

AIR FRANCE TURKEY

Over 1000 destinations worldwide. See our offers and book today!



Artists build imaginary city on paper at PASAJist



German artist Stefan Endewart (L) poses for a photograph at PASAJist, where his installation "SpaceLab," a collective work by around 20 participants, runs through Sunday.

August 26, 2011, Friday/ 16:31:00

Share

Tweet

Share

Print

A

A

İstiklal Street's Halep Passage (also known as the Beyoğlu Passage) has been home to a new art initiative since December 2010.

Founded by a small group of artists and art enthusiasts, PASAJist is located on the second floor of the building and conducts numerous exhibitions, performances and other cultural activities with artists from Turkey and abroad.

Currently, the small room owned by the initiative is home to a spatial installation created by German architect and artist Stefan Endewart. Titled "SpaceLab," the show features drawings of a city, which cover all of the walls. The drawings were the result of the "Amazing" workshop series, conducted by Kotti-shop, an art and culture initiative based in Germany. Co-founded by Endewart and his friends in Berlin four years ago, the initiative organizes the creation of many participation-based works of art. "Our work has different formats; featuring exhibitions, conducting workshops and organizing collective works with the children in the neighborhood, who are 100 percent Turkish because of the location of the place," Endewart explained in an interview with Today's Zaman.

Coming to Istanbul and doing such an exhibition has served as a good opportunity to try new formats, the artist says. "My goal is to also do other projects. There are a lot of things I would like to try with this installation, which was inspired by other projects and workshops we had done in Berlin, Bucharest, Manchester and Newcastle," he adds.

During the "Amazing" workshop series, the initiative explored different mediums, starting with drawings and eventually creating installations, Endewart explains. The current installation features drawings of an imaginary city by around 20 people, replicated repeatedly to cover the walls of the exhibition space. The participants did not have any specific city in mind. "The idea was to go slowly, starting with a collective collage, drawing houses on paper, and eventually putting in an architectural structure at the end. The project is ongoing. The idea behind it is to produce a city all together, just like a nation does," he says.

Within the framework of this installation, Endewart says he also wants to realize a similar drawing project with Istanbulites and screen videos he has shot in Istanbul.

"In my opinion, SpaceLab is more about the process rather than an outcome. We do not know what is going to happen at the end of this exhibition," he adds, pointing out that both the drawings and the videos are related to the idea of a "temporal city."

Endewart studied architecture at university, but he has been making sculptures ever since. His graduation thesis was on presenting spatial theories in a visual form. "Sometimes it feels a little hard for me to say that I am an artist. I am somewhere in between an architect, an artist and a cultural pedagogue, because of all the work we do with the participants at the Kotti-shop focuses on collective creativity," he says.

"SpaceLab" runs through the weekend at PASAJist, and the works of Singaporean photographer and short film maker Russel Zehnder will be on display at the venue from Aug. 30 to Sept. 3. Endewart and his colleagues Annette Knol and Anne Kohl will also hold another exhibition titled "Prolific İstanbul/Üretken İstanbul" at PASAJist in November. For more information, visit www.pasajist.com and www.kotti-shop.net.