

İKSV 2015 Activity Report

Nearly 835,000 viewers attended the events organised by İKSV in 2015. Over 1,000 artists and artist collectives were featured in the events that were realised in 95 different venues.

34th Istanbul Film Festival

The 34th Istanbul Film Festival took place between 4-19 April. Screening a total of 171 short and feature length films across 455 screenings at 8 different theatres over the course of two weeks, the festival was attended by a total of 130,000 cinephiles. In addition to the screenings, one concert, three master classes, and three panels were also held and attended by festival guests. Many directors, producers, and actors, including names like Rolf De Heer, Lone Scherfig, Christian Petzold, Raoul Peck, and Elmer Bäck travelled to Istanbul to present their films and 115 of the festival's screenings were attended by their directors, actors, screenwriters, or producers. Meetings on the Bridge celebrated its tenth year with the participation of close to 100 international cinema professionals, who came to meet filmmakers from Turkey.

43rd Istanbul Music Festival

Held between 31 May and 29 June, the 43rd Istanbul Music Festival hosted close to 600 local and international artists at 13 different venues. Built upon the theme "Cultural Landscapes," the festival programme featured 27 concerts, including two world premieres and three Turkey premieres. In addition to the preconcert talks by artists and music writers, the Weekend Classics, which were free of charge and took place outdoors throughout the festival, also drew great interest. The 43rd Istanbul Music Festival reached close to 23,000 music enthusiasts.

22nd Istanbul Jazz Festival

The 22nd Istanbul Jazz Festival took place between 27 June and 15 July. The festival spread across Istanbul with 56 concerts held at 24 different venues, featuring over 250 local and international artists. Hosting the diverse voices of folk, blues, and jazz, such as Joan Baez, Jools Holland, Marcus Miller, Melody Gardot, and Tigran Hamasyan, the festival also held free events, which carried the jazz atmosphere to Istanbul's parks and streets. "Jazz at Parks" at Fenerbahçe Park and "Night Out" in Kadıköy became two of the festival's most popular events. The 22nd Istanbul Jazz Festival attended by over 30,000 music enthusiasts.

14th Istanbul Biennial

The 14th Istanbul Biennial was held between 5 September and 26 November. Titled *SALTWATER: A Theory of Thought Forms*, the biennial was drafted by world renowned curator, writer and scholar Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev with a number of alliances. Encompassing 36 venues on the European and Asian sides of the

Bosphorus, the biennial took place in museums as well as temporary spaces of habitation on land and on sea such as boats, hotels, former banks, garages, gardens, schools, shops and private homes and presented over 1,500 artworks by over 80 participants. The 14th Istanbul Biennial drew a record number of 545,000 viewers to its 36 venues. Due to great interest, the group exhibition in Istanbul Modern, one of the 14th Istanbul Biennial venues, was extended until 26 November 2015.

8th Leyla Gencer Voice Competition

Known in international music circles for the young talents it brings to the world of opera, the 8th Leyla Gencer Voice Competition was held between 6-11 September. 100 young singers below the age of 32 from 24 different countries have attended the auditions organised in six countries in Europe. In the final, which was held on 11 September in Istanbul, Marigona Querkezi was announced as the winner, while Jonathan Winell as the 2nd and Hubert Zapior and Dierdre Judith Angenent as the 3rd in rank. Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Antonio Pirolli was the guest orchestra of the night.

14th Filmekimi

The 14th Filmekimi was held between 2-11 October and presented a myriad of films including award-winning productions that premiered at international festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Cannes, Venice and Toronto. 48 films were presented in 278 screenings in 10 theatres around Turkey. Except for its hometown Istanbul, Filmekimi visited Ankara, İzmir, Trabzon, Bursa and Edirne in this edition. The 14th Filmekimi drew 75,000 cinephiles.

9th Europe Design Conference and Award Ceremony

Organised in a different European city each year, the ninth edition of European Design Conference and Awards Ceremony was held in Istanbul on Saturday, 23 May 2015 in collaboration with the Istanbul Design Biennial. The all day long event made Istanbul a meeting place for outstanding designers from all around Europe. At the Award Ceremony, held after the conference, the European Design Agency Award, ED-Awards Best of Show and ED-Awards Jury Prize were presented. 31 projects were awarded with a Gold Prize, 61 with Silver Prize and 85 with Bronze Prize.

The Tiger Lillies Perform Hamlet

The British cabaret-punk band The Tiger Lillies performed their unique adaptation of Shakespeare's famous tragedy *Hamlet* at the Zorlu Performance Arts Centre Drama Stage on Thursday October 15th, Friday October 16th, and Saturday October 17th. The show was attended by 2,100 viewers in three nights.

Haldun Taner on his 100th Anniversary

2nd International Interdisciplinary Theatre Meeting, which is organised by the Department of Theatre Criticism and Dramaturgy with the cooperation of Istanbul Theatre Festival and many other entities, was held on 26-27 November 2015 to evaluate his works, his contributions to theatre and to commemorate his passing away.

