SAHA Studio's 12th Term is Beginning!

Founded by SAHA in 2019 as a program for research, interaction, and creation to support the independent production of visual artists, curators, and writers, SAHA Studio begins its 12th term between July – December 2026 with **Ateş Alpar** (Istanbul), **Osman Bozkurt** (Istanbul), **Şafak Çatalbaş** (Istanbul), **Etem Şahin** (Izmir), and **Doğa Yirik** (Istanbul). With a focus on research, production, and exchange, SAHA Studio offers resident artists a six-month program that includes a personal workspace, a stipend, and a production budget, while also aiming to enrich their research and production processes.

As a program focused on research, production, and sharing, SAHA Studio's participants regularly meet with art professionals from SAHA's national and international collaboration network, Curatorial Program guests, Selection and Advisory Board members, and artists from previous program periods, developing their networks while receiving feedback that contributes to their projects. Throughout the term, artists are also included in various events where they have the opportunity to share their research and production processes with audiences. As with every term, the Midterm Gathering for the 12th term is planned to take place in October, at the midpoint of the period. At the end of the program, within the scope of SAHA Studio Open in December, the projects developed throughout the period are presented to the public in different formats, together with events and presentations proposed by the artists.

Active in Beyoğlu between 2019 and 2023, SAHA Studio has, with its 12th period, provided 59 different artists and artist groups with opportunities for producing work, receiving feedback, learning together, and developing events and new connections. İMÇ, where the SAHA Studio program has been restructured across three separate spaces, continues to be a complex with ties to visual art and artists through the modern artworks it houses, the 9th Istanbul Biennial it hosted in 2007, and the independent art initiatives working in its various shops. İMÇ's rich production environment, intertwined with craftspeople from various sectors, creative enterprises, and different artistic disciplines, offers SAHA Studio's guest artists not only a physical space but also an inspiring and multi-layered context. This multifaceted interaction allows artists to develop their projects through interdisciplinary approaches.

Up-to-date information on SAHA Studio's 12th term artists' processes and the program calendar can be accessed through SAHA's website and social media accounts.

For its 12th term between July – December 2026 and the 13th term between January – June 2027, the new preliminary jury is composed of **Sibel Horada, Metehan Özcan, Merve Ünsal, Cansu Çakar, İrem Tok, Nadir Sönmez** and **Suat Öğüt**, from the seven different terms of the program, while the Selection and Advisory Board includes artist **Nuri Kuzucan**, independent curator **Duygu Demir**, and SAHA Director **Serra Yentürk**.

About the Artists:

Ateş Alpar is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice encompasses performance, video, photography, and text-based. Alpar's work focuses on themes such as borders, queer communities, identity, archives, memory, and cultural and ecological destruction. While questioning the position of the body, communities, and geography within homogeneous historical narratives, Alpar prioritizes making the permeable and ambiguous nature of borders visible. The artist approaches encounters with power dynamics not as linear continuities but within the context of ruptures and processes of reconstruction. Alpar reflects on and creates work, particularly centered on queer communities, regarding the possibilities of archiving, the production of collective memory, and the alternative historiography. Alpar lives and works in Istanbul.

Osman Bozkurt's productions focus as much on the socio-geography and architecture of the city as they do on the dynamics of remembering-forgetting and acceptance-rejection within the context of identity and collective memory, alongside public creativity, paradoxes, and the realities lying behind them. While the spaces, ambiguities, and boundaries between the public and private spheres lie at the center of the artist's field of inquiry, ordinary places, moments, and situations that often go unnoticed and which we pass by every day frequently become the subject of his works. Shaping his practice within the framework of neoliberal transformations, history, and sociology, Bozkurt creates a new space of memory in his installations through photography and video, utilizing archives, found objects, sounds, and remains that are excluded from official collective memory .Graduating from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Photography, the artist has produced editorial projects for publications, collaborated with designers on joint projects, and worked as a lecturer at various universities. Producing in the field of contemporary art since the early 2000s, Bozkurt is also the co-founder and co-director of *PiST/// Interdisciplinary Project Space*, an independent artist initiative founded in 2006. He lives and works in Istanbul.

Şafak Çatalbaş graduated from the Department of Film and Television at the Faculty of Fine Arts at Marmara University in 2003, and subsequently earned a master's degree (2007) and a PhD (2023) from the Faculty of Art and Design at Yıldız Technical University. In her work, she uses various media such as performance, video, text, and installation, combining performative and introspective processes with a playful approach. Her practice explores the embodiment of liminal spaces associated with borders, doors, and scales. She is interested in infiltrating the language-like structures within social-public spaces in everyday life in order to disrupt and reveal their flows. She approaches new forms of expression and possibilities of collaborative learning enabled by performative research through practices that create conditions where the unexpected can emerge. She has participated in individual and collective projects, artist-in-residence programs, and exhibitions in Germany, Hungary, France, Austria, Georgia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Italy, Cyprus, and Turkey. She is a member of the HemCereyan artist collective, which conducts performative artistic research through a site-specific, process-oriented, and transdisciplinary approach. She continues her work in Istanbul and teaches courses in contemporary art, visual communication design, and new media at various universities.

Etem Şahin studied Cinema in Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle and had his master's degree on Art and New Media in Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne University. He worked as a lecturer for the department of

Cinema and Digital Media in Izmir University of Economics from 2013 to 2015. Together with Cenkhan Aksoy They founded Sütüdyo devam, open art space and an artist initiative. Since 2011, He performs with Gizem Karakaş under the stage name of Medyartiz. He also worked as coordinator/curator for various art events and non profit art spaces. He is a member of Büyük Siyah Kapı artist initiative. Since 2017 he mostly presents his paintings.

Doğa Yirik is a documentarian and filmmaker working across contemporary art and journalism. He researches rights-based struggles erased from public memory, documenting the histories power distorts and the people it pushes to the margins. He records testimony through rudimentary, intuitive methods and builds it into oral history archives. He reworks the material he gathers through subjective historiography and nonlinear video editing, and ascribes no special significance to factual truth or to official narrative. In 2018 he was project coordinator and video documentation lead for the Istanbul leg of Forensic Architecture's investigation *The Destruction of Yazidi Heritage*. Between 2019 and 2021 he worked on documentary teams at journalism and production organizations including Teyit and fayn. He co-founded the independent cultural organization AVTO in 2017 and runs its production and design works.

About SAHA and SAHA Studio

Founded with the aim of supporting the production and development environments of artists, curators and writers working in the field of visual arts from Turkey and increasing their interaction with international art institutions and networks, SAHA has supported more than 650 artists, curators, writers and art initiatives for their projects in 52 different countries and in 313 non-profit museums, biennials and art institutions since 2011.

Designed by SAHA in 2019, as a research, interaction and production program for artists, curators and writers, SAHA Studio provided space and support for 59 artists and artist collectives from various cities in Turkey, with the launch of its 12th term in July 2026, as well as 10 curators from abroad through institutional collaborations.

In addition to meetings, presentations, and gatherings designed within the program, activities such as research trips within and outside the city, exhibition and collection visits, and workshops contribute to participants' collective learning and development. Throughout the program, artists share their processes with the audience through mid-term meetings, studio visits, and talks, while also showcasing their works at the SAHA Studio Open event held at the end of the term, which also includes a series of public events.

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