

Borga Kantürk  
PORTFOLIO  
2018-2022





photo: Teri Erbeç

**Borga Kantürk** (1978, Izmir) is an artist, curator and academician who completed his undergraduate study at the Painting Department of Dokuz Eylül University between 1995-1999. After completing his master's degree in DEU, GSF Painting Department (1999-2003) and then art proficiency, Kantürk is now working as a lecturer at the Painting Department. Kantürk is one of the founders of KUTU Portable Art Space (2002) he is the co-founder of K2 Art Center (2003), at which he served as the project manager of the space between 2004-2007. He is also one of the founding members of the 6x6x6 Izmir collective (2017) and KARANTİNA art space (2018).

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**Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

- 2022 "Short Distance Library" on ARTER Library, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2017 Passing by..., ÖktemAykut Gallery, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2015 Memory Resarch Office: Collect.Cut.Create.Re-Create, Škuc Gallery, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- 2012 The Sick and the Building, Gallery NON, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2011 Cafe Recordis, Gallery NON, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2009 The Distance of Testimony, French Cultural Center, İzmir (Turkey)

**Selected Group Exhibitions:**

- 2020 Justice, Property, Foundation (Frozen Time exhibition Series), Corridor Project Space, Amsterdam ( Netherlands)
- 2019 All About Benjamins, Video-documentary ", SUPERMARKET Stockholm Independent Art Fair, Stockholm (Sweden)
- 2019 "F" Project, Hayy Open Space, İzmir (Turkey)
- 2017 HARBOR, İstanbul Modern (Turkey)
- 2014 Plurivocality: Visual Arts and Music in Turkey, İstanbul Modern (Turkey)
- 2013 Sail Away, We Must!, CDA Projects, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2012 FULL Art Prize 2012 (Finalist's exhibition), Hasköy Yarn Factory, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2011 Where Fire Has Struck (on the 20th Anniversary of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey), DEPO, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2010 Emploi-saisonnier, Sextant et Plus, Marseille (France)
- 2009 Relative Position and Coclusions, Suriye Pasajı, İstanbul (Turkey)
- 2008 Save As..., Contemporary Art from Turkey, Triennale Bovisa, Milano (Italy)
- 2006 Check-in-Europe (p2p: Invisible Landscapes), EPO, München (Germany)

**Selected Curatorial:**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2022 | '5-7-5' Group Exhibition, KARANTİNA, İzmir (Turkey)   |
| 2019 | "Love Damage Fault" (Özge Enginöz solo Show), Daire Sanat, İstanbul (Turkey)  |
| 2018 | Digging a shore, (İrem Tok, Tufan Baltalar) Shelter Artist Run Space, İzmir (Turkey)  |
| 2014 | Summer Resort for A Song, DEPO, İstanbul (Turkey)   |
| 2013 | With All the Changes That Loomed Far Behind the Horizon, MARS İstanbul, İstanbul (Turkey)   |
| 2009 | Ghost Site, Recents Tree, Steep Hill, French Cultural Center, İzmir (Turkey)  |
| 2007 | Nightcomers, curators: Ovul Durmusoglu, Marcus Graf, Borga Kanturk, Pelin Uran, Adnan Yildiz, Urban Project in 9th İstanbul Biennial, İstanbul (Turkey) |
| 2007 | Hope Is a Good Thing, Atelier Frankfurt, Frankfurt (Germany)  |
| 2005 | From the Midnight Sun: Contemporary Art Videos From Finland, K2 Art Center, İzmir (Turkey)  |
| 2005 | <i>The Little, The Cheap, The Trash and Absolutely Passionate!</i> , Cable Factory, Helsinki (Finland)  |
| 2005 | <i>Other's Chance</i> , K2 Art Center, İzmir (Turkey)   |
| 2005 | <i>Alice vs. Alice</i> , Kasa Gallery, İstanbul (Turkey); with Adnan Yıldız (selection for K2 Art Center)   |
| 2004 | <i>Hidden Face</i> , K2 Art Center, İzmir (Turkey)  |
| 2004 | <i>The Deepest Breath</i> , KUTUv.4, Akbank Art Center, İstanbul (Turkey)   |
| 2001 | <i>Hello Boredom</i> , KUTUv.1, Proje4L, İstanbul (Turkey)  |

## On Borga Kantürk

*Jerko Gluščević, Nina Jesih, Maruša Meglič, Aljaž Plos, Miha Poljak* Translated by Arven Šakti  
*fralj Szomi*

Borga Kantürk is a person of complementary worlds, constantly blurring the boundaries between the roles of artist and curator, between visual and conceptual practice and between different media. This and the specificities of the space in which he works are vital for a detailed reading and understanding of his body of work. He uses his works to answer questions from the local environment, although he can easily be understood within the international context due to the universality of his themes. Kantürk reawakens overlooked, half-forgotten local stories, attributes new meanings to them, hence drawing attention to the blind spots in our understanding of the workings of the world, which we are either not aware of or choose to wilfully ignore. He uses his art to recreate stories, his own history and memories, setting up parallel realities, and hence questioning the ways in which we understand reality. The author's references more often belong to the world of literature than art – his works reflect the influence of poetry and literature, Antonio Tabucchi, Herman Melville, Jorge Luis Borges, Georges Perec, Franz Kafka ...

Kantürk's work must be seen as a complex structure constituting of more or less heterogeneous elements that only make up a whole once combined. These elements are dealt by the author as part of an open system and are used in different constellations and techniques. He is not interested in the execution of a single and unique creation. The creative process is as important, as the final work of art, if not more so.

His art practice is based on archiving: he collects useful objects, photographs, newspaper articles, his own memories ... and assembles them into collages, arranges and rearranges them, cuts them up and uses them to create compositions ... up to a point of saturation, or until they are made into "historical" documents (Merriam-Webster Dictionary: "an original or official paper relied on as the basis, proof, or support of something").

