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「 SAHA 」

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## Introduction

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We are happy to share SAHA's third annual activity report, covering supported projects, collaborations, and membership programs in 2014.

SAHA has become a significant example of collective support mechanism for artists, curators, art historians, critics, initiatives, and non-profit organizations both locally in Turkey and globally. The members' patronage facilitated the participation of artists and curators from Turkey in internationally recognized exhibitions, including Documenta, Gwangju Biennial, Istanbul Biennial, São Paulo Biennial, and Venice Biennale; exhibitions taking place in world-renowned institutions such as the Barbican Gallery, Sculpture Center, Whitechapel Gallery; residencies at the Rijksakademie, Delfina Foundation and International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP), and local organizations seeking to enter the international discourse, Çanakkale, Mardin and Sinop Biennials.

To date, SAHA supported the production of 123 art works and 13 publications, reaching out to 167 artists and curators in a total of 62 projects.

SAHA initiated a research program, which provides accommodation up to one week for curators and artists to stay and work in Istanbul, to facilitate their research on contemporary art production in Turkey. In 2014, 15 international artists, curators, and researchers participated in this program, benefiting from support in addition to opportunities to network and engage with the local community of cultural producers.

The number of SAHA members, 61 in 2013, went up to 75 in 2014. As in previous years, Borusan Holding, Eczacıbasi Holding, Garanti Bank, and Yıldız Holding

continued to provide institutional support for SAHA. 25 content-driven activities were organized as part of the Member Programs, both in Istanbul and abroad, including visits to exhibitions, artist studios, and private collections, as well as artist talks exclusive to members. SAHA also offered privileged/VIP access to 16 international art fairs. Accreditation for invitations to private collection and museum exhibition previews went up from 7 to 17 in 2014.

Since 2011, SAHA has carved out a niche for itself in the contemporary art world with a unique funding structure supporting artists, curators, writers, and researchers from Turkey. Founded on principles of equality, objectivity, and silent support contributions, SAHA will seek to maintain and cultivate this esteemed position through the members' and institutions' valuable contributions.

## Supported Projects

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### Spike Island, *Bristol*

SAHA provided support for the production of Cevdet Ereğ's new work realized for the exhibition held between 15 February–13 April 2014 at Spike Island.

Cevdet Ereğ's work combines video, sound, and images, often in an attempt to alter the viewer's perception and experience of a given environment. He is interested in the way we apprehend the world around us and organize our lives through measurements of space (metric system), time (calendar and clock), and music tempo (beats per minute). With this particular work, he brings into play his responses to the architecture of the gallery (the central atrium of a former factory), the sounds already present in the building and the wider context of the Bristol music scene.

### Marrakech Biennale 5

Four artists from Turkey were invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Marrakech Biennale (26 February–31 March 2014); Can & Aslı Altay, Burak Arıkan, and Cevdet Ereğ. SAHA provided support for the production of new works by the artists.

The Marrakech Biennale, asking "Where Are We Now?" drew a new mapping with Marrakech at its center, revealing and analyzing multiple axes of influence. The exhibition featured the work "An Archipelago from the Mediterranean" by Can & Aslı Altay, "Monovacation" by Burak Arıkan and "Courtyard Ornamentation with Sounding Dots and a Prison" by Cevdet Ereğ. Can & Aslı Altay were inspired by the complexities and layeredness of the city of Marrakech, creating an architectural structure accompanied by published material. "Monovacation"

by Burak Arıkan is a film generated by custom-made computer programming comprising of 20 official tourism TV commercials randomly selected out of 144 countries. Cevdet Erek focused his research around the traditional buildings of the city and developed a sonic installation.

### **Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts), London**

SAHA provided support for the production of Burak Delier's solo exhibition held between 26 March-17 May 2014 at Iniva. Delier is the first recipient of Iniva's Commissions and Exhibitions Fund, which aims to provide the next generation of artists from around the world with the opportunity to create new work.

Burak Delier exhibited a recent work and a new film commissioned by Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) at Rivington Place. Delier's work explores the relationship between capitalism and art, balancing seriousness and wit to critique society in a way that is relevant to Turkey and beyond. The artist took inspiration for the exhibition's title, "Freedom Has No Script," from the chaotic, anarchic spirit of recent uprisings and protest movements such as those in Istanbul's Gezi Park, Tahrir Square, and Occupy in New York. Works in the exhibition "Freedom Has No Script" included several film installations including Iniva's new commission "Songs of the Possessed" (2014). In this exhibition, Delier looked at the concept of economy and explored the place of 'power' in the cultural system as well as how people can resist the nature of the corporate environment.

