



Can Altay, b.1975, TR

Lives and works in Istanbul, TR

Incorporating narrative devices and spatial instruments, Can Altay produces “settings” that open themselves to common use and act as sites of collective production. Working across public spaces and art institutions, Altay’s works provide critical reflection on urban phenomena and artistic activity. As an artist and academic, he has engaged in works on the politics of everyday life, public space, urban ecologies, objects of use, and artistic action for over two decades. Altay’s work is often staged and manifested through the spaces, exhibitions and publications he co-produces, bringing together sculpture, photography, display, design products and people.

Education

- 1999 – 2004 Ph.D. in Art, Design and Architecture, Bilkent University, Ankara, TR
- 2003 – 2004 Post-Graduate Degree Critical Studies. Malmö Art Academy & Lund University, SE
- 1997 – 1999 M.F.A. Bilkent University, Ankara, TR
- 1993 – 1997 B.F.A. in Interior Architecture and Environmental Design. Bilkent University, Ankara, TR

Solo Exhibitions and Public Art Commissions

- 2022 *Dreamers’ Library Station*, solo exhibition, CURA Basement Roma, Rome, IT
- 2019 *The Missing Planet*, spatial intervention and display design. Curated by Marco Scotini, Centro Pecci, Prato, IT
- 2017 ***The Way Beyond Art***, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, NL (with Asli Altay)
Manifaturacılar Çarşısı Plakçılık Sunar, setting and recording label at 5533, IMÇ, Istanbul, TR (with Saz Arkadasları)
- 2016 ***Ahali***, Tenderpixel, London, UK
Virgolo Future Institute, ar/ge kunst, Bolzano, IT
Loughborough Records Presents Presence, as part of Market Town, RADAR, Loughborough University, Loughborouh, UK
- 2015 *Such Territorial Claims Transform Spatial Imagination Into Obscure (Studio Virgolo third fragments)*, Lungomare and ar/ge kunst, Bozen, IT
Split Horizon (Domestic Disobedience), Oktem & Aykut, Istanbul, TR
Such Territorial Claims Transform Spatial Imagination Into (Studio Virgolo second fragments), Lungomare and ar/ge kunst, Bozen, IT

- Can Altay, Arcade, London, UK
Such Territorial Claims (Studio Virgolo first fragments), Lungomare, Bozen, IT
- 2014 *Carricola Bazaar*, Carricola, Valencia, ES
Normalization Parts 1 and 2 and 3, SALT Beyoglu, Istanbul, TR
- 2013 ***Inner Space Station***, Protocinema, New York, US
- 2012 *Distributed*, Arcade, London, UK
Distributed, Frieze Projects East, Waltham Forest, London, UK
- 2011 *COHAB: an assembly of spare parts*, CASCO, Utrecht, NL
- 2010 *The Church Street Partners' Gazette*, The Showroom, London, UK
- 2008 *Setting a Setting / Forecasting a Broken Past*, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, DE
- 2007 *Ey Ahali! / Setting a Setting / Letting a Setting Go*, Spike Island, Bristol, UK
- 2006 *No Bar, Just Bottles.*, The Abstract Cabinet at Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, SP

