

OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum: Major new museum and iconic architectural landmark by Kengo Kuma and Associates is now open in Turkey



OMM by Kengo Kuma and Associates. © NAARO

- **OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum designed by Kengo Kuma and Associates opened in Eskisehir, Anatolia’s capital of culture**
- **OMM commissioned the largest work to date by Japanese bamboo artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV**
- **UK-based digital art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast showcases two multi-sensory installations with an environmental message**
- **The museum’s inaugural exhibition, “*Vuslat - The Union*” features over 100 works by 65 modern and contemporary artists predominantly from Turkey**

OMM – Odunpazarı Modern Museum, a major new museum and distinctive architectural landmark by Kengo Kuma and Associates opened to the public on Sunday 8 September. Founded by art collector and businessman Erol Tabanca, the museum is the first of its kind in Eskisehir, a university city in north west Turkey.

OMM’s innovative design, by the acclaimed Japanese architects behind the new V&A Dundee in the UK, provides a bright and spacious new home for the 1,000-piece collection of modern and

contemporary art housed inside the museum. With its stacked timber design, inspired by the surrounding streetscape of Odunpazarı and its history as a timber trading market, the 4,500m² museum stands as a new landmark that reconnects the town with its heritage, and as a progressive cultural development for Eskişehir and the Central Anatolia region at large.

Erol Tabanca, Founder of OMM, said: *“The opening of OMM marks the culmination of a visionary process for everyone involved. We are delighted to reveal this unique building, the collection and our exciting inaugural presentations to the community here in my hometown of Eskişehir and to visitors from around the world.”*

Kengo Kuma, principle of Kengo Kuma and Associates, and **Yuki Ikeguchi**, the partner leading the project, said: *“The idea for OMM was to use architecture to create a link between people and art. We were deeply inspired by the history, culture, people and streetscape of Odunpazarı, and we wanted the building to resonate on many levels. We hope that the museum will breathe new life into Eskişehir and become a central and inviting meeting point for the city.”*

Idil Tabanca, Chairperson and Creative Director of OMM, said: *“The opening of OMM marks the beginning of a new era of collaboration and innovation in the university city of Eskişehir. We are opening up the doors of the iconic new building to create an institution that will be a stepping stone for young artists. I don’t see OMM as a museum – it’s a platform, a bridge, for young creatives to have their voices heard.”*

Largest Installation to date by Bamboo ‘Master’ Artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV

At the museum’s opening ceremony on Saturday 7 September, which was attended by important international figures including Kengo Kuma and Yuki Ikeguchi, Japanese 'master' bamboo artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV put the final touches to his ever largest installation, standing at over 6x8 metres. The new commission, which is the most recent piece to join OMM’s evolving collection of modern and contemporary art, was deeply inspired by Odunpazarı and its inhabitants, who are represented as one of five interwoven strands along with the four elements: Earth, water, air, fire. Renovating an ancient Japanese craft, the work was made entirely from recycled ‘Tiger Bamboo’ that's unique to one mountain in Kochi, Japan.

Digital Art Brings Home Important Environmental Message

As part of the opening presentation, British digital art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast are showcasing two immersive installations (until 7 December) – *Treehugger* and *In the Eyes of the Animal* – both of which carry an important environmental message: that the protection and regeneration of the Earth’s ecosystems is fundamental to our collective futures.

Treehugger, recently awarded Tribeca Film Festival’s Storyscapes Award for innovation in immersive storytelling, is the first chapter in what MLF plans to become a virtual archive of rare and endangered trees. The ultimate aim of the project is to assist conservation by encouraging people to connect with the natural world and feel compelled to protect it. *In the Eyes of the Animal*, originally created and set in Grizedale Forest in the Lake District, UK, takes users on a fascinating journey that allows them to embody various animals as they traverse the landscape, flying above the forest canopy and coming face-to-face with high-definition critters.

In an age where technology is said to disconnect people from the natural environment, Marshmallow Laser Feast uses cutting-edge technology such as virtual reality, aerial 360° drone filming, LiDAR and CT scanning to highlight the invisible but fundamental connections and dependence between humans and the natural world.