### **Helsinki Photography Biennial 2014**

SAHA provided support for the production of new works by Serkan Taycan and Barbaros Kayan exhibited as part of the Helsinki Photography Biennial. Additional support was provided for the production of a booklet as part of Serkan Taycan's "Tumulus" project to be distributed at the exhibition held between 27 March-14 May 2014.

The biennial features contemporary art from Finland and beyond, and is organized every two years in spring. In 2014, the biennial entitled "Ecological Fallacy + Objects on Oil" examined causal relations regarding ecological issues. The curatorial framework of HPB14 was developed by Istanbul-based curator and designer Başak Şenova, Finnish Mustarinda Association, and Branko Franceschi (Zagreb). Barbaros Kayan's project was presented in various locations around Helsinki city center and Taycan's project "Tumulus" was included in the Ecological Fallacy exhibition at the Finnish Museum of Photography.

### **Campo Adentro, Carrícola**

SAHA supported Can Altay's project in Carrícola, Spain developed in collaboration with Campo Adentro.

Can Altay's project was inspired by his decade-long co-operation with the inhabitants of Carrícola (Valencia). The Villagers of Carrícola started practicing ecological cultivation at a time when sustainable agriculture methods were limited. Carrícola villagers not only pioneered this method of cultivation in the region but also promoted local production by involving the neighboring villages. The artist collaborated with this new initiative in

order to enable the establishment of a weekly market for local production. This project was initiated in collaboration with Campo Adentro and aimed to propose new forms and methods to encourage and eventually sustain this initiative.

### **Heidelberger Kunstverein, *Heidelberg***

SAHA provided support for the production of new work by İz Öztat for her solo exhibition at Heidelberger Kunstverein held between 17 May-3 August 2014.

The exhibition entitled “Conducted in Depth and Projected at Length” was a collaboration between İz Öztat and Zişan, which attends to the coincidence between the imaginary potential of a river island and the destiny of Adakale, a submerged island in the Danube River within the borders of present-day Romania. İz Öztat’s journey leads to an island that no longer exists. Öztat’s work imagines a river island articulated collectively. The dialogue between İz and Zişan was realized in the form of a publication that accompanied the exhibition.

### **Dortmunder Kunstverein, *Dortmund***

SAHA supported the production of new works by Özlem Günyol and Mustafa Kunt for the exhibition entitled “Review: Özlem Günyol & Mustafa Kunt” held between 23 May-20 July 2014 at Dortmunder Kunstverein.

On the occasion of the first exhibition at the new premises of the Dortmunder Kunstverein, Özlem Günyol and Mustafa Kunt produced four new works specifically designed and purpose-built for this particular exhibition. Three works are on view in the new space of the institution; the work

entitled “Hemzemin” was displayed in the vicinity of the Dortmunder Kunstverein. A new publication providing an overview of the work was published by Kettler Publishers.

### **Ludwig Maximilian University – Platform Munich**

SAHA supported the production of a new publication named “The Rebirth of the Turkish Delight: Cool Istanbul”, developed by Seçil Yersel and presented at Platform Munich (30 May-13 June 2014).

“Call it Cool” was a research-based exhibition project presented at Platform, Munich. The project was an extension of the research with the title “Changing Imaginations of Istanbul from Oriental to the Cool City” based in Ludwig Maximilian University and funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The main objective of the exhibition was to broaden the scope of the research on the concept of ‘cool’ within the pop-historical, cultural and artistic perspectives. The project involved the exhibition “Free Market Road Show Istanbul” and the publication “The Rebirth of the Turkish Delight: Cool Istanbul”.

### **Kunsthalle Basel**

SAHA provided support for the production of the new work Nevin Aladağ realized at Kunsthalle Basel (15 June 2014-21 June 2015).

Nevin Aladağ conceived the installation “Marsch” for the back wall of Kunsthalle Basel. The wall served as a vast sheet of music, on which the opening bars of the “Rondo alla Turca” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were represented. For this installation, the artist conducted extensive research in the military museums in Istanbul. Aladağ modeled cannon balls used by the Ottoman Army in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and

produced 94 pieces in 4 different sizes. The artist installed the cannon balls on a giant staff drawn on the wall. Marsch's theme is based on cultural motifs in music and related to sociological and political grounds.