This can be seen in the installation *Playing Around with the Archive* and in the video *Destructed Archive 2 (After Bologna)*. With his methodical approaches and spatial interventions, Kantürk calls into question the blatancy of daily social life. We could say that the archive represents the metaphor for life to him. How to choose from the confusing mass of information, how to classify it; what to keep and what to emphasize; what to ignore and what to discard? Or to first select a topic and then attempt to present it, whilst looking for a proper term, or to pursue the path the other way round: to choose seemingly random data, to find some underlying theme, and then develop the story

Kantürk's works are traces of transience and disappearance: of time, people, places, memories. The atmosphere has a vital role to play in the artist's works, which comes as a reflection of his considered planning of the exhibition space, the selected individual parts of the piece (and its choreography), as well as the impressions of the viewers.

Borga Kantürk conveys stories that encroach into his daily life. They deal with the existential questions of identity, belonging and transience. They also include seemingly mundane topics like football in the piece *Closing the Ranks*, for example, where an imaginary ideology becomes a place to feel reality behind the veil of a neutral spectacle.

The constant game of combining signifiers and signifieds raises the question: What if we understood what we see in a different way? What if the thing that we see is something other than what it is supposed to originally represent? An object together with other objects and in a relationship with its installation gains a new and different meaning, so we must ask ourselves: What is our reality? Could it be different? In such a way the drawings in the aforementioned project are not merely the images of actual football players, a collection of stickers in an annual league album – we are also faced with T-shirts, banners, a video projection, textual material, etc. All these elements combined into an artistic installation raise the issues of mass psychology, politics and the spectacle. They show us that we are forced into this position as fans, even though voluntarily. In Turkish society football support is so ingrained into everyday life – of all the social classes – that many people actually take it for granted. It is precisely this unison of a mass of different objects extracted from their original context that in the work of Borga creates a different understanding of what is seen.

## Borga Kantürk *passing by...*

Exhibition, December 1st, 2017 - 6 Ocak 2018,

Opening, December 1st, Friday, 18:30- 20:30



At *passing by...*, Kantürk questions the time he has come to spend as a contemporary artist, archivist, curator and a full-time academician. The exhibition consists of various moves and sections that unfold themselves within the intellectual flow where all these identities peacefully intermingle. *Passing by...* may also be defined as a personal narrative focusing on the linear and cyclical passing of time through the ontological and practical positions of an artist.

Kantürk's first solo exhibition in Turkey since 2012, *passing by...* concludes a trilogy where each show may also be treated separately.

In this show, Kantürk eliminates and raises a certain number of visual traces that prove consistent throughout the processes of production and observation. The exhibition is composed of photographs, drawings, paintings and installations that reveal an autobiographical story of testimonies and pursuits for past moments, an individual narrative that touches the trail of different roles and production processes assumed in the realm of contemporary art.

Focusing on the way time is being consumed, the way it is produced, its varying speed and its ephemerality, Kantürk explores how else to define new reflexes against the notion of time.

This exploration is an effort to understand intertemporality amongst different positions in life and to describe the quotidian.



geçip giderken... 5 görev / passing by... 5 tasks

2015

Fotoğraf kağıdına baskı Photo paper print

5 parça / pieces

15 x 21 cm (her biri / each)

Ed. 1/3





HEYKEL / SCULPTURE

2016

Alüminyum dibond üzerine sıvanmış Fine Art baskı Fine Art  
print mounted on aluminum dibond

28 x 21 cm Ed. 1/3



YERLEŐTİRME / INSTALLATION

2016

Alüminyum dibond üzerine sıvanmış Fine

Art baskı Fine Art print mounted on

aluminum dibond

21 x 28

cm Ed.

1/3



FOTOKOPİ MAKİNESİ / PHOTOCOPIER

2015

Poster baskı / print

100 x 74,5 cm Ed. 1/5



İSİMSİZ (BEYAZ) / UNTITLED (WHITE)

2011

Peçete, ahşap çerçeve Napkins,  
wooden frame 26,5 x 20,5 cm



SOYUT BİR GÜN / AN ABSTRACT DAY

2015

Fine Art baskı / print

50 x 50 cm

Ed. 1/3



AYNA / MIRROR

2017

Fine Art baskı / print 68 x 53 cm

Ed. 1/3



OTOPORTRE / SELF-PORTRAIT

2015

Fine Art baskı / print 33 x

43 cm

Ed. 1/3





ABSTRACTION EXERCISES – RED

2017

Fine Art baskı /

print 83 x 63 cm

Ed. 1/3





TABAK / PLATE

2016

Fine Art baskı /

print 35 x 35 cm

Ed. 1/3



SEREMONİ / CEREMONY

2015

Fine Art baskı / print 32,5 x 42,5 cm

Ed. 1/3



DÜŞMÜŞ RESİM SEHPASI / EASEL ON THE GROUND

2015

Fine Art baskı / print 54 x 64

cm

Ed. 1/3



PİYANGO / LOTTERY

2016

Fotoğraf kağıdına baskı Photo paper print

3 parça / pieces

10 x 15 cm (her biri / each)

24 x 32,5 cm (çerçeveseli her biri / each framed)

Ed. 1/3



SOYUT DENEMELER; ŞANS / TALİH / ABSTRACTION EXERCISES; LUCK / FAITH  
2017

Buluntu bülten üzerine pastel, tuval üzerine yağlı boya, lastik Pastel on  
found lottery results bulletin, oil on canvas, rubber band 3 parça / pieces  
32 x 38 cm, 40 x 40 cm, 7 x 16 cm



SAHNE / STAGE

2015

Buluntu slayt makinesi, asetat kağıdına baskı Found slideshow

device, acetate paper print

Ø 21 cm (görüntü / image)





