

ODUNPAZARI MODERN MUSEUM — Odunpazarı Modern Museum is delighted to announce the 21 October 2020 release of

The People Who Made OMM

Photography by Emilio Hope

Edited by Büşra Erkara

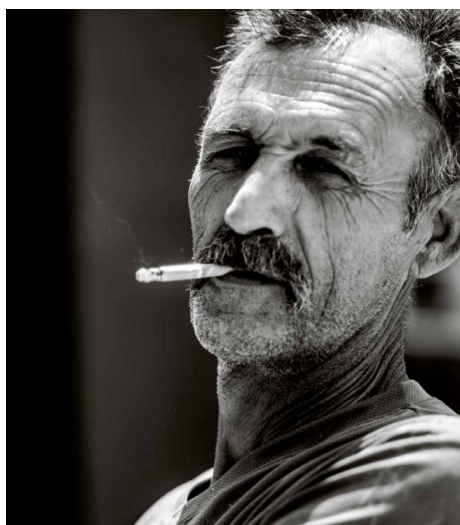


The People Who Made OMM is a photography book dedicated to the construction workers who built OMM — Odunpazarı Modern Museum; a major new cultural landmark designed by Kengo Kuma and Associates in Eskişehir, Turkey, that opened in September 2019.

Shedding light on the labour and craftsmanship that formed the backbone of the museum, the book features monochrome portraits of OMM's makers by renowned art and fashion photographer Emilio Hope, architectural photographs by Batuhan Keskiner, and personal interviews with OMM's construction team conducted by the museum's Editorial Director Büşra Erkara and Istanbul-based journalist Paul Benjamin Osterlund. The book was designed by Istanbul-based creative studio, Studio PUL.

Inspiration for the project came several months prior to the museum's opening when a staff member overheard OMM's construction manager, Mehmet Akif Güler, giving a detailed and impassioned description of the building and future plans for it. Despite the cold weather, his responses were so detailed and his excitement so contagious he could be mistaken for a museum guide.

As time went on, it became apparent that the 300 construction workers responsible for transforming OMM - from a ditch in the ground, to an empty frame, then into a multi-story building and finally the landmark it is today - were not only as familiar with the museum as Mehmet was, but just as proud and excited to participate in its inception. This personal pride became a source of inspiration for the book, in response to the unfortunate fact that perspectives of labourers on the buildings they create are rarely sought. It is not uncommon for a worker who may have spent months or years creating a building to never return again after it opens to the public.



Aydin, 21

Suspended Ceiling Installer
Mardin



How did you come to work in this field?
My older brother has been doing this for almost 12 years, he was the one who introduced me to it. We work together.

What do you think of the OMM building?
It's rare to encounter such a distinctive building. It brought a breath of fresh air to Eskigehir.

Have you had a chance to review the works in the museum?
I've only been here for a few days. Unfortunately, I haven't had the chance to take a closer look at most of them.

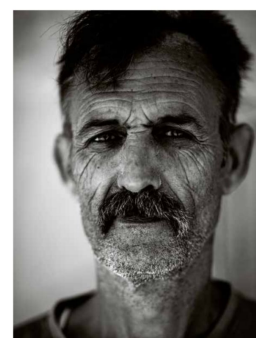
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48



28



Monochrome portraits from The People Who Made OMM

Ziya Kanbur, Ramazan Korkmaz, Eşref Koçak; the lined faces of these intimate portraits speak to the audience and tell stories in themselves. ***The People Who Made OMM*** is dedicated to the construction team and hopes to immortalize them in gratitude for their labour, craftsmanship and contribution to an iconic building that will serve generations to come. The resulting 18 monochrome portraits are a testament to their subjects' commitment to their craft.

In support of their contribution, loyalty cards and free entry to the museum were gifted by OMM Founder Erol Tabanca to everyone who contributed to its construction, so they are able to access the collections and exhibitions with their families whenever they wish.

Photographer Emilio Hope said, "*The aim of our project was fairly simple--to give a face and a voice to the workers behind the museum. It wasn't just important to create something beautiful aesthetically, we wanted to create something of social significance. OMM is a museum that was built by the community, for the community. Featuring workers who literally built the museum aligns with the ethos of OMM.*"

The book is available to purchase in both English (limited edition run of 500) and Turkish (limited edition run of 1000) from the OMM Shop in Eskişehir and [Minoa](#) (Akaretler) in Istanbul. Publication date: 21 October 2021.

Odunpazarı Modern Museum © 2020

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Notes to Editors

For more information and image requests, please contact:

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About Emilio Hope

Emilio Hope is an art and fashion photographer known for her idiosyncratic fashion editorials and portraits. Influenced by photographers from William Eggleston and Paolo Roversi to Peter Lindbergh, she has in turn developed an aesthetic that is instantly recognisable for its realism and measured composition. Her work has been featured by Grazia, Vanity Fair Italy, Vogue Mexico, Stella Magazine, Red, Financial Times, Sunday Times Style, iD, ES, Art Forum and NyLon amongst others. www.emily-hope.com

About OMM

OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum, is a major museum and distinctive architectural landmark designed by Kengo Kuma and Associates, which opened in September 2019. Founded by art collector and businessman Erol Tabanca, the museum is the first of its kind in Eskişehir, a university city in north west Turkey. The museum houses an internationally significant permanent collection and hosts a programme of multidisciplinary exhibitions, produced in collaboration with leading curators and creatives. The exhibition programme is complemented by a dynamic public programme, offering seminars, artist talks and workshops.

Follow OMM's current exhibitions, news and events on the museum's website and social media channels.

www.omm.art | [@ommxart](https://www.instagram.com/ommxart)