### **Sinopale 5 – International Sinop Biennial**

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Sinopale-International Sinop Biennial, "Clusters and Crystals: Observing at Point Zero," took place in Sinop from 12 July to 31 August 2014. SAHA supported the production of works by the participating artists from Turkey; Fatih Aydoğdu, Çağla Sönmez Çakır, Nezaket Ekici, Burak Kabadayı, Hülya Karakaş, Evrim Kavcar, Pınar Öğrenci, Yasemin Özcan, Serkan Taycan, Aylin Tekiner, Ezgi Tok, Eşref Yıldırım, m-a-u-s-e-r (Aslı Serbest&Mona Mahal), and Yapı-Sanat Kooperatifi.

This edition of Sinopale re-evaluated the knowledge that was marginalized, excluded, and forgotten. In order to create social development, the exhibition aimed to increase awareness towards ecology and proposed a social environment that is inspired by and respectful of the environment.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Biennale**

SAHA provided support for the position of Fatoş Üstek as Associate Curator of the 10<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Biennale held between 5 September-9 November 2014. The Biennale entitled "Burning Down the House" explored the process of burning and transformation, a cycle of obliteration and renewal witnessed throughout history. The tenth edition of Biennial invited four artists from Turkey: Banu Cennetoğlu, Gülsün Karamustafa, Güneş Terkol, and Nil Yalter. Banu Cennetoğlu's commission "Library of Spirits" for the 10<sup>th</sup> Gwangju Biennale was a part of her

ongoing series of works around the tradition of spirit making. Focusing on the social and historical context of soju production in South Korea, Cennetoğlu travelled across the country visiting associations of soju production, meeting individual soju makers, and collecting soju bottles (with the supportive collaboration of the Korean artist Donghee Kim). "Prison Paintings" (1972-1978) is a series of gouache works that artist Gülsün Karamustafa produced in the aftermath of her six-month imprisonment in Turkey in the 1970s following her arrest for political activism. Güneş Terkol's series of banner works "Against the Current" were collectively produced over the last five years in workshops with women, where the artist encourages them to voice their desires, fears, concerns, and discomfort. The installation "Le Chevalier d'Eon" (1978), by artist Nil Yalter documents the sex change of Yalter's partner at the time.

### **31<sup>st</sup> São Paulo Biennial**

SAHA supported the participation of Gülsün Karamustafa, Halil Altındere, Nilbar Güreş, Burak Arıkan, Zeyno Pekünlü, Fırat Genç, İmre Azem, Yaşar Adanalı, Vasıf Kortun, Ali Taptık, and Serkan Taycan at the 31<sup>st</sup> São Paulo Biennial held between 6 September-7 December 2014.

The title "How to Talk About Things That Don't Exist?" proposed by the curatorial team - Charles Esche, Galit Eilat, Nuria Enguita Mayo, Pablo Lafuente and Oren Sagiv - was a poetic call to the promise of art, and addressed these things that don't exist in several ways: how to talk about them, how to learn from them, how to live with them, how to struggle with them. The exhibition section of the biennial included more than 70 projects, produced by about 100 participants and totaling around 250 artworks.

### **Sirius Arts Centre, *Cobh***

“We All Live on the Same Sea” was a group exhibition that took place at Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh, Ireland between the dates 13 September–12 October 2014. Curated by Rana Öztürk, the exhibition was inspired by the seaside location of Sirius Arts Centre on the banks of Cork Harbour. SAHA provided production support for the exhibition.

Contrary to the general association of the sea with separation, distant lands, and the idea of other shores beyond the horizon, this exhibition sought to view the sea as a vehicle for unification. In this era of globalization and digitalization, while conventional sea traffic continues as a tradition of narrating travels and the possibilities concerning distant places, the sea floor facilitates greater connectivity through transoceanic submarine networks that allow instant communication. The exhibition explores the notion of the sea and its role as a connecting force between places either through travels in the form of immigration, vacation, commerce and adventure, or through other movements within or even beneath the sea.

### **4<sup>th</sup> International Çanakkale Biennial**

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of International Çanakkale Biennial entitled “Only the Dead Have Seen the End of War” took place in Çanakkale, Turkey from 27 September to 2 November 2014. SAHA supported the production of the works by Gülçin Aksoy, Bashir Borlakov, Songül Boyraz, Ergin Çavuşoğlu, Ersan Deveci, Nezaket Ekici, Ayşe Erkmen, Murat Gök, T. Melih Görgün, Güven İncirlioğlu, Sıtkı Kösemem, Raziye Kubat, Pınar Öğrenci, Ahmet Öktem, Tunca Subaşı, Erdal Sezer, and Viron Vert.