FOOTNOTES (BLACK)

2017

Polaroid fotoğraflar, ahşap masa Polaroid  
photos, wooden table 90 x 60 x 50 cm

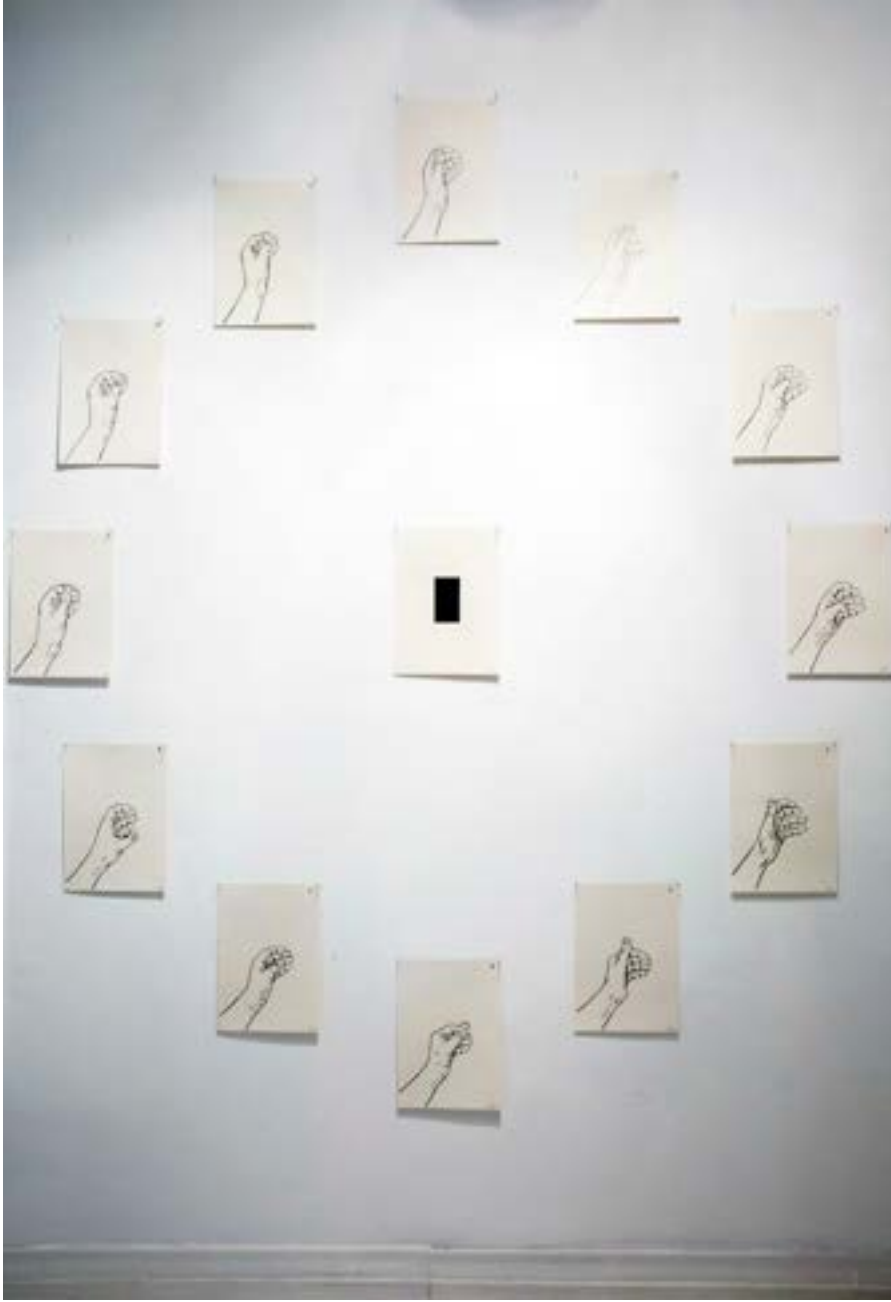


FOOTNOTES (WHITE)

2017

Polaroid fotoğraflar, ahşap masa Polaroid  
photos, wooden table 90 x 60 x 50 cm





EL YOGASI / HAND YOGA

2014

Kağıt üzerine karakalem

Pencil on paper 13 parça / pieces

30 x 21 cm (her biri / each)



sergi-2013 / exhibition-2013

2013

Fine Art baskı / print

3 parça / pieces

50 x 70 cm (her biri / each)