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *17th Istanbul Biennial (with Marco Scotini)*,
 Curated by Ute Meta Bauer, Amar Kanwar, David Teh. Istanbul, TR
8th Çanakkale Biennial Curated by Azra Tüzünoglu. Çanakkale, TR
- 2021 *Burası*, YKKS. Curated by Kevser Güler. Istanbul, TR
- 2020 *Qalqalah: Plus d'une Langue (with Ashkan Sepahvand and Natascha Sadr- Haghigian)*
 Curated by Virginie Bobin and Victorine Grataloupe. CRAC Occitanie/ Pyrénées-Méditerranée, Sète, FR
- 2019 *Haydi! Come On: Participation and Collaborative Practice in Contemporary Art*. Plato Sanat.
 Curated by Markus Graf. Istanbul, TR
- 2020 *The Missing Planet*, curated by Marco Scotini and Stefano Pezzato, (exhibition design by Can Altay),
 Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Prato IT
- 2018 *BELIEVE*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto, CA
Yinchuan Biennale, curated by Marco Scotini, China
- 2017 *Gaudiopolis 2017*, OFF-Biennale, Budapest, HU
- 2016 *We are the Centre*, CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, New York, US
Selfmanagement, Galleria Enrico Astuni, Bologna, IT
Ahali at Glasgow School of Art, Reid Gallery, Glasgow, UK
Ahali at Ellen De Bruijne with Jeremiah Day, Amsterdam, NL
- 2015 *Istanbul. Passion, Joy, Fury*, MAXXI Foundation, Rome, IT
Old Intersections Make it New III, Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, GR
Too Early, Too Late: Middle East and Modernity, Pinacoteca Nazionale Bologna, IT
- 2014 *The Oxymoron of Normality*, Depo, Istanbul, TR
The 5th Marrakech Biennale, Marrakech, MA
You Don't Go Slumming: Can Altay & Jeremiah Day, SALT Galata, Istanbul, TR
- 2013 *Hotspot Istanbul*, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, CH
- 2011 *Safari*, Le Lieu Unique, Nantes, FR
That's the Way We Do It, Kunsthau, Bregenz, AT
Huseyn Bahri Alptekin: I am not a Studio Artist, SALT Beyoglu, Istanbul, TR

- 2010 *FROM A TO B, FROM B TO P*, Bielefelder Kunstverein im Waldhof, DE & Le Confort Moderne, Poitiers, FR
'Diverçity', Learning From Istanbul, Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, PL
Fantasy and Island, FRAC Corse, Corsica, FR
One Leading Away From Another, 303 Gallery, New York, US
Can Altay & Iman Issa, Rodeo Istanbul, TR
Open City:IABR in Istanbul, DEPO, Istanbul, TR
- 2009 *The Columns Held Us Up*, Artists Space, New York, US
4th International Architecture Biennale, Rotterdam, NL
Fantasy For Allan Kaprow, Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo, EG
If There Is No Audience, Centro Cultural Montehermoso, Vitoria-Gasteiz, SP
You don't go slumming... (with Jeremiah Day), Arcade, London, UK
- 2008 *New Ends Old Beginnings*, The Bluecoat Liverpool, UK
Social Diagrams. Planning Reconsidered, Kunstlerhaus Stuttgart, DE
Representations of the Artist as an Intellectual, D21, Leipzig, DE
- 2007 *Movement, Contingency, and Community*, Gallery 27, Seoul, KR
Says the Junk in the Yard, Flowers East, London, UK
- 2006 *How to Build a Universe That Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later*,
 CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco, USA
A Tale of Two Cities: Busan Biennale, Busan, KR
- 2005 *Day Labor*, P.S.1 MoMA, New York City, US
Normalization, Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul, TR
- 2004 *Common Property – Allgemeingut 6th Werkleitz Biennial*, Halle, DE
Call me Istanbul, ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, DE
- 2003 *4D: Four dimensions, Four decades - 8th Havana Biennial*, Havana, CU
Poetic Justice: 8th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, TR
How Latitudes Become Forms: Art in a Global Age, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, US

Exhibition Making | Exhibition Design

- 2020 *Empathy Revisited: 5th Istanbul Design Biennial*, (with Asli Altay, Future Anecdotes)
 Spatial and Exhibition Design including interior displays and a series of 'stations' in public space.
- 2019-2020 *The City of Tomorrow* (with Asli Altay, Future Anecdotes) Design of travelling exhibition on
 Soviet Modernisms. Curated by Georg Schölhammer and Ruben Arevshetyan.
 Yerevan, Minsk, Moscow, Nowosibirsk (ongoing)
- 2017 *Werksalon* (with Asli Altay, Future Anecdotes) User-spaces at the Van Abbemuseum.
 Curated by Loes Janssen. Eindhoven, NL
- 2017 *The Way Beyond Art*, Design Collaboration with Future Anecdotes Istanbul for Permanent Collection
 Exhibition at Vanabbe Museum, curated by Charles Esche, Christiane Berndes, Steven Ten Thije.
 Eindhoven, NL
- 2016 *Who Owns The Street?*, Design Collaboration with Future Anecdotes Istanbul for Exhibition at
 Vanabbe Museum, curated by Willem Jan Renders. Eindhoven, NL
- 2014 *A Parallel Modernity / Uma Modernidade Paralela*, Design Collaboration with

