

A NEW SPACE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

ARTER OPENS ON MAY 8TH WITH ITS FIRST EXHIBITION “STARTER” CURATED BY RENÉ BLOCK

“**ARTER –Space for Art,**” an initiative of the **Vehbi Koç Foundation (VKF)**, will be opened May 8th. Its inaugural exhibition “**Starter**”, **curated by René Block** and containing **more than 160 works** by **87 artists**, presents contemporary art from Turkey and abroad, all belonging to the contemporary art collection of the Vehbi Koç Foundation.

ARTER is built as an exhibition space and is not a museum; furthermore there are no plans to convert the current building into a museum in the future.

ARTER’s programmes are created with the aim of encouraging production of contemporary artworks both nationally and internationally, providing a platform of visibility for artistic practices - especially in Turkey - producing and presenting thematic contemporary exhibitions from the VKF contemporary art collection. In terms of funding, exhibiting, promotion and publications, as well as support for educational activities, ARTER will offer artists a sustainable infrastructure for artistic production. By means of new productions, commissioned for periodic and themed exhibitions, ARTER will also contribute to the development of the VKF contemporary art collection. In addition to presenting exhibitions curated from the Koc Family’s private collections and archives, joint productions with international institutions are intended to be included in the programme.

As a new art space in Istanbul, ARTER will provide an experimental and testing ground in preparation for the museum complex the Vehbi Koç Foundation envisions.

Restoration work for the ARTER building and its conversion into an exhibition space began three years ago, which was completed in September 2009. The building is situated on Istiklal Avenue, Istanbul’s main artery for culture and art. It is thought to have been built in the 1910s by Petraki Meymaridis Efendi, and was restored under the supervision of Fahrettin Ayanlar, master architect and Coordinator of Projects and Construction at the VKF. The renewed building has an exhibition area of 864 m² spread over four floors.

The members of ARTER’s executive board are **Ömer Koç** (Chairman), **Erdal Yıldırım** (President of the VKF), **Melih Fereli** (Culture and Arts Advisor of the VKF), **Bahattin Öztuncay** (General Coordinator and Curator) and **Emre Baykal** (Exhibitions Director and Curator).

ARTER's first exhibition "Starter" brings together contemporary artists from the 1960s until the present day.

"**Starter**" ARTER's inaugural exhibition will be opened on Saturday the 8th of May, presenting works from the VKF contemporary art collection. The exhibition is curated by **René Block**, who also played a significant advisory role in the formation of the collection. **René Block**'s connection to Turkey intensified through the 4th International Istanbul Biennial in 1995 and the concurrent Fluxus Retrospective, both of which he curated, followed by the "Adventure İstiklâl" exhibition series at the Yapı Kredi Kazım Taşkent Art Gallery, which was made possible with support from the VKF. **Block** is also the editor of the artist monographs that accompany this series.

The opening exhibition "**Starter**" comprises over 160 works by 87 artists. The exhibition also offers an art historical perspective from the 1960s to the present, with works from Turkey and abroad. A list of artists in the exhibition is attached.

The catalogue and visual identity of the exhibition were designed by **Esen Karol**, who was also responsible for ARTER's corporate ID.

ARTER's first exhibition "Starter" will open on Saturday the 8th of May, and will run through September 19th. ARTER's opening hours will be 11 am – 7 pm Tuesdays - Thursdays, and 12 am – 8 pm Fridays - Sundays. Entrance to ARTER is free.

Vehbi Koç Foundation

Founded in 1969, the VKF began its activities in the arts with the **Sadberk Hanım Museum**, Turkey's first private museum. Since 2007, **VKF** has extended its activities to contemporary art. Among these are **TANAS**, a project space for contemporary art from Turkey, which was opened in Berlin in 2008; the "**Adventure İstiklâl**" exhibition series held at Yapı Kredi Kazım Taşkent Art Gallery- Istanbul, and the support provided to the publication of the artist monographs that accompany this series. The institutional contemporary art collection, funded and managed by the **Vehbi Koç Foundation**, has been instigated in 2007 by Mr. Ömer Koç, an avid collector of contemporary art himself, with the objective of forming the backbone of a future contemporary art museum in Istanbul, currently in the process of planning.

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“Starter”

Works from the Vehbi Koç Foundation Contemporary Art Collection

Curated by : René Block

8 May – 19 September 2010

ARTISTS

Adel Abidin
Lene Adler Petersen
Nevin Aladağ
Halil Altındere
Lauri Astala
Fikret Atay
Ay-O
Maja Bajević
Joseph Beuys
Barbara Bloom
Claus Böhmler
George Brecht
KP Brehmer
Elina Brotherus
Stanley Brouwn
John Cage
Sophie Calle
Mircea Cantor
Olga Chernysheva
Giuseppe Chiari
Cengiz Çekil
Anetta Mona Chişa & Lucia Tkáčová
Henning Christiansen
John Coplans
Braco Dimitrijević
Maria Eichhorn
Cevdet Erek
Ayşe Erkmen
Harun Farocki
Robert Filliou
Terry Fox
Dan Graham
Asta Gröting
Nilbar Güreş
Kristján Gudmundsson
Richard Hamilton
Al Hansen
Dick Higgins
Rebecca Horn
K.H. Hödicke
Joe Jones

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Ilya & Emilia Kabakov
Šejla Kamberić
Aino Kannisto
Allan Kaprow
Gülsün Karamustafa
Diana Keller
William Kentridge
Alison Knowles
Servet Koçyiğit
Julius Koller
Jarosław Kozłowski
Arthur Köpcke
Konrad Lueg
George Maciunas
Walter Marchetti
Olaf Metzel
Mandana Moghaddam
Aydan Murtezaoğlu
Zoran Naskovski
Navid Nuur
Miklos Onucsan
Ahmet Öğüt
Erkan Özgen
Ebru Özseçen
Nam June Paik
Dan Perjovschi
Goran Petercol
Sigmar Polke
Sophia Pompéry
Diter Rot
Annette Ruenzler
Reiner Ruthenbeck
Michael Sailstorfer
Karin Sander
Carles Santos
Stuart Sherman
Serge Spitzer
Superflex
Bülent Şangar
Cengiz Tekin
Endre Tót
Nasan Tur
Ben Vautier
Wolf Vostell
Emmett Williams
Maaria Wirkkala