What a wonderful World  
Photography series , 2016 – 2017



State exhibition, 2018

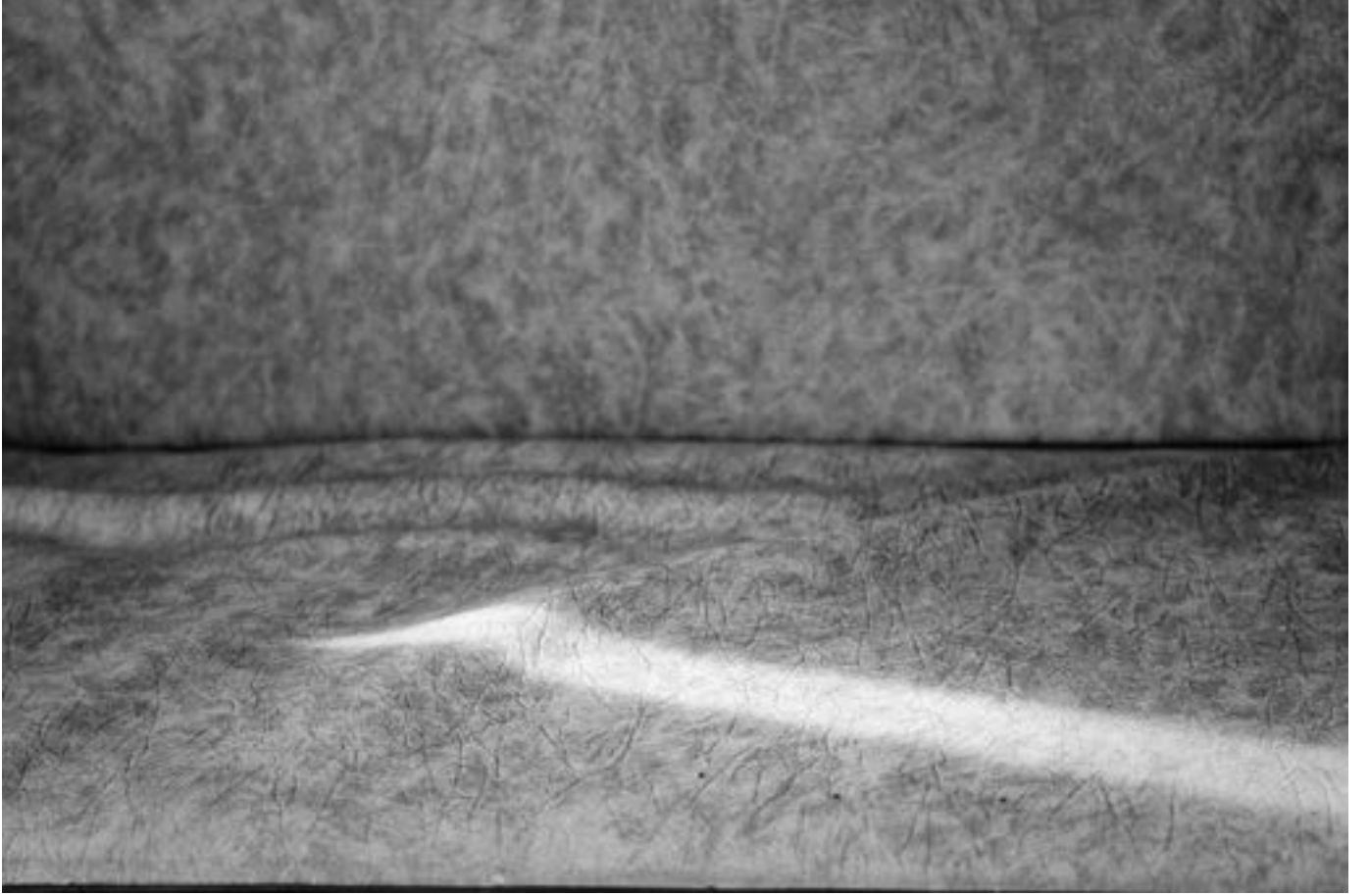
Colored photo, dimension variable



Koltuk izleri, 2018

5 pieces of photography  
dimension variable





Koltuk izleri, 2018

5 pieces of photography  
dimension variable



JURY, 2018

Installation, 40x60cm framed colored photography, plastic bottle water, variable pencil, cardboard, masking tape, tape, eraser, gum eraser, drawing paper, tie clips, pencil sharpener, napkin, etc.



JURY, 2018

Installation, 40x60cm framed colored photography, plastic bottle water, variable pencil, cardboard, masking tape, tape, eraser, gum eraser, drawing paper, tie clips, pencil sharpener, napkin, etc.





JURY, 2018

Installation, 40x60cm framed colored photography, plastic bottle water, variable pencil, cardboard, masking tape, tape, eraser, gum eraser, drawing paper, tie clips, pencil sharpener, napkin, etc.



All About The Benjamins, 2019

Documentary, Color, Sound, 40:47 min.

Film Project by

Shelter Artists Run Space & Borga Kantürk

Link: <https://youtu.be/jdWSOPSE6cE>

Synopsys: 'All About The Benjamins' All eyes are on the Turkish lira. So far in 2018, the Turkish Lira depreciated close to 40% against the U.S. dollar. Inflation has topped 16%. In our video project called 'All About The Benjamins', we discuss economic situation in art and culture production. In the project, we analyzed how the economic crisis in Turkey had an impact on artists and culture managers, economic difficulties and reflex of overcoming these difficulties and transformation in art production. While we are questioning how did the economic conditions in Turkey affect art and culture, we consult with individual artists, organizations, culture managers and initiatives to record their experiences, comments & expectations."

All About The Benjamins, Documentary, Color, Sound, 40:47 min. Film Project by Shelter Artists Run Space & Borga Kantürk, 2019



All About The Benjamins, 2019

Documentary, Color, Sound, 40:47 min.

Film Project by

Shelter Artists Run Space & Borga Kantürk

Link: <https://youtu.be/jdWSOPSE6cE>

"A Future of Travel / The Journey of the Artwork"  
exhibition which brings together the stories about  
the journey of the artworks.

Participating Artists:

Ali Miharbi, Ali İbrahim Öcal, Ayça Telgeren, Berkay  
Tuncay, Borga Kantürk, Burçak Bingöl, Çağrı Saray,  
Eda Gecikmez, Elif Biradlı, eliföner, Fatma Çiftçi,  
Mehmet Ögüt, Özgür Demirci, Pınar Öğrenci , Sevil  
Tunaboğlu, Suat Ögüt, Volkan Kızıltunç, Yasemin Nur,  
Yeni Anıt , Zeyno Pekünlü







Lost work, 2018

installation with artists' voice

35x35x50cm Cardboard box, stretch film, nylon,

duct tape, paper, mp3 player

After Lost work,

2018 Audio file:

21.22 min



BORGA KANTÜRK & ÖZGÜR DEMİRCİ

Side job : A Preoccupation, vol.01,  
Installation , 2019

From a collaborative event, Open School Project  
Pandoras' Black Box : Opening a Space  
İstanbul, Galata Rum Okulu

Video-link: <https://vimeo.com/350415112>

Synopsys: Collective video work focuses on artist's life how they produce art work and how they survive. The video focuses on the issue of side job, which standing close to artistic spaces; In addition to professions such as teaching, academics, gallery assistantship, curatorship, and translation, professions such as waitresses, newspaper writers, real estate photography, construction workers, and interviews with artists from the 30s looking for labor-wage.

