

VASIF KORTUN

Vasif Kortun is the Director of Research and Programs at SALT, Istanbul—an institution that hosts numerous programs, a comprehensive library of over 40,000 publications, and an extensive archive on Turkish modern and contemporary art and architecture.

Kortun was the founding Director of Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul, which he initiated in 2001. He was the founding Director of Project Istanbul Museum of Contemporary Art (2001-03), the Chief Curator and Director of the 3rd International Istanbul Biennial (1992), and Co-director, with Charles Esche, of the 9th International Istanbul Biennial (2005).

Between 1994 and 1997 Kortun worked as the founding Director of the Museum of the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, New York. He was awarded the Award for Curatorial Excellence for 2006.

Kortun was the Co-curator of 3rd Taipei Biennial (2008). He was also one of the curators of the 24th Sao Paulo Biennial (1998), Tirana Biennial, and 2nd Ceramics Biennial in Albisola (2003). He curated the Turkish pavilions for the 1994 and 1998 Sao Paulo Biennials and the 2007 Venice Biennial, during which he worked with artist Huseyin Alptekin on an installation titled “Don’t Complain”. He was also the Curator of the National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates at the 2011 Venice Biennale.

He has undertaken numerous independent curatorial projects including, most recently, an exhibition of works by Cengiz Bekil at Rampa in Istanbul (2010), and he co-curated, with November Paynter, “The Columns Held us Up” at Artists Space, New York (2009).

He has written extensively on contemporary art and the cultural situation in Turkey for publications and periodicals internationally and in 2004 co-authored, with Erden Kosova, the book *Jahresring 51: Szene Turkei: Abseits aber Tor* on the Turkish art scene.

Kortun, one of the most powerful figures in art, perhaps more than any other individual, has redirected the trajectory of recent Turkish art history, facilitating the introduction of a great number of foreign artists to Turkey and of Turkish artists to the international community.