- Future Anecdotes Istanbul for Exhibition at CCSP Centro Cultural Sao Paulo, BR
curated by Georg Schölhammer and Ruben Arevshetyan. Sao Paulo, BR
- 2013 *Yerelde Modernler / Trespassing Modernities*, Design Collaboration with Future Anecdotes Istanbul for
Exhibition at SALT Galata, curated by Georg Schölhammer. Istanbul, TR
- 2010 *Açık Sehir / Open City Istanbul*, three exhibitions co-curated with Philipp Misselwitz
(Open City Forum; Refuge; Bas Princen 5 cities portfolio) at DEPO, Istanbul, TR
- 2009 *Refuge*, exhibition for the International Architecture Biennial of Rotterdam.
Co- curated with Philipp Misselwitz. This exhibition is one of the six main parts of the Biennial titled
Open City: Designing Co-Existence, curated by Kees Christiaanse, taking place at NAI, Rotterdam.

Books

- Altay, C., V.Kortun, M.Elveren (eds) *PARK: bir ihtimal (Hatirlama)* Istanbul: SALT, 2017
Altay, C. *Split Horizon (Domestic Disobedience): A Guide* by Can Altay including an essay by Tankut Aykut. Istanbul: Öktem&Aykut, 2015.
- Altay, C. (ed.) *Ahali: An Anthology for Setting a Setting*. London: Bedford Press, AA Publications, 2013.
- Altindere, H. (ed.) *Can Altay: Pigeons are People*. Istanbul and Berlin: art-ist and Revolver Verlag, 2010.
- Altay, C. "We're Papermen" he said, 2003 including essays by Helen Westgeest and Jeremiah Day.
Istanbul: Self-published, 2009.
- Vergara,L. and C.Altay *No Bar, Just Bottles*. Bilbao: Sala Rekalde, 2006.
- Ahali Conversation with Can Altay: A Podcast on the Future of Cultural Production*, 2020-ongoing.
- Altay, C. (ed.) *The Church Street Partners' Gazette*, issue 2,
Local Newspaper focusing on social and urban issues. Commissioned by The Showroom. London, 2013.
- Altay, C. *A Guide to Some Doorknobs in Waltham Forest*. Pamphlet for "Distributed".
Commissioned by Frieze Projects East. London, 2012.
- Altay, C. (ed.) *The Church Street Partners' Gazette*, issue 1,
Local Newspaper focusing on social and urban issues. Commissioned by The Showroom. London, 2010.

Freeform Publications & Podcast

- Ahali Conversation with Can Altay: A Podcast on the Future of Cultural Production*, 2020-ongoing.
- Altay, C. (ed.) *The Church Street Partners' Gazette*, issue 2,
Local Newspaper focusing on social and urban issues.
Commissioned by The Showroom. London, 2013.
- Altay, C. *A Guide to Some Doorknobs in Waltham Forest*. Pamphlet for "Distributed".
Commissioned by Frieze Projects East. London, 2012.
- Altay, C. (ed.) *The Church Street Partners' Gazette*, issue 1,
Local Newspaper focusing on social and urban issues. Commissioned by The Showroom. London, 2010.