“Vuslat - The Union” - First Exhibition Puts Turkish Artists in the Spotlight

OMM’s ambitious exhibition programme opens with ‘The Union’, curated by Turkish curator Haldun Dostođlu, which features a selection of over 100 works by 65 leading artists predominantly from Turkey including Bedri Rahmi Eyübođlu, Canan Tolon, Erol Akyavaş, İlhan Koman, Ramazan Bayrakođlu, Sinan Demirtaş and Tayfun Erdođmuş.

‘Vuslat’, which loosely translates as ‘The Union’, was inspired by three scenes of union: Eskisehir gains its first private modern art museum; Erol Tabanca fulfills his dream of sharing his collection with the public, and the collection - much of which has been behind closed doors for years - is showcased in its entirety for the first time.

Split over three floors, the new museum has a variety of exhibition spaces that will house the permanent collection and host a programme of multidisciplinary exhibitions – many of which will be produced in collaboration with leading curators and creatives. The exhibition programme will be complemented by a dynamic public programme, offering seminars, artist talks and workshops.

— ENDS —

Notes to Editors

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Image captions and credits

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About OMM - Odunpazarı Modern Museum

OMM is a modern and contemporary art museum founded by collector, Erol Tabanca, in Eskisehir, northwest Turkey in 2019. Designed by Kengo Kuma and Associates (KCAA), the museum presents a dynamic programme of multidisciplinary exhibitions and diverse public programming.

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. The collection features works by acclaimed artists from Turkey such as Burhan Dođançay, Canan Tolon, Azade Köker, Nejad Melih Devrim, Erol Akyavaş, Haluk Akakçe, Taner Ceylan, İnci Eviner, Gülsün Karamustafa and Erdađ Aksel, alongside international names including Peter Zimmerman, Jaume Plensa, Marc Quinn, Robert Longo, Aron Demetz, Julian Opie, Sarah Morris, Stephan Kaluza, Hans Op De Beeck, Massimo Giannoni, Seon Ghi Bahk, Alfred Haberpointner.

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

Sarkıye Mahallesi Atatürk Bulvarı No: 37 Odunpazarı - Eskişehir / Turkey

Admission Fees

Adult: 20 TL / Concessions: 15 TL (12 years old or older students, faculty, 65 years and over)

Group: 18 TL (minimum 10 people)

Free: OMM Members, disabled visitors, children aged 12 or younger, ICOM cardholders and members of the press.

Guided Tours can be organized with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 16 people for a fee of 30 TL per person *(There are no free or concession offers in this category)*

Opening Hours

Tuesday - Thursday - Friday - Saturday: 10.00 - 18.00

Wednesday: 10.00 - 20.00

Sunday 11.00 - 18.00

The Museum is closed on Mondays.

The Museum is closed on the first day of religious holidays, and New Year's Day (1st January).

Getting There

Eskişehir TCDD Train Station 2 km

Eskişehir Bus Terminal 5 km

Tasigo Hotel Eskişehir 300 m

Artists included in the inaugural exhibition

Adnan Çoker | Ahmet Doğu İpek | Ahmet Elhan | Ahmet Oran | Ansen | Aras Seddigh | Aron Demetz | Assa Kauppi | Ayça Telgeren | Azade Köker | Bora Akıncıtürk | Burcu Perçin | Canan Tolon | Daron Mouradian | Elif Uras | Elvan Alpay | Emin Mete Erdoğan | Erdağ Aksel | Erdil Yaşaroğlu | Erinç Seymen | Erol Akyavaş | Erol Eskici | Ferruh Başağa | Gizem Akkoyunoğlu | Gözde İlkin | Guido Casaretto | Gülay Semercioğlu | Gülsün Karamustafa | Hans Op De Beeck | Hüsamettin Koçan | İnci Erdal | İrfan Önürmen | Jaime Plensa | Kemal Önsoy | Kemal Seyhan | Komet | Koray Ariş | Marc Quinn | Mehmet Gülyüz | Mehmet Uygun | Nejad Melih Devrim | Neş'e Erdok | Nuri İyem | Osman Dinç | Park Seungmo | Peter Zimmermann | Rahmi Aksungur | Ramazan Bayrakoğlu | Sabire Susuz | Sarah Morris | Seçkin Pirim | Serhat Kiraz | Seyhun Topuz | Sinan Demirtaş | Stephan Kaluza | Tanabe Chikuunsai IV | Taner Ceylan | Tayfun Erdoğan | Tunca | Yağız Özgen