The fact that the directors of the film, Borga and Özgür, have a side job attracts them as the other actors of the film. Project; focuses on the concept of plus time, which is ignored in the production of the work of art, turns into an additional business problematic will be a document with the emergence of the art industry strategies. The fact that the economic difficulties experienced by young artists in contemporary art is never taken into consideration and how this affects the production practice of the artist has been ignored.

Side job: a preoccupation project aims to collaborate with the artists who are living with the same problems. The video work will be expanded with the participation of artists and will be a comprehensive video installation.

BORGA KANTÜRK & ÖZGÜR DEMİRCİ

Side job : A Preoccupation, vol.01,  
Video, Color, Sound, 08:41min. , 2019  
Collaboration with Özgür Demirci

Video-link: <https://vimeo.com/350415112>

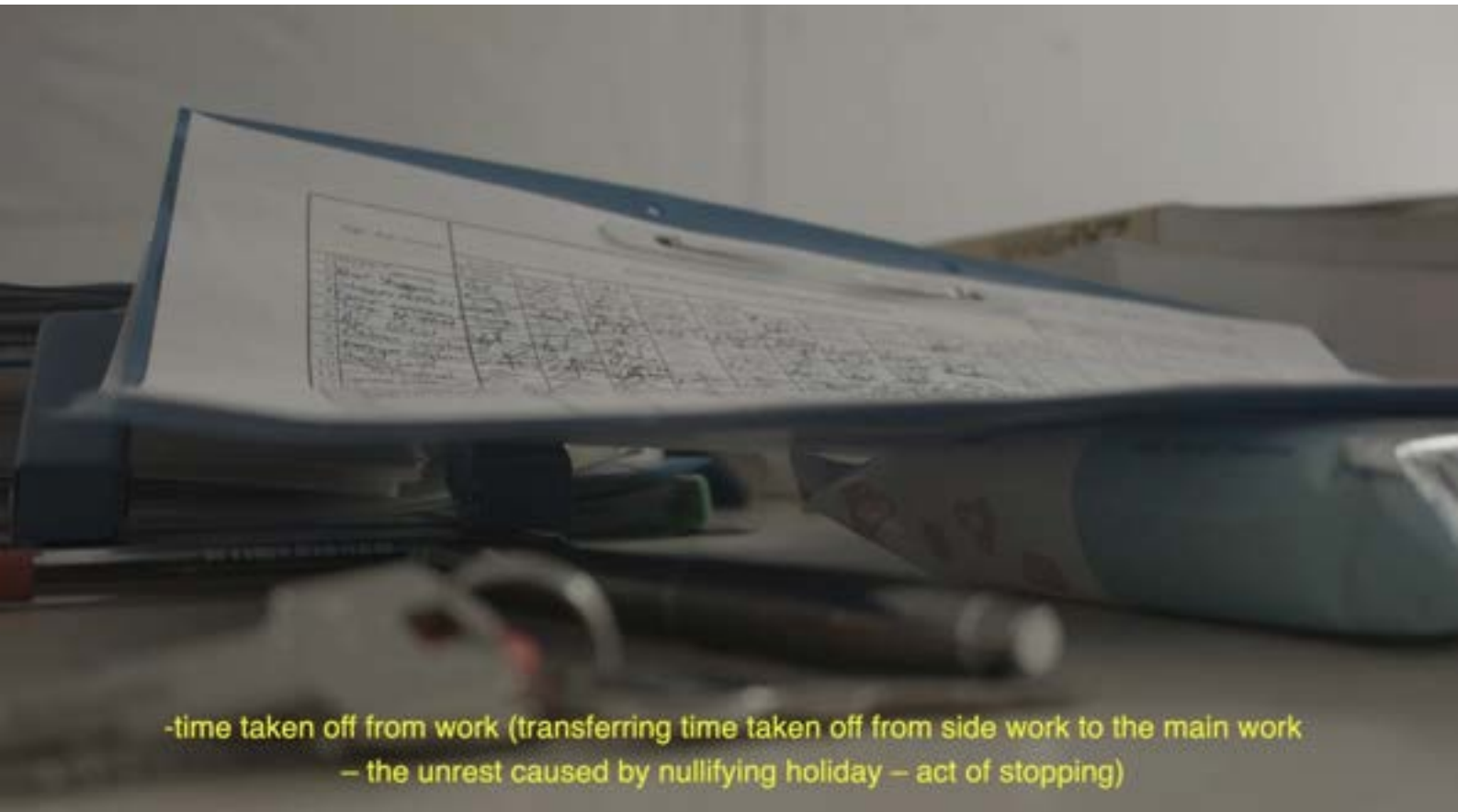




BORGA KANTÜRK & ÖZGÜR DEMİRCİ

Side job : A Preoccupation, vol.01,  
Video, Color, Sound, 08:41min. , 2019  
Collaboration with Özgür Demirci

