



CONTEMPORARY
ARTISTS
FROM
ISTANBUL
PRESENT
THEIR
FAVORITE
PLACES

ARTISTANBUL

CHRISTA FRIEDA VOGEL

seltmann+söhne

34 CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
FROM ISTANBUL PRESENT THEIR FAVOURITE HAUNTS

PHOTOGRAPHS
BY
CHRISTA FRIEDA VOGEL

ABOUT ARTISTANBUL

Photographer Christa Frieda Vogel has realised numerous projects in Germany and abroad, always searching for unique aspects in cultures more or less unfamiliar to her. Her last work is a photo book entitled “Georgia – an Encounter with Origin and Time“, which she accomplished in Georgia from 2006 to 2008.

In 2007, Christa Frieda Vogel visited Istanbul for the first time. She was immediately fascinated by the city at the Bosphorus. It was her ambition to portray the city from an insider perspective, which led her to let Istanbul’s artists lead her to capture the city through their eyes. From this thought follows the concept to portray both, the individual artists and the spots that best represent their personal perception of Istanbul.

Vogel portrays 34 artists in their studios and accompanies them to their favourite spots in the city. Driven by the camera eye, the artists were challenged to view their hometown in a new light. Their „favourite places“ are shot in colour. The artist portraits are in black and white. The photographs are accompanied by brief statements written by artists themselves, describing „their city“ Istanbul. 34 artists present their personal perception of an exciting metropolis. Oscillating between productive chaos and institutionalisation, local politics and globalisation, the European Capital of Culture 2010 has an impressive art scene to offer.

Christa Frieda Vogel has focused on three generations of artists: the 60- to 80-year-olds, such as **Ara Güler**, the well-known Armenian-born photographer, or **Burhan Doğançay**, a painter, who is valued highly in the art market. Secondly, the 40- and 50-year-olds, such as **Mahmut Celayir**, who, after having worked in Stuttgart for several years, returned to Istanbul and established his work in the art market. Similarly, the painter **Erdoğan Zumrutoğlu** also belongs to that generation. He is a frequent guest in museums across Europe, constantly seeking an exchange between East and West. And finally, the 20- to 30-year-olds, such as **Hande Varsat**, who studied sculpture and faces difficulties because contemporary sculpture has not yet found its proper place in Turkey.

34 is Istanbul’s number – it marks every car’s registration plate. The square root of 34 is 7. Istanbul lies on 7 hills. Each of these hills offers a different perspective – 7 different perspectives of one Bosphorus, the blue heart of the city.



34 Artist Portraits

34 Places in Istanbul

Umut Germeç

Painter and poet

Artistic expression is the most important activity to identify, elucidate and shape what defines us as human beings. In their expression, artists should not lose sight of the man-nature aspect. Not every development is necessarily progress. The way I feel about trees is directly reflected in my canvas. My purpose, however, is not to craft my tree experiences into mere visual stories. My purpose is rather to use the conceptual power of poetry and imagery to bring them to life. In my pictures I dissolve the form from the inside and separate it into colour, lines and brush strokes; this approach is the consequence of long years of tree experience related as it were in Chinese ink. The density, clarity and relief surface structure of Chinese ink had a defining influence on the way I apply paint. My palette of intermediate and complementary colours allows me to express the intended effects of light and space. With it, I approximate an idealised, yet, personal natural process. By applying layers of brush strokes on my canvas I find my own lyrical nature. The emerging picture on the canvas is an outpouring of the image of nature I carry within me.

My favorite place: Sarayburnu, as seen from the Golden Horn

With the loss of the smell of apples, we lose a part of art, literature, language and culture. Over the forty years I have been living in Istanbul, I have witnessed the loss of its large gardens, orchards and vegetable fields. The destruction of nature is mirrored by a destruction of man and culture. Trees are like human beings with roots: They tend to stand in groups, and they lead a brotherly life. In the words of the great poet Nazım Hikmet: "Like a tree, single and free I live in brotherly union". And my own verse: "Like a green dagger in the sea, encrusted with the stone-set jewels of its post, Scarglio Point, the face of Istanbul is so consoling to me".