Cuisine and Confessions

In the years last special event, İKSV hosted the ensemble Les 7 Doigts de la Main (7 Fingers) with their project *Cuisine and Confessions* in which the company takes acrobatics and dance into the kitchen. Highly acclaimed everywhere it was staged, *Cuisine and Confessions* was realised under the venue sponsorship of Zorlu Performing Arts Centre in six shows between 23-27 December.

International Projects: Pavilion of Turkey at the 56th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia

On view between 9 May-22 November, Pavilion of Turkey at the 56th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, hosted *Respiro*, an installation by the influential conceptual artist Sarkis, curated by Defne Ayas, Director of Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art. The pavilion was organised by İKSV and housed in Sale d'Armi, Arsenale. The Pavilion of Turkey was featured in more than 400 articles including The Independent, Le Monde, Le Figaro, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung among many others. The 56th International Art Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, which featured 89 country pavilions including Turkey, besides curator Okwui Enwezor's main exhibition entitled *All the World's Futures*, attracted over 500.000 visitors in nearly 7 months that it was open to the public.

International Projects: Cité des Arts Artist Residency Programme

Artists Gökçen Dilek Acay, Sümer Sayın, Şafak Çatalbaş and Serkan Taycan participated in the residency programme in 2015. With the initiation of the 20-years-long project "Turkey Season in France" by İKSV in 2009, which has the authorisation to work under the Ministry of Culture and Foreign Affairs, a workshop at Cité des Arts was rented for artists from Turkey to benefit. Containing facilities for both working and living, the workshop can accommodate four artists from Turkey in three periods of a year.

Salon İKSV

Salon İKSV once again gathered various cultural events under its roof. Following a brief break in July, Salon opened its doors for its new season in October. In addition to outstanding names from international contemporary music scene such as Moddi, Sleep Party People, Flunk, Low, Arif Sağ, the Secret Trio, Swans, Submotion Orchestra, Colin Stetson, Kardeş Türküler, and the Notwist, Salon hosted a theatre performance each monday throughout the year. Moreover, a new project was

initiated in collaboration with National Theatre Live, in which video documentations of major contemporary theatre plays meet the audience at Salon screen. 85 concerts, 28 theatre performances, 16 National Theatre Live screenings and 8 panels took place at Salon in 2015.

Cultural Policy Studies

Continuing its work to contribute to the development of cultural policies in Turkey and to enrich the discourse in the field of arts and culture İKSV's fourth publication under the scope of its cultural policy studies, *Türkiye'de Sanat Eğitimi Yeniden Düşünmek* (Re-Thinking Arts Education in Turkey) was published as a report in January. The magazine *Sanat Dünyamız*, published by Yapı Kredi Publishing, also reserved its July-August issue for the topic of arts education. Many academicians, artists, and field experts contributed and shared their diverse points of view for the special dossier edited by Özlem Ece, Zülal Fazlıoğlu Akın, and Mine Haydaroğlu.

As part of its work within the field of cultural policies, İKSV also prepared a policy text with the goal of contributing to 2015's election platforms. The policy text entitled *Seçim Bildirgeleri İçin Siyasi Partilere Kültür Politikaları Öncelikleri ve Öneriler* (Cultural Policy Priorities and Suggestions for Political Parties), which was shared with all political parties, highlighted Turkey's fundamental issues in the field of arts and culture policies and presented suggestions. As a follow up to the text, after the publication of parties' election platforms, an evaluative text was prepared under the title *2015 Yılı Seçim Bildirgelerinin Kültür Politikaları Perspektifinden Değerlendirilmesi* (An Evaluation of Election Manifestos from the Perspective of Cultural Policy). All the outputs of İKSV's Cultural Policy Programme are downloadable through İKSV website (http://iksv.org/en/aboutus/cultural_policy).

Institutional Support to Music for Peace Foundation

This year, İKSV's institutional partner, supported by the Tulip Card Membership Programme, the Music for Peace Foundation celebrated its 10th year. In this occasion, a special concert took place at Zorlu Performing Arts Centre on 15 November, with 300 children educated in the facility of the foundation performing the masters of classical music, led by five world renowned conductors.

Aydın Gün Encouragement Award

Launched by İKSV in its 40th year to contribute to the development of future artists, "Aydın Gün Encouragement Award" is presented to promising young musicians in the field of classical music. The recipient of this year's award worth 15,000 TL was 24 year-old violin virtuoso Emre Engin. Ranking first in the auditions for the Istanbul Music Festival's "In Search of its Young Soloist" project in 2012, Emre Engin had taken part in the festival, accompanied by the Istanbul University State Conservatory Symphony Orchestra.

Talât Sait Halman Translation Award

An award initiated by İKSV in 2015 to support outstanding translations of literary works, including but not limited to poetry, short stories and novels every year, Talât Sait Halman Translation Award was presented for the first time. 2015 Talât Sait Halman Translation Award of 15.000 TL was given to Siren İdemen, for her outstanding translation of Georges Perec's *La Boutique Obscure: 124 Rêves*, titled in Turkish *Karanlık Dükkan: 124 Rüya*.

İKSV Innovation Centre

Istanbul Foundation of Culture and Arts has established an "Innovation Center", which will function as information-records and activity centre for the development of the creative industries, with the support from Istanbul Development Agency.