

## **OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum: Major new museum announces Open Call for Artist Residency Programme in Eskişehir, Turkey**



OMM Artist Residency Programme Open Call. Photo: Murathan Özbek

OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum in Eskişehir, Turkey has announced an open call for a two and a half month fully-funded residency in Spring 2020, open to artists from across the globe.

The residency is the first official season of a long-term guest artist programme developed by the major new museum, which will see international artists invited to create work in a dynamic unfamiliar environment.

Supporting collaboration among participants, OMM's flagship residency programme aims to bring together creatives from different backgrounds to engage in productive dialogues, encouraging experimental thinking, collective methodologies and personal growth. The program facilitates cultural exchange through artist talks, workshops and seminars exploring local practices and techniques in Eskişehir.

Applications are open until 30 January and the artists accepted will be announced on 20 February 2020. The program is open to artists from anywhere in the world.

The residency accepts all forms of artistic approaches including but not limited to painting, printmaking, photography, film, sound art, new media art, sculpture, and graphic design. Each artist will be given an individual studio space in the museum for their unrestricted use with a generous allowance for materials, and encouraged to experiment with traditional and contemporary styles of their choice.

At the end of each residency, the work of the resident artists will be displayed at the museum in a group exhibit with fellow residents.

Idil Tabanca, Chairperson and Creative Director of OMM, said:

*“I want OMM’s Artist Residency Programme to be defined by its exciting, creative and open-minded approach. We want artists from diverse cities and cultures, who practise different artistic techniques, to participate in our flagship residency and bring a global perspective to OMM. In bringing international creatives to be inspired by our iconic new museum we are creating a bridge for cultural exchange between Eskişehir and the world.”*

Candidates who wish to participate in the program should submit their application free of charge via [email](#) by 30 January 2020. The program aims to host 3 artists each semester and lasts for two and a half months. Further information about the application procedure is available [here](#).

In order to recruit a diverse and talented cohort of applicants, guest artists will be selected by a board of leading figures in the field of arts.

### **About OMM INN / Eskişehir**

Located two hours outside Istanbul and with a young population comprised of more than 130,000 students, three universities, museums, and parks, Eskişehir is one of the most vibrant cities in Turkey which has been enriched by the cultural offer of OMM.

Resident artists will be given a room at OMM INN, the boutique hotel designed as an extension of OMM. Built partially inside an Ottoman-era home, the hotel’s design puts a contemporary twist on the town’s traditional wooden architecture and echoes the stacked timber design of the adjoining museum.

Situated in the museum square, guests will have full-board access to five different museum-owned restaurants and cafes.

### **Third Space - OMM Residency Exhibition #1 (4 January - 1 February 2020)**

This will be OMM’s second residency term, though the first to be chosen via an open call. From September to December 2019, two artists from different backgrounds were invited to participate in the inaugural programme and produce a collective exhibition. *Third Place* is an exhibition bringing together the work of Tyler Thacker (USA) and Erin Wolf Mommsen (Dominican Republic), showcasing the artists’ explorations around the theme of *biomimicry* while in Eskişehir - the design and production of materials, structures, and systems that are modelled on biological entities and processes.

Produced alongside each other, the works manifest the dichotomy between the artists sharing a common theme and the same unaccustomed environment. While Thacker approaches the subject through looking at the destructive and regenerative forces of nature such as water and fire, Mommsen develops a more intrinsic perspective through a ritualistic nest-making practice.

The works developed during their stay will go on display in an exhibition titled *Third Space* from 4 January - 2 February 2020, in the Interactive Space situated on the ground floor of the museum.

— ENDS —

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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Press images are available to download [here](#).