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Çanakkale Biennial aimed to examine and interpret the political, social, and cultural events and effects of the World War I which are still perceivable today. The Biennial intended to create a visual sphere and bring forward the discussion on the major human movement (forced immigrations) and its consequences with special emphasis on the rupture between the people living on vast territories of the Ottoman and Russian Empires. The Biennial also focused on the differentiation of economic systems and modernism with reference to the new era of European and Soviet colonialism. 4<sup>th</sup> International Çanakkale Biennial took place in public spaces as well as in venues which have historical and social significance.

### **Castello di Rivoli, *Torino***

SAHA supported the production of Fatma Bucak’s new publication on the occasion of the exhibition held between 7 November 2014–12 January 2015 at Castello di Rivoli. The publication entitled “I Must Say a Word About Fear” was edited by Özge Ersoy and designed by Esen Karol. The publication was presented as one of the works in the exhibition. The book includes texts and contributions by William Wells (director of Townhouse, Cairo) and Tom Stevenson (independent journalist). Bucak’s works embrace performance, video and photography and reflect observations of reality through fictitious and mythological figures. The artist elaborates on various real stories and narrates them from different perspectives of political power and sexual identity. Bucak focuses on significant themes such as the hegemony of man, religion, cultural displacement, presence and absence.

### **Kunstraum Innsbruck**

SAHA supported the production of a new publication entitled “Failed” by the artist Nasan Tur. The book was published on the occasion of the exhibition entitled “Layers” which was held between 8 November 2014 - 17 January 2015 at Kunstraum Innsbruck. The book is the most comprehensive publication on the artist’s practice and includes texts by curators Mario Codagnato and Hou Hanru. The book was published by Kerber Verlag and co-edited by Karin Pernegger (director of Kunstraum Innsbruck) and Nasan Tur.

In the main space of Kunstraum Innsbruck, Nasan Tur presented the wall piece “Police Paintings” (2014). The grey color fields were appropriations and re-enactments of graffiti found at urban spaces and respectively their overpaintings, which emerged from the interaction between political civic protest and the Istanbul police. The video entitled “Magic” (2013), shown at the Kunstraum Project Space, deals with transformative processes and the manipulation of our perception of reality in the cultural and political sense.

### **Broad Art Museum & Protocinema, East Lansing**

SAHA supported the production of the project by Ahmet Ögüt for the exhibition at Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University. The works were installed in public spaces at the Broad MSU for the exhibition held between November 23, 2014 and April 12, 2015.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University collaborated with Protocinema, an art organization based in Istanbul. The project entitled “Day After Debt: A Call for Student Loan Relief” was initiated by Ahmet Ögüt and examined

student debt in higher education in the United States, in collaboration with Debt Collective.

Ögüt invited artists to design and produce a series of sculptures which aimed to function as the center for the collection of the public’s contributions in order to minimize the student’s loan debt.

### **Portikus, Frankfurt**

SAHA provided support for the production of new work by the artist Elif Erkan for her solo exhibition at Portikus (6 December 2014-1 February 2015).

Erkan’s first institutional solo exhibition entitled “Concentration of Forces” showcased a new site-specific installation. In this exhibition, the artist focused on her recent work “Plate Pieces”, a tableau of smashed plate pieces assembled together with a plaster. Erkan focused on the aesthetic qualities and the past experiences attached to these objects.

Elif Erkan had previously attended a 9-month artist residency program of WIELS, Brussels in 2014 with the support of SAHA.

### **Schauraum, Vienna**

SAHA provided support for curator Işın Önel’s one-year programming at the Schauraum. As a part of this program, Önel invited Ali Miharbi, Fatih Aydoğdu, and Pınar Yoldaş to participate in talks and exhibitions held at the Schauraum.

Işın Önel participated as a guest curator at the institution and worked under the theme of “Summer of Sounds” developed by the MuseumsQuartier. Within this framework, Önel invited the artists Ali Miharbi and Pınar Yoldaş for residencies. Önel

curated Pinar Yoldaş's solo exhibition entitled "Finally Feeling Fine?". As part of this exhibition, a conversation on the "Politics of Sound" between the curator Wolfgang Fiel and the artist Fatih Aydoğdu took place on June 27, 2014.