Selected Articles, Essays, Interviews

- Altay, C. and G.Oz "Dialogic Weaving: A Favorable Tension Between Design and Crafts" *Digital Creativity* vol.30 no.1, 2019.
- Altay, C. "Ahali: a journal for setting a setting" in G.Allen (ed.) *The Magazine (Whitechapel Documents of Contemporary Art)* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2016. pp.221-222.
- Altay, C. "A Public Presence versus Greed, Brutality, and Control: Gezi Park" in P.Weibel (ed.) *Global Activism: Art and Conflict in the 21st Century*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2015.
- Altay, C. "Rogue Game: An Architecture of Transgression" in L.Rice and D.Littlefield (eds.) *Transgression: Towards an Expanded Field of Architecture*. London: Routledge, 2015. Altay, C. "Here We Are" (with introduction by Stephen Wright) *Les Cahiers du Post- Diplome 4 Angoulême & Poitiers: ÉESI // École européenne supérieure de l'image / European School of Visual Arts*, 2014. pp.120-125.
- Altay,C. "Transgression in and of the City" *A.D. Architecture of Transgression* November 2013 Wiley UK. pp: 102-109.
- Altay, C. "The Empty Pedestal, or Folly as Experience" in N.Hirsch, P.Misselwitz, E.Y. Chun (eds.) *Gwangju Folly II*. Otsfildern: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2013. pp.124-127.
- Altay, C. and Dan Graham "Social Spaces" (interview) *Frieze*, Issue 147, May 2012. pp.170- 175
- Altay, C. "Setting and Remaking" in Nikolaus Hirsch, Shveta Sarda (Eds.) *Cybermohalla Hub*. Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2012. pp. 140-142
- Altay,C. "'We're Papermen', He Said" in Condorelli, C. *Support Structures*. Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2009. pp: 204-207.
- Altay, C. "The Directed Gaze" in Guidi, E. (ed.) *Urban Makers: Parallel Narratives on Grassroots Structures and Tensions*. Berlin: B_Books, 2008. pp.248-267
- Altay, C. and D. Altay "Counter-Spatialization (of Power) (in Istanbul)" in Guidi, E. (ed.) *Urban Makers: Parallel Narratives on Grassroots Structures and Tensions*. Berlin: B_Books, 2008. pp.76-101.
- Altay, C."Europe 2050" in Miessen, M. (ed.) *East Coast Europe*. Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2008. pp: 283-287.

Selected Reviews

- Bailey, S. "Can the Istanbul Biennial Get Its Groove Back?" *Ocula* September 2022.
- Aima, R. "The Low-Maintenance Languor of the 17th Istanbul Biennial" *Frieze* November 2022
- Hattam, J. "At this year's Istanbul Biennial, the city is the real star" *Apollo Magazine* September 2022.
- Gotti, S. "How to Deal with Dystopia" *Mousse Magazine* March 2020.
- Ulusoy Akgul, I.L. "Critics' Picks: Can Altay" *artforum.com* September 2015.
- Larsen, L.B. "Can Altay" *Artforum* Vol.50 No.3, November 2011.
- Fite-Wassilak,C. "Can Altay" *Art Papers* Vol.35 issue 2, March-April 2011.
- Zolghadr, T. "Can Altay" *CREAMIER: Contemporary Art in Culture*. London: Phaidon, 2010.
- Westgeest, H. "The Changeability of Photography in Multimedia Artworks" in Van Gelder, H. and H. Westgeest (eds) *Photography Between Poetry And Politics: The Critical Position of the Photographic Medium in Contemporary Art*. NY: Cornell University Press, 2008.
- Schulte-Fischedick, V. "Niche Communities" *Be* issue 15, 2008.
- Bradley, W. "Can Altay" *Frieze*, issue 92. June/July/August 2005. Page 148.

Academic Positions

- 2021-2022 Prof.Dr. Department of Interior Design, Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University.
- 2021 Fall. Visiting Professor (Sabbatical) at MA Interior Design, Royal College of Art, London.
- 2019-2022 Guest Professor at MA Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies, NABA Milano. Courses: Exhibition Design; Visual Arts Practice.
- 2020-2021 Guest Professor at Free University of Bozen. Course: Artistic Production I-II 2016-202. Assoc.Prof. Dr. in the Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul. Courses: Design in Context; Object and Space in Contemporary Art; Urban Interiors; Design Studio.
- 2019-2020 Head of Department. Interior Design. Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University. Responsible for Curriculum Development, Academic Recruitment, Program Coordination and Department Budget, working in close collaboration with Dean's Office and other Heads of Departments in the Faculty of Architecture.
- 2012-2019 Head of Department. Industrial Design. Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University. Responsible for Curriculum Development, Academic Recruitment, Program Coordination and Department Budget, working in close collaboration with Dean's Office and other Heads of Departments in the Faculty of Architecture.
- 2011-2016 Asst.Prof.Dr. in the Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Bilgi University, Istanbul. Courses: Spatial and Product Design; Urban Interiors-Problematising Public Space; Art & Architecture.
- 2009 - 2012 Guest Professor at the Faculty of Art and Social Sciences, Department of Visual Art, Sabancı University, Istanbul. Courses: Issues and Debates in Contemporary Art; Art & Institutions; Fine Art Studio; Fine Art Practice "Art in Public".22