## PROGRAM DATES

2020 Spring Session:

- Applications Open: January 1, 2020
- Application Deadline: January 30, 2020
- Acceptances Announced: February 20, 2020
- Spring Session: March 30, 2020 – June 30, 2020

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the residency, artists are required to submit the following via email to [residency@omm.art](mailto:residency@omm.art) by 30 January 2020:

- Artist bio or resume
- Artist portfolio (Must include works by the artist. Must be submitted in PDF format. Videos may not exceed 20 minutes. Files should not exceed 20MB)
- Artist mission statement
- Artist letter of intent (Please specify which term you are applying to)

The OMM Residency Program is composed of 10-week sessions open to applicants from around the world. This is a fully funded residency with little or no cost to the artist. There is no application fee. Candidates must be 18+ years old to apply. Intermediate English as a second language is required.

International artists are responsible for their travel to Turkey. Travel to Eskişehir from outside of the city is organized and expenses paid for by OMM.

OMM prefer applications from artists who have had 3+ years of professional experience. Previous formal art education is not required, however, applicants with a college degree will have priority.

Three artists are accepted to the program each session. Collectives of three people or less may apply to the program as a single candidate. The program aims to bring artists from different cultures in dialogue under the OMM roof and support their production.

Applicants can apply for more than one residency program in a given year and will be informed of the status of their application within three weeks of the application deadline. Further information about the application procedure is available [here](#).

### **About OMM - Odunpazarı Modern Museum**

OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum, is a major new museum and distinctive architectural landmark 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's permanent collection comprises over a thousand works of art spanning the 1950s to the present day, with an emphasis on artists from Turkey. OMM's ambitious exhibition programme opened with 'Vuslat', curated by Turkish curator Haldun Dostoğlu, featuring a selection of over 100 works by 65 leading Turkish and international artists, with international commissions by Japanese bamboo artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV and a virtual reality installation by British art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast.

Split over three floors, the museum has a variety of exhibition spaces that house the 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.

### **About Tyler Thacker and Erin Wolf Mommsen**

Tyler Thacker (b. 1984, USA) is a New York based artist working primarily with oil paint on canvas. His most recent exhibitions include Double Bind, his first solo show in Paris with Galerie Pact, Les Hérétiques de Feu at Downs and Ross in NYC, NADA, Sunday Art Fair, curated at Powrplnt Gallery in Brooklyn, and received honorary programming from The New Centre in New York. Upon completion of artist residency at OMM, he will be exhibiting a new body of work, *Negative Interest*, made on site.

Erin Wolf Mommsen (b. 1996, Dominican Republic) is a Dominican-German visual artist based in Brooklyn, NY. The self-taught artist moved to rural Pennsylvania from the Dominican Republic at the age of nine where he struggled with the drastic cultural transition. Without knowing any English and finding it difficult to communicate in a place without any Latin community, he began looking at his art as a therapeutic tool for integration. It has since developed to focus on exploring the boundaries of language and its relationship to cultural perception.

**About Odunpazarı and Eskişehir**

OMM is located in the town of Odunpazarı – the heart of the unique city of Eskişehir. Named after the historical timber market it once hosted, Odunpazarı (meaning ‘wood market’) is Eskişehir’s oldest area of settlement, dating back to the Seljuk and Ottoman period, and is on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. Odunpazarı is best known for its narrow meandering streets and traditional wooden houses. It is home to the Complex of City Museums comprising the Museum of Modern Glass Art, the Museum of the History of the Republic and the Eskişehir Wax Museum, as well as an array of boutique hotels, artisan shops and restaurants.

Eskişehir is a university city in north west Turkey, situated between Istanbul and Ankara. Located between east and west, on the banks of the Porsuk River, Eskişehir inherits the ancient civilisations of Phrygia and the Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman Empires, encapsulating Anatolia’s rich past in the present. Today, with its numerous museums, two city parks, cultural events and festivals, young student population and scenic river, Eskişehir is a living city. Eskişehir is widely considered to be Anatolia’s capital of culture, thanks to its cultural heritage, young and dynamic population and progressive outlook, and in 2013, Eskişehir was designated Culture and Arts Capital of the Turkic World.