

Turkey featured in new 'Global Art Compass'

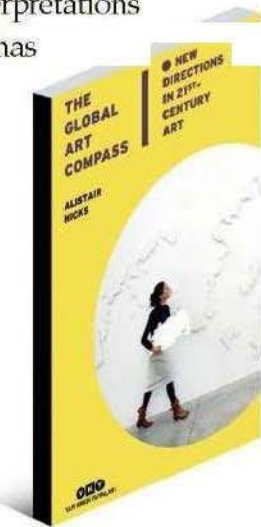
RIIMEFYSA KIGER | İSTANBUL II

Written by art historian and Deutsche Bank Art Collection curator Alistair Hicks, "The Global Art Compass" was first published in 2014 and [Yapı Kredi](#) Publishing House recently released a new edition of the book with a new chapter solely dedicated to contemporary art from Turkey.

As the name of the book suggests, readers can use the book as a compass through which they can learn about the author's interpretations of the artists and works he has chosen from different parts of the globe. It is divided into geographic chapters such as West, South, East and North, giving examples from the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, Asia and Europe, respectively.

In his chapter on Turkey in this new edition, Hicks writes İstanbul is one of the art world's barometers.

"The future of art's direction is partly in Turkey's hands. If the domestic political and religious climate drown the excitement of a hub where artists are challenging the status quo of a globalised, homogenised world culture, if collectors, curators and artists themselves become too enthralled to New York, then the art market, money-driven trajectory is more likely to win out over the richer and more diverse offerings that alternative centers such as İstanbul are currently delivering," he explains.



The Internet, combined with shifts in the global economy, has changed the role of art centers, Hicks adds. "An artist can live anywhere and carve an international career: artists don't have to live in the capital city. This chapter starts with the experience of walking into a young, relatively unknown artist's studio [Cansu Çakar's] and falling in love. It happened not in İstanbul but an hour's flight away in İzmir. Immersing myself in the bubble and energy of ideas has been one of the great pleasures of coming to Turkey over the last couple of years. Patterns and trends emerge and I started to associate Turkish artists with certain themes. Some of the most exciting artists battle to improve the lot of women, others to fight for homosexual freedoms. Migration is another global theme, but in the hands of Turkish artists the distress and anxieties somehow co-exist with the deep human desire to explore the universe. Today's Turkish artists live up to the weight of İstanbul's tradition as a percolator of ideas: they are full of explanations about the situation in their own country and the world. Talking in studios, at galleries, in cafes, bars and collector's houses there is a cacophony of noise of which even Cevdet Erek [mostly known his sound installations] would be proud," he further elaborates.

In the course of the chapter, the author details works of artists Çakar, Nil Yalter, Sarkis, Nilbar Güreş, Burak Delier, Aslı Çavuşoğlu, Şükran Moral, Hera Büyüktaşçıyan, Ali Kazma, Kemal Seyhan, Erek, Erdem Taşdelen and Meray Şenocak, together with some installations in the Museum of Innocence founded by Turkish Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk.

The new edition of "The Global Art Compass" can be found in major bookstores.