

Kanat Akar

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Date of Birth 25.04.1991

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EDUCATION

Maryland Institute College of Art

Photographic and Electronic Media

Master of Fine Arts

2016-2018 Baltimore, USA

Bilkent University

Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences

Department of Economics

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

2009-2014 Ankara, Turkey

TED Ankara College Foundation Private High School

1997-2009 Ankara, Türkiye



Bio

Kanat Akar (b. 1991) is a visual artist, lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey. Using photography and electronic media in his practice as a communication tool for the visual investigation of the human experience, he aims to tell effective stories about people in a politically and socially loaded environment that we are living in.

He earned an MFA degree from Maryland Institute College of Art, Photographic and Electronic Media department, in 2018, and a bachelor's degree from Bilkent University department of Economics. He was the recipient of a residency at VisArts (Rockville, Maryland) until recently. His work has been on show at Washington DC, and Istanbul, and a number of groups shows in Hungary, Italy and the United States.

Artist Statement

Having an interest in street and documentary photography and running after a meaningful frame evoked curiosity in me for different cultures and pushed me to understand the world we live in and the people around me. Since I began making photographs, I started looking at the world differently, investigating visual clues to tell stories and while making photographs, secretly inventing my own. Using photography and video in my practice, keeping people's stories in the center of my work, I focus on socially and politically driven contemporary issues claiming space to explore larger ideas, through people's everyday stories and experiences.

The fact that I was born and raised in a country that has a significant geopolitical location, a melting pot for the East and the West, Europe and Asia, also adds to my interest in investigating and finding out diverse stories that relate to the human experience and root in the social and political agenda. In doing so, from quotidian details larger ideas emerge. Photography and video allow me to point these ideas out by the process of image making. Starting from my own experience and the stories of people around me, I am interested in discussing the dichotomy between otherness and self, the ambivalence coming from the sense of belonging and longing, the strangeness being felt in familiarity, becoming familiar and embracing elsewhere.

As the time passes, we are building temporal relationships with each other and constantly separating from one another. These relationships expose us to a constant transformation, an infinite becoming. It is unique for everyone, however, is also largely determined by where we were born, our citizenship, nationality, passport, gender. Hence in my work, I aim to talk about this transformation and temporality in the face of the mutual relationship between the collective and the personal, the social and the political.

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

Fleur and Charles Bresler Residency, Visarts

Rockville, MD - September 2018-January 2019

Photo/Digital Fellowship, Maryland Institute College of Art

Baltimore, MD - 2016-2018

Trans-disciplinary Senior Project - Research - Second Prize Award, Bilkent University

Trans-disciplinary Senior Project on "Globalization" with the Project "Inequalities in the Globalizing World/A Precondition of Globalization in the Republic of South Africa: Ongoing Racism"

2014

SELECTED WORK AND EXHIBITIONS

SOLO & TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Familiar Distance**, Solo Exhibition, curated by *Arie Amaya-Akkermans*, PG Basement at PG Art Gallery, Istanbul
Distance, Solo Exhibition, curated by *Susan Main*, Kaplan Gallery at Visarts, Rockville, MD
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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Transitions and Displacements**, Juried Group Exhibition, LoosenArt Mag/Gallery, Rome, Italy
2019 Breath, Curated by *İsa Özdemir*, Fotokolektif, CerModern, Ankara, Turkey
Stop Motion Vol.5, Public Screening, Curated by *Katie Dance*, The Wonderland Ballroom, DC
SPE Media Festival, Official Selection 2019, Public Screening in Society for Photographic Education - Cleveland, OH
Bodies in Movement, Juried Group Exhibition, LoosenArt Mag/Gallery, Rome, Italy
2018 BASE 2018, Juried Group Exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey
Portraits Without Faces, Group Exhibition Juried by Zsolt Bátori, PH21 Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
Home: Absence or Essence, Juried Group Exhibition, Specto Art Space, Bridgewater, VA, USA
Metamorphosis, Group Exhibition Juried by *Wendi Schneider*, Darkroom Gallery Essex, VT, USA
Grad Show, MFA Thesis Works, Curated by *Ian Cofre and Darren Jones*, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA
2017 Fall Show, Photographic and Electronic Media Department, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA
2016 Fall Show, Photographic and Electronic Media Department, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA
2015 The Life of a Truck Driver-Make the Roads More Endurable in Your Eyes, Ford Trucks 4th International Photo Contest, Istanbul, Turkey
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RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Photographer Assistant and Videographer

Studio Rino

Assistant photographer of Emre Dörter. Responsible for maintaining equipment conditions, assisting Emre Dörter during projects, retouching, and delivering materials to the clients. Video content creator for necessary projects.

January, 2020 - Present, Turkey

Freelance Videographer

UNICEF Turkey

Videographer working for Unicef Turkey office for documentary video projects that focuses on people stories, humanitarian aids, and human stories during uncertain times or conflict. Responsible for telling stories and conducting interviews as part of projects and creating video content. The process of the projects involve filming, sound recording, editing, subtitling, and delivering the final video content to UNICEF Turkey Office to be published.

November, 2019 - Present, Turkey

Archive Photographer

For Freedoms

Documented artworks of *Favianna Rodriguez*, *Joy Sela*, *Edgar Arceneaux*, *Zoey Buckman* and *Natalie Frank* as a part of the "50 State Initiative": the largest creative collaboration in the US history launched by For Freedoms. For Freedoms is an artist-run platform for civic engagement and discourse, and the artworks were shown on the billboards across Washington DC and Baltimore area.

October-November, 2018 Washington DC, USA

Graduate Teaching Intern

Maryland Institute College of Art

Teaching Assistant of *Allen Moore*, for the undergraduate foundation class 'Haptics and Optics'. Responsible for assisting students in class activities and participate in class critiques. The class activities involve digital image/video/sound editing programs, as well as print-making and scanning. Also responsible for organizing the course management system.

January 2018-May 2018 Baltimore, USA

Graduate Teaching Intern

Maryland Institute College of Art

Teaching Assistant of *Monica Amor*, Ph.D. for the class 'Art Since the 1960's'. Responsible for assisting professor before and during the class and responsible for organizing the course management system.

February-May 2017 Baltimore, USA

Photojournalist Intern

Milliyet Newspaper, Ankara Bureau

Worked as a photojournalist intern that is responsible for taking, and editing photographs and preparing them to be published in the newspaper, especially for the significant political events.

February-March 2014 Ankara, Turkey

Photographer

Turkish Society of Cardiovascular Surgery

Responsible for taking photographs to be used in the official website of the Turkish Society of Cardiovascular Surgery. Worked as photographer in several international conferences including Minimal Invasive Cardiovascular Surgery Conference and "EKYD Days" Conference.

2013-2015 Ankara, Turkey

Photographer, Poster Designer**METU Dance Sport Club, Middle East Technical University**

Worked voluntarily as a stage photographer, responsible for photographing athletes on-stage and backstage. Traveled to various cities with the METU Dance Sport Club Team in order to photograph championships and competitions. Also responsible for designing posters and flyers for the club.

2012-2013 Ankara, Turkey

Photographer**Fame Dance Studio**

Worked voluntarily as a stage photographer responsible for photographing athletes on-stage and backstage.

2012 Ankara, Turkey

PUBLISHED WORKS**Persan Home Studio