About Kengo Kuma and Associates

Founded in Japan in 1990, Kengo Kuma and Associates has offices in Tokyo, and in Paris, which are engaging in a wide range of design disciplines from furniture and product design to Architecture and Urban Planning. The practice has completed several noteworthy projects around the world including the V&A at Dundee in Scotland, EPFL's Artlab in Switzerland, and is currently developing the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Denmark and The Darling Exchange, a civic center in Sydney's Darling Harbour.

About Erol Tabanca

Erol Tabanca is the founder of Odunpazarı Modern Museum (OMM), Chairperson of Polimeks Holding, and an art collector who champions both Turkish and international artists. His significant collection of

modern and contemporary art will be showcased in the Odunpazarı Modern Museum in Eskişehir, opening in 2019.

As the Chairman of Polimeks Holding, a Turkish construction company based in Istanbul, Tabanca has over 35 years' experience as an architect and a contractor, working as lead architect for numerous conceptual design projects in addition to his senior management responsibilities. Polimeks is one of the world's leading corporations in building and culture, with a global portfolio that reflects their work across different fields including real-estate, tourism and energy. Recognised internationally for its architecture and engineering works, Polimeks has carried out over 134 projects in Turkey and abroad. Polimeks is also one of the major supporters of contemporary art in Turkey.

Erol Tabanca graduated from the Department of Architecture at Ankara State Engineering and Architecture Academy after completing his studies at the Art Institute in Eskişehir.

About Marshmallow Laser Feast

Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF) is a UK-based experiential collective that explores the line between virtual and real-world experiences. Their expertise has earned a reputation for creating the seemingly impossible—for producing installations that push boundaries, redefine expectations and excite audiences worldwide. Their work is responsive and spans kinetic sculpture, film, live performance and virtual reality. MLF's approach is one of collaboration, working alongside technologists, engineers and makers to create bespoke software and hardware systems to realise their visions. Directors Barnaby Steel, Robin McNicholas and Ersin Han Ersin are the driving force behind all MLF projects.

Marshmallow Laser Feast has collaborated with commercial and creative clients all over the world, including Vodafone, Saatchi & Saatchi, McClaren and Bono. Their art projects have included the musical, Laser Forest, created for STRP Biennale (Eindhoven), which travelled to the Barbican (London); The Measures Taken, a collaboration with the Alexander Whitley dance company; and We Live in an Ocean of Air, an exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, London, from December 2018 – January 2019. In January 2019, Marshmallow Laser Feast was one of the artists collaborating on 'Welcome to the Forest', the opening celebrations for Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019.

Website: www.marshmallowlaserfeast.com/ Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/marshmallowlaserfeast>

Instagram: @marshmallowlaserfeast Twitter: @marshmallowlf

#marshmallowlaserfeast #treehuggervr #intheeyesoftheanimal #iteota

About Tanabe Chikuunsai IV

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV (b. 1973, Sakai City Osaka) was born into one of Japan's most prestigious bamboo families. One of the most talented and versatile bamboo artists of his generation, he has carried on the Tanabe family tradition in the wake of the death of his father, Tanabe Chikuunsai III (1940–2014). He earned a degree in sculpture from the Tokyo University of the Arts and trained in bamboo crafts at an occupational school in Beppu. He is active in Japan and internationally, exhibiting in the USA, UK, New Zealand, Switzerland, and France. His work is in the collection of the Museum Fine Art of Boston, Philadelphia Museum of Art, the British Museum, Guimet Museum, Quai Branly Museum and the V&A Museum.

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.