Video-link: <https://vimeo.com/350415112>



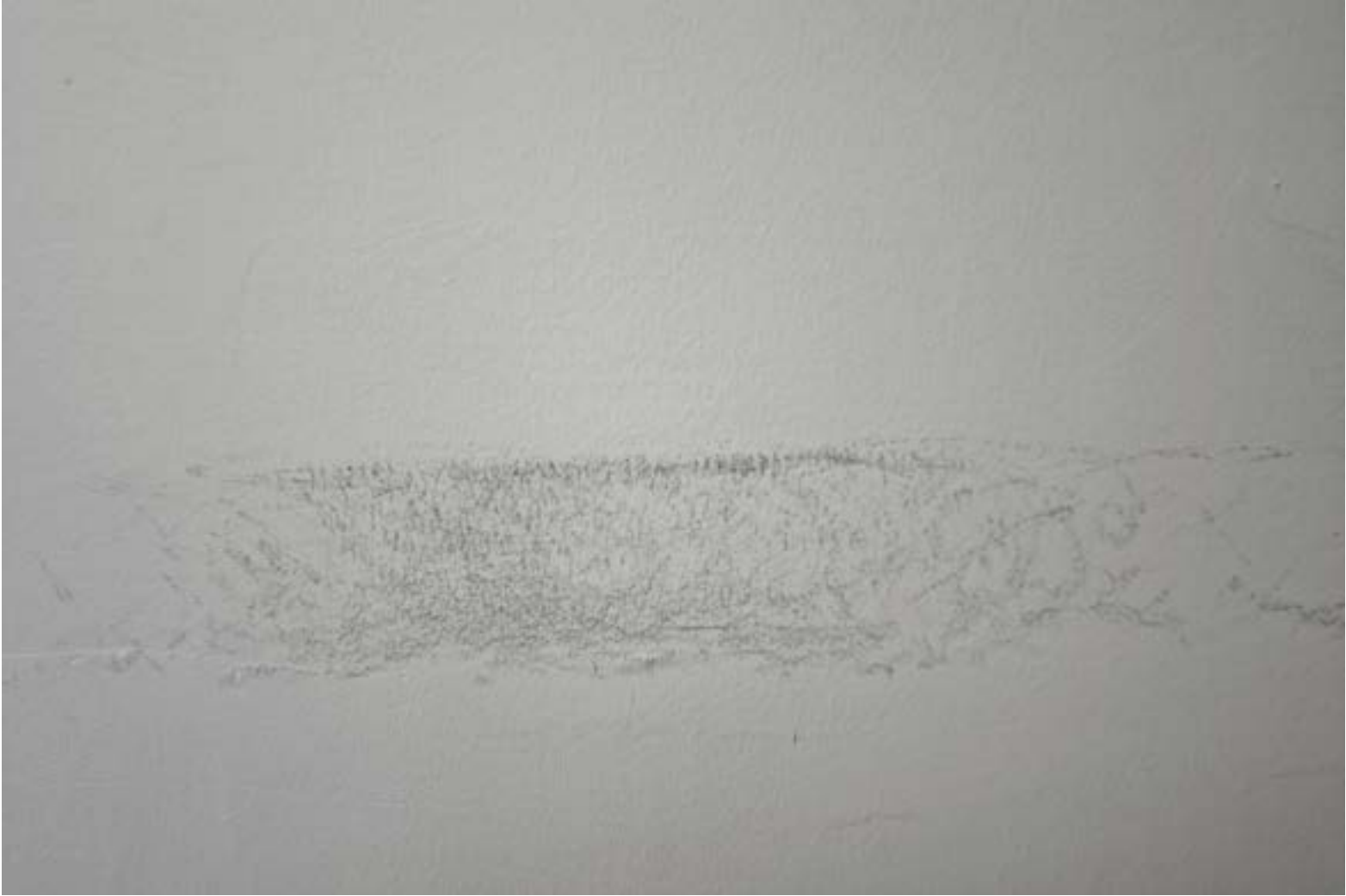
BORGA KANTÜRK & ÖZGÜR DEMİRCİ

Side job : A Preoccupation, vol.01,  
Video, Color, Sound, 08:41min. , 2019  
Collaboration with Özgür Demirci

Video-link: <https://vimeo.com/350415112>



Office chair drawings , vol.01,  
Performance photograh, 2019  
Colored photo, diemension variable



Office chair drawings , vol.01,  
Performance photograh, 2019  
Colored photo, diemension variable



Balcony, 2020 , İzmir, Video with sound: 40:53 min.