### **Grant for the Sustainability of Independent Art Initiatives (2014–2015), Turkey**

The initiatives are not only crucial in providing quality and publicly accessible programs for the local community but also essential in fostering the careers of curators and emerging artists whilst contributing to the development of art production. The grant is initiated in order to facilitate the growth and sustainability of independent non-profit art initiatives in Turkey. The emphasis was placed on the art initiative's ongoing public programs and activities. With this grant, SAHA supported three independent artist-run spaces; 5533 (Istanbul), Pasaj (Istanbul), and Torun (Ankara) in 2014–2015.

#### **5533**

5533 is a contemporary art space founded by the artists Nancy Atakan and Volkan Aslan. Located in the Istanbul Textile Traders Market (İMÇ) in Unkapanı neighborhood, the initiative aims to create a platform where artists exchange ideas. 5533 hosts workshops and organize screenings, exhibitions, and performances sporadically. Each year, 5533's co-founders invite a curator on a 12-month program in order to encourage short-term projects and collaborate with other artists/curators.

#### **Pasaj**

As an artist initiative, Pasaj aims to function as a multi-purpose space in the center of Istanbul. Pasaj provides opportunities for the artists and encourages

artistic and creative practices in order to generate a public program. It hosts innovative and alternative contemporary art projects and aims to perform as a collaborative space where artists and artist groups are encouraged to produce new work and have an opportunity to exhibit them.

#### **Torun**

Torun is an independent art space established with the mission to share and exhibit art in Küçükesat, Ankara. It is sustained by the contributions of the community. The initiative offers its two-story apartment to the artists and organizes parallel art events that work in collaboration with the artists. The initiative aims to encourage the new production of contemporary art and seeks out to create a platform where art discussions and talks take place.

## Collaborations Program

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SAHA builds short and long-term collaborations with international institutions in order to create meaningful relationships in the artistic community while cultivating contemporary art from Turkey on an international scale. In 2014, SAHA collaborated with 7 international institutions with a special commitment to SAHA's remit of supporting new art.

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Apartment Project, Berlin

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Delfina Foundation, London

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Independent Curators International (ICI), New York

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Künstlerhaus Stuttgart

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Rijksakademie, Amsterdam

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The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP),  
New York

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Witte de With | Center for Contemporary Art,  
Rotterdam

## Research Programs

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SAHA initiated a research program, which provides accommodation up to one week for curators and artists to stay and work in Istanbul, to facilitate their research on contemporary art production in Turkey. In 2014, 15 international artists, curators, and researchers participated in this program, benefiting from support in addition to opportunities to network and engage with the local community of cultural producers.

## Members Programs

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### Programs Abroad

10<sup>th</sup> Berlin Gallery Weekend

10<sup>th</sup> Manifesta European Biennial of Contemporary Art, St. Petersburg

31<sup>st</sup> São Paulo Biennial and Inhotim Program, São Paulo & Belo Horizonte

### Programs in Turkey

Exhibition Visits

Marc Quinn “The Sleep of Reason” Exhibition, Arter

“Dismantling the Archive” Exhibition, SALT Galata

Ankara Program

Exhibition Tour: Sıraselviler Area

“Common Ground: Earth”, John Gerrard “Exercise”, Marco Brambilla “Megaplex Trilogy” Exhibitions, Borusan Contemporary

Exhibition Tour: Karaköy Area

Leyla Gediz “The Mansion with Rugs” Exhibition

Christian Marclay “The Clock” Screening, SALT Beyoğlu

Füsun Onur “Through the Looking Glass” Exhibition, Arter

Spot “Anyone Could Be a Sculptor One Day” Exhibition, El Hamra Han

İsmail Saray “From England with Love” Exhibition, SALT Galata

Kalliopi Lemos “I Am I, Between Worlds and Between Shadows” Exhibition, Ioakimion School for Girls

Artist Talk with Kezban Arca Batıbeki at ISTANBUL’74, Art Sümer and Elipsis Gallery Visit

### SAHA Talks

14<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial:

A presentation by Curator Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev and Participating Artists, SAHA Headquarters

### Artist Studio Visits

İnci Eviner

Kezban Arca Batıbeki

Taner Ceylan

### Private Collection Visits

Gülin & Emre Dökmeci

Nesrin Esirtgen

Füsun & Faruk Eczacıbaşı

Billur & Atilla Tacir

Tuğba & Öner Kocabeyoğlu

## **Related Events in Turkey and Abroad**

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## **SAHA Members**

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## **Corporate Supporters**

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SAHA ASSOCIATION, 2015