

New site-specific commission by bamboo artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV installed for opening of Odunpazari Modern Museum



Tanabe Chikuunsai IV's installation at OMM. Photos by Kemal Seçkin

- **Renowned Japanese bamboo artist Tanabe Chikunnsai IV creates intricate installation crafted from woven bamboo for Odunpazari Modern Museum (OMM)**
- **Complementing the striking timber building by Kengo Kuma and Associates, the installation and building together reference the town's history as a wood market**
- **The site-specific installation forms part of OMM's inaugural exhibition, opening to the public on Sunday 8 September**

The acclaimed Japanese bamboo 'master' artist Tanabe Chikuunsai IV has created a new site-specific installation for Odunpazari Modern Museum (OMM), opening on Sunday 8 September 2019 in Eskişehir, Turkey (Preview 7 September).

The installation is 6x8 meters in size and crafted entirely from 'Tiger Bamboo' that is unique to one mountain in Kochi, Japan. Tanabe's creative process mirrors natural cycles of decay and regrowth; once an exhibition is finished, the materials are broken down and repurposed in different forms elsewhere. This particular work includes recycled bamboos that are over seven years old.

The installation was deeply inspired by the town of Odunpazari, the town where the museum is based; by Tanabe's response to the natural environment and to the respectful attitude of its inhabitants to their cultural history. Since his first visit to Turkey for this project, the artist has met and observed many local people as part of the creative process, in order to create an installation that captures a sense of place.

The installation takes the four elements (earth, water, air, fire) and entwines them with the human spirit of Odunpazari, filling the empty space with five interwoven strands that ascend towards the ceiling in a continuous interlocking dialogue. To this extent, Tanabe's design reflects OMM's progressive mission to include the citizens of Odunpazari and, more broadly speaking, of Eskisehir, in a global exchange of culture and ideas.

Tanabe said of his installation: *"I perceive the location of this installation as an 'empty space'. We fill the space with the elements and with ourselves, which are in a continual transformation and they travel upward. The fifth element in this case is the people I met in Eskişehir, my interactions with them and theirs with each other. I focused on this theme of interaction and how it spreads through the city. Similarly, once OMM opens, I imagine that the spirit of the museum will spread all over the city."*



Tanabe Chikuunsai IV's installation at OMM. Photo by Batuhan Keskiner

Tanabe's installation will also interact with and complement the striking timber structure of the museum, designed by Yuki Ikeguchi for Kengo Kuma and Associates. The building itself draws inspiration from Odunpazari's traditional Ottoman wooden cantilevered houses that are synonymous with the district, and pays homage to the town's history as a thriving wood market.

Idil Tabanca, Chairperson and Creative Director of OMM, said: *"Through the architecture of the building, Kengo Kuma and Associates set out to "create a link between people and art". Similarly, Tanabe Chikuunsai IV's skillful installation beautifully illustrates that connection. Opening in 2019, Year of Turkish Culture in Japan, OMM celebrates the cultural exchange shared between our two countries. This project with Tanabe is the first of many exciting collaborations to come."*

Odunpazarı is one of the oldest living areas in Eskisehir that is undergoing a constant process of renovation and preservation. Similarly, Tanabe takes the ancient Japanese handicraft of bamboo and renovates it using new techniques while preserving its heritage. In the artist's own words: *"I've created the piece for OMM by keeping my own traditions but also by walking towards the future, by having the future in my mind."*

Tanabe was born into one of Japan's most prestigious bamboo families, and this new work is the product of a 120-year history of working with bamboo, following in the tradition of his father and grandfather. Gaining the title of bamboo 'master' takes over ten years of mental and physical training, and Tanabe's team consists of four apprentices that act as 'one body' to create the work collectively.

The project for OMM is the latest in a long series of creative collaborations between Japanese creatives Tanabe Chikunnsai IV and Kengo Kuma and Associates. His works have been commissioned for many of KKAA's projects, most recently at the Japan House in São Paulo, Brazil.

The installation will form part of OMM's inaugural exhibition, curated by Haldun Dostođlu, which will showcase a selection of around 200 works by 60 leading artists from Turkey including Bedri Rahmi Eyübođlu, Canan Tolon, Erol Akyavaş, İlhan Koman, Ramazan Bayrakođlu, Sinan Demirtaş and Tayfun Erdođmuş. The final touches will be added to complete the installation in a performance at the opening reception, before the museum opens to the public on Sunday 8 September.

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About OMM

OMM is a modern and contemporary art museum founded by collector, Erol Tabanca, in Eskisehir, northwest Turkey. Designed by Kengo Kuma and Associates (KKAA), the museum will present a dynamic programme of multidisciplinary exhibitions and diverse public programming. The museum's permanent collection comprises over a thousand works of art spanning from the 1950s to the present day, with an emphasis on artists from Turkey.

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, British Museum, Guimet Museum, Quai Branly Museum and the V&A Museum.

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 noteworthy projects around the world including the V&A 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 the Collection

OMM is a modern and contemporary art museum founded by Erol Tabanca, a renowned collector and businessman, in Eskisehir, in 2019.

The collection has been brought together by Erol Tabanca over a period of 15 years and features more than a thousand works of art spanning the 1950s to the present day, championing pioneering twentieth-century figures as well as the next generation of contemporary artists. The collection features works by acclaimed artists from Turkey such as Burhan Doğançay, Canan Tolon, Azade Köker, Nejad Melih Devrim, Erol Akyavaş, Haluk Akakçe, Taner Ceylan, İnci Eviner, Gülsün Karamustafa and Erdağ 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.

OMM actively supports the sustainability of art by championing pioneering twentieth-century figures as well as the next generation of contemporary artists.

About Odunpazari and Eskişehir

OMM is located in the town of Odunpazari – the heart of the unique city of Eskişehir. Named after the historical timber market it once hosted, Odunpazari (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. Odunpazari 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

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progressive outlook, and in 2013, Eskişehir was designated Culture and Arts Capital of the Turkic World.