



ISTANBUL ARTISTS

MOTHER, AM I A BARBARIAN?

© Bruno Zanzottera
parallelozero





Gürbüz Doğan Eksioğlu, illustrator and painter with his work consisting of two alarm clocks each with a single hand. 'They need each other in order to make sense.' 'At Taksim I breathed the gas of the police with the demonstrators. From this experience, I made a series of drawings in support of the protest.'

MOTHER, AM I A BARBARIAN?

This sentence from a poem by Lale Müldür is the title of the latest art biennial that starts in Istanbul in September, 2013. A theme that wants to bring art out of the galleries and talk to people, to the 'excluded' from the new economic relations between rich and poor and from the wild capitalism that is radically changing the face of the city. A theme that became very sensitive with the explosion of the Turkish May, which saw artists playing an important role with their presence and creativity.

"I told the curator of the biennial: 'You are lucky because the utopia you wanted to speak about happened in reality. But at the same time you are also unlucky because what you wanted to bring at the biennial has already happened and this somehow makes it outdated'" are the words of Volkan Aslan, a famous visual artist who precipitously returned from his holiday in Greece to participate in the revolt that involved all layers of society.

Italian sculptor Francesco Albano has been living in Istanbul for four years. In September he will exhibit his works 'On the Eve' at the Tophane art gallery. 'Istanbul reminds me of Italy as it was 40 years ago. A Country similar to Pasolini's movies'



Burcu Sarak, singer of Anatolian music arrested in Gezi Park with his mother. 'In Turkey, people have always been afraid of communism. At Gezi we saw the beauty of being able to share things'





Ali Taptik, photo-artist. 'I don't think that the events of Gezi Park will change my work in a direct way, but the experiences change people's lives. In this sense it will change my work'

Italian painter Claudio Cecchetti has been living in Istanbul for five years. He participated in the Venice Biennale 2011. 'When I arrived in Istanbul I didn't know anyone and it was not easy to find models, so I started to paint the trees. The trees were the first home of many populations. After what happened in Gezi Park it seems to have been something prophetic, as if I had done it on this purpose





Orhan Cem Çetin, photo-artist. Some of his works (Get Closer) are exposed at Modern (contemporary art museum) in Istanbul. 'At Gezi Park I took some photos but that was not the main purpose. For me it was an opportunity to talk to the people'



Volkan Aslan, visual artist photographed with one of his works, 'Do not forget to remember,' exhibited at the art gallery of the Koç family. He told the curator of September 2013 Istanbul biennial of art 'You are lucky because the utopia you wanted in the biennial happened in reality. But at the same time you're also unlucky because it has already happened and this somehow makes the biennial unnecessary'

Zeynep Erkekli, theatre actress, with her husband Ozgur Erkekli. After leaving the National Theatre they created a small theatre company, Tiyatro Kartela. Their latest work is called 'The fairy is afraid of the giant'





Elio Montanari, Italian photographer of artists and art photographer. He has been living in Istanbul for 11 years. In September he will exhibit his work 'One, None and One Hundred Thousand' at the Salt Museum. 'The great utopia of the Young Turks has been condensed in the sentence: Do not touch the trees. But the dreams must become reality, otherwise they remain useless things that nobody cares about'

Burcak Konukman, visual artist. Currently exhibited at the gallery Mixer. 'I do not think that I will make any work themed on Gezi Park. It's too early and I think that if I should use my body to make politics in a direct way, it would lose strength'





Zeynep Sungur, assistant of film director Ozpetek. 'I live right near Taksim Square, and I participated in all events. To shelter from the gas I used my diving mask. I was forced to wear it to go to work or to go to the supermarket'



The band Mental photographed before a concert in Kadikoy. Efe, the guitarist of the band, participated in the protests of Gezi Park with his father



Giacinto Occhionero, an Italian painter in Istanbul for an exhibition with the gallery Maumau. In September he will exhibit at the gallery Kare within the project Interface. 'To me, art is the most conservative thing that exists because artists such as graffiti artists who have started their work as protesters when they began to be invited in the galleries and earn a lot of money they immediately abandoned the dispute. Art follows the money'

Ozgur Erkekli, theatre director. After leaving the National Theatre he created with his wife, actress Zeynep Erkekli, a small theatre company, Tiyatro Kartela. Their latest work is called 'The fairy is afraid of the giant'