CONTACT & SPONSORSHIP ARTISTANBUL

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34 Erdoğan Zümrütoğlu
www.piartworks.com
www.galerie-tammen.de

CHRISTA FRIEDA VOGEL PHOTOGRAPHER

Biography

- 1960 Born in Meppen, Emsland, Germany
- 1982-88 Studies of graphic design at Berlin University of the Arts
Studies of photography with Prof. Arno Fischer, Ostkreuzschule, Berlin
- 1998-2000 Private pilot training at PPLA, CVFR, and KFB
- 1992-1998 Freelance work as make-up artist for television and theater in Berlin
- 2000 Founding member of “Fotografie am Schiffbauerdamm”
- 2001-2002 Curator and exhibition manager at Postfuhramt Berlin
- 2003 Einblicke (Insights) published by B&S Siebenhaar, Berlin
- 2004 Trips to Venice, Croatia, and Macedonia
- 2005-2007 Travels in Georgia
- 2007 Scholarship of Robert Bosch Stiftung, Stuttgart, Germany
for book Georgien, Begegnung mit Ursprung und Zeit (Georgia, an Encounter with Origin and Time), published by Edition Braus, Heidelberg
- 2008 Trip to Istanbul
- 2009-2011 Residence in Istanbul, book Artistanbul: Contemporary Artists present their Favourite Places, published by selmann+söhne, Lüdenscheid

Exhibitions

- 2000 Gallery Maritim, Berlin Stadtlandschaften Berlin (City Landscapes Berlin) aerial photos
- 2002 Gallery Schiffbauerdamm, Berlin Parks
- 2002-2003 Photo project with Roma Theater Pralipe, Duisburg, Germany
- 2004 Gallery Siebenhaar, Berlin Einblicke (Insights)
- 2006 National Gallery Tbilisi, Georgia Virtual Art, land art project
- 2007 Caravansary Museum Tbilisi, Georgia, Portraits, group exhibition
- 2007 Willy Brandt Haus, Berlin Portraits und Landschaften (Portraits and Landscapes), group exhibition
- 2008 Art Fair Cologne Georgienfotos (Photos of Georgia) and book presentation
- 2008 Stiftung Sergej Mawritzki, Berlin
Book presentation and exhibition: Georgien, Begegnung mit Ursprung und Zeit (Georgia: An Encounter with Origin and Time)
- 2009 Gallery Brockstedt Figur in der Landschaft (Figure in a Landscape) with Ernst Baumeister
- 2009 Gallery Hogrebe, Neuwerder, Germany Stille Tage (Quiet Days) Polaroid photos
- 2010 Gallery Tammen, Berlin, Nudes, Polaroid photos, group exhibition
- 2010 Contemporary Art Fair Istanbul, Turkey LVBG and Akademie der Künste, Berlin
- 2011 Gallery Arte, Istanbul, Ara Gueler Portrait, group exhibition
- 2011 Gallery Artrium Modern, Istanbul, Photography auction

Christa Frieda Vogel lives and works in Istanbul and Berlin.
She is represented by the galleries Brockstedt and Tammen in Berlin.

EXHIBITION KÜHLHAUS BERLIN 2012

In 2012, the show **Istanbul Memories** will exhibit the work of contemporary Turkish artists at the **Kühlhaus** in Berlin. **Christa Frieda Vogel** presents among others **Ara Güler, Burhan Doğançay, Mahmut Celayir, Erdoğan Zmrutoğlu** and **Hande Varsat**.

In May 2011, photographer **Christa Frieda Vogel** presents her newest photo book **ARTISTANBUL - Contemporary artists from Istanbul present their favourite haunts** published by **Seltmann + Söhne**.

View 2011

