evren Yantaç and scripted by Hüseyin Kuşçu, the *Becoming Istanbul* database can be accessed at [database.becomingistanbul.org](http://database.becomingistanbul.org), where viewers may determine their course even before the exhibition's opening.

Press contact  
Ceylan Yüceoral  
T +90 212 334 22 40  
[ceylan.yuceoral@saltonline.org](mailto:ceylan.yuceoral@saltonline.org)

Zeynep Akan  
T +90 212 334 22 45  
[zeynep.akan@saltonline.org](mailto:zeynep.akan@saltonline.org)