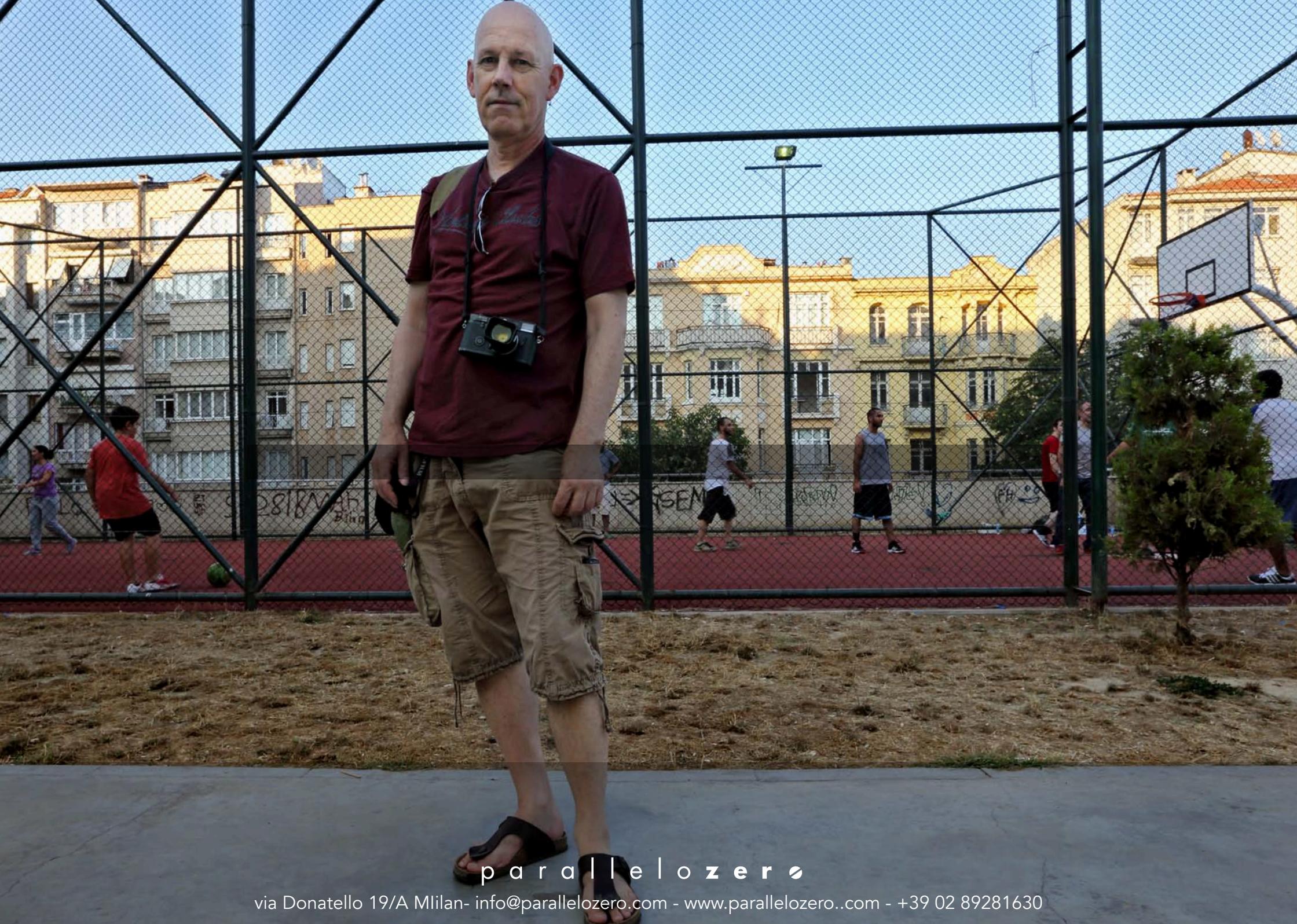
Ken Feinstein, photo and video artist from Singapore, in Istanbul for an exhibition with the gallery Maumau. Born in the United States, he moved to Singapore and is always looking for a place where to belong. 'I try to understand what 'my home' means. I identify myself with Captain Beefheart's song 'My head is my only home unless it rains'

Cem Başeskioglu, filmmaker and blogger. His latest film 'Whatever you wish' is the theme of the loneliness of a woman of the small Greek community in Istanbul. After the protests in Gezi park his blog was overshadowed



Christian Raetsch, German visual artist. He lives between Istanbul and Germany. 'My works are not about politics, but in Turkey are often interpreted in this way by people. In Germany it never happens. I do not think that art can change the system but it gives ideas to people so they could change themselves'





parallel o z e r o

via Donatello 19/A Milan- info@parallelozero.com - www.parallelozero..com - +39 02 89281630