Video: Borga kantürk -Sound: Sarp Keskiner

Video link: <https://youtu.be/0Cmao8gRJsg>

*Abstract Exercises*

*New Normal / New Abstract,  
MASK, DISTANCE, HYGIENE  
and OBSESSIONS*



Abstract Exercises - After Rothko N:01,  
photograph, 2020



*Abstract Exercises*

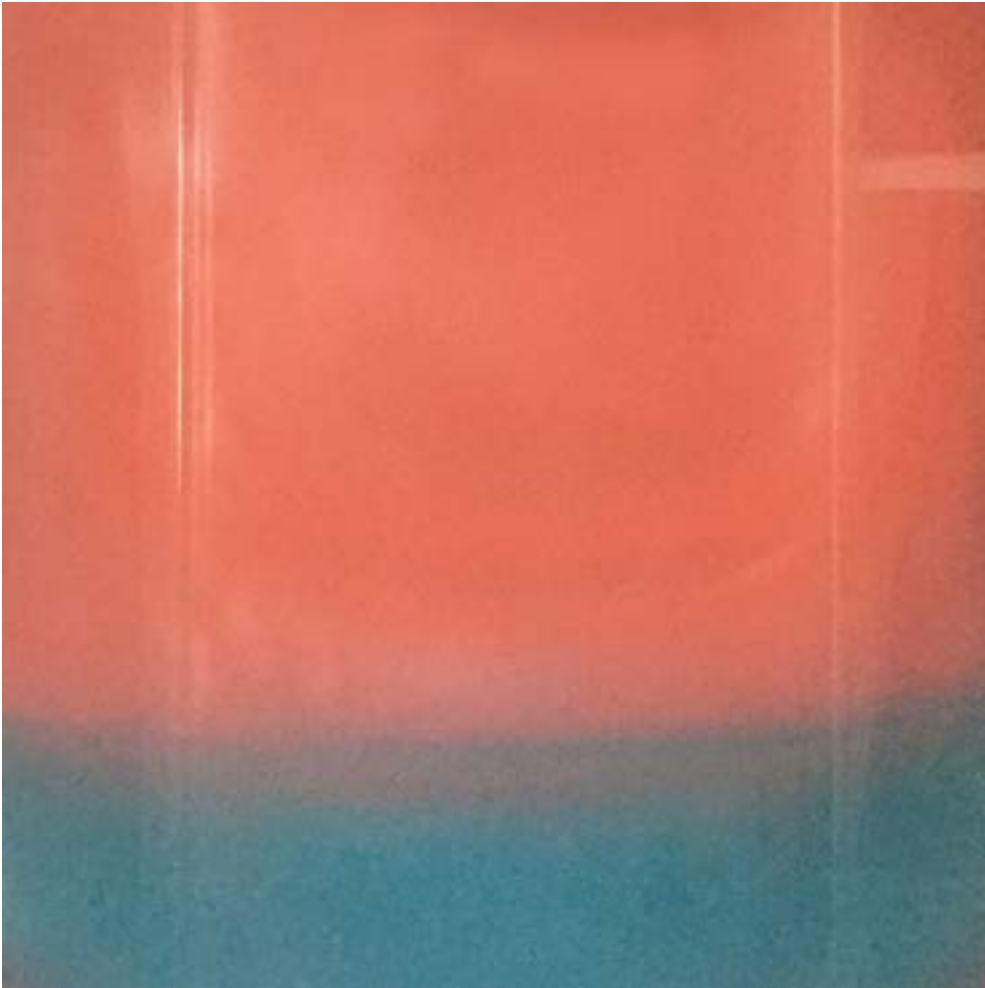
*New Normal / New Abstract,  
MASK, DISTANCE, HYGIENE  
and OBSESSIONS*



Abstract Exercises - After Rothko N:02,  
photograph, 2020

*Abstract Exercises*

*New Normal / New Abstract,  
MASK, DISTANCE, HYGIENE  
and OBSESSIONS*



Abstract Exercises - After Rothko N:02,  
photograph, 2020



I produced a set of books in the form of three booklets that can be experienced in connection with each other or separately. The first of the trio is "Book of Short Distances: En Route..."; the second is "Library of Short Distances: Index" and the last is an artist book in which I include a sentence from each of the books included in the library, 12 pieces of 20-line text collages, titled "Library of Short Distances: Lines."



### Library of Short Distances, 2019-2020

During the SAHA Studio program, I created a modest library of 240 books, which I call the *Library of Short Distances*. The books were organized alphabetically by title from 0-A to Z, without taking into consideration the author name, the subject, the genre, or years of publication. The reason for this was to evoke the feeling and empathy the titles create, my first encounter with them, their influence on my decision to buy them, and then their contribution to making them my travel companions. This selection, which I have made among hundreds of books that I have received and owned until 2020, consists of books that are less than 120 pages thick and can be read in a few hours, collected to accompany me on short-distance travels.



İsa məsafələr kitablığı Library of short distances:	
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861	862	863	864
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969	970	971	972
973	974	975	976
977	978	979	980
981	982	983	984
985	986	987	988
989	990	991	992
993	994	995	996
997	998	999	1000

1001	1002	1003	1004
1005	1006	1007	1008
1009	1010	1011	1012
1013	1014	1015	1016
1017	1018	1019	1020
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1061	1062	1063	1064
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1097	1098	1099	1100
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1109	1110	1111	1112
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**"Library of Short Distances" is now at [#ArterLibrary](#)**

"Library of Short Distances" is a library of 240 alphabetically organised books selected by Borga Kantürk from the books he has owned over time and a poster featuring the index of these publications. The library consists of books that are less than 120 pages long and collected to accompany the artist on short-distance travels.

"Library of Short Distances" is also accompanied by the artist book "Book of Short Distances" produced in the form of three interconnected booklets.

Commissioned and produced within the scope of SAHA Studio programme and with the support of SAHA in 2020.





**"If we can not go..."**

A Graphic Novel Project by Levent Ayata, Ozgür Demirci, Borga Kantürk and Mert Yavaşca, Art & Letters by Hürel Çobanoğlu, Cover by Borga Kantürk  
Written by Mert Yavaşca, English translation by Hale Eryılmaz, İzmir, 2020

This comic-book as a black and white fascicle as a co-production of Shelter Artist Run Space and Corridor Project Space. The individual and collective testimony of the artists produced as a graphic-story about the unending process, focusing on their experiences

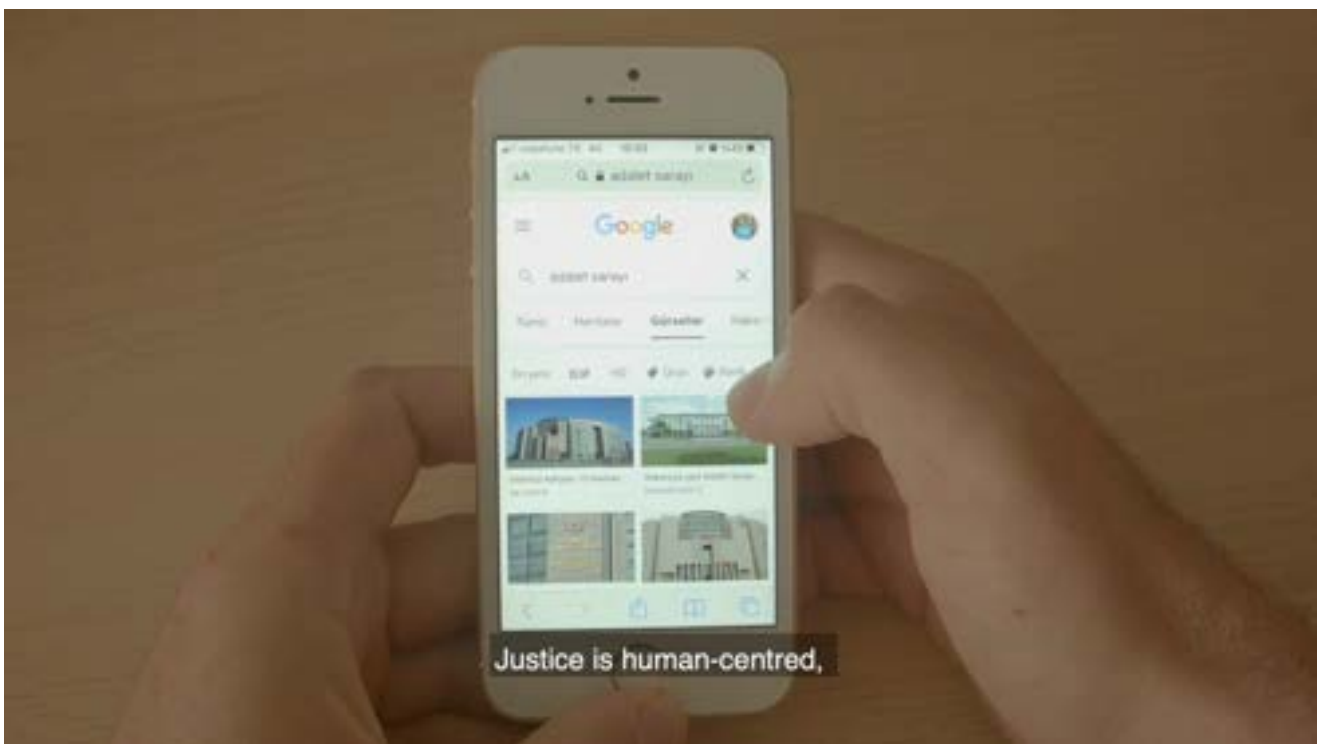
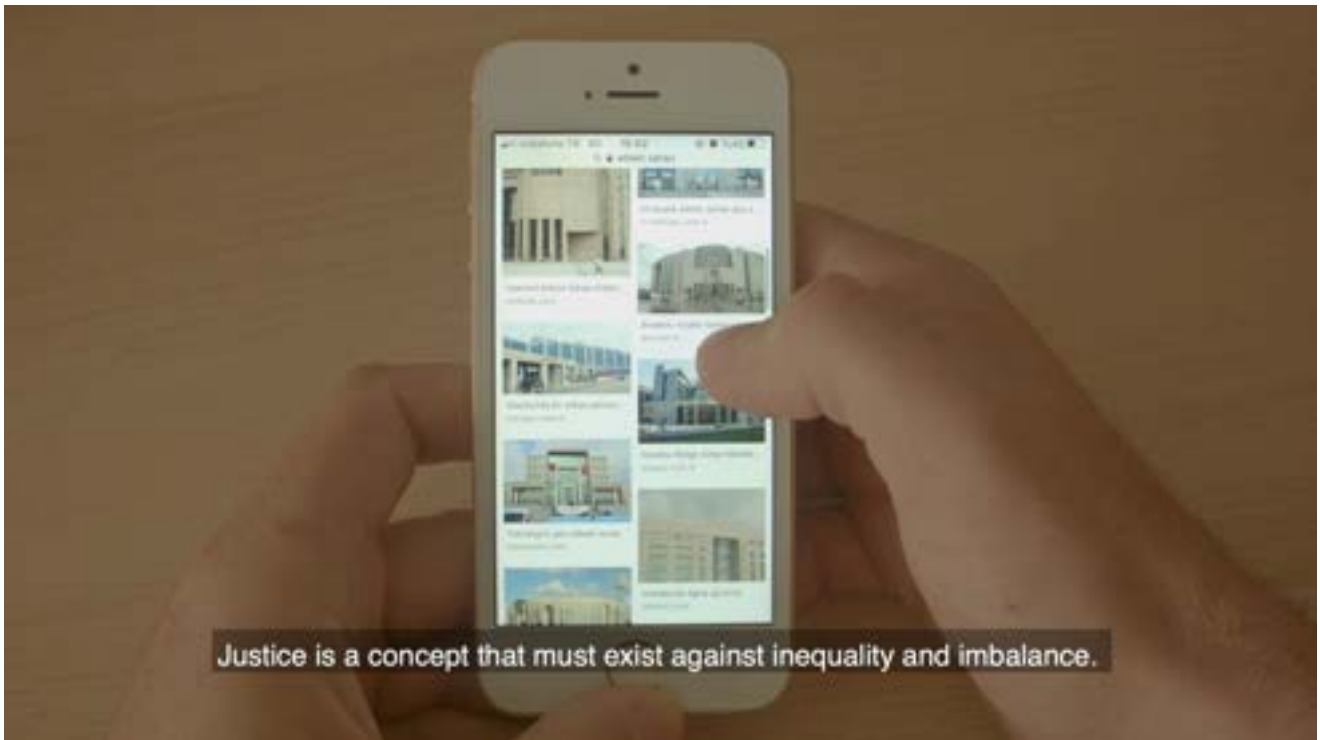


"If we can not go..." 2020

Graphic Novel Project

Levent Ayata, Ozgür Demirci, Borga Kantürk,

Mert Yavaşca, Art & Letters by Hürel Çobanoğlu



**«Justice, Property, Foundation»**

Collaborative work with Özgür Demirci, Levent Ayata, Mert Yavaşca

Video: 11.25min, 2020





Pending..." 2015-2022  
Ongoing Project by Borga Kantürk and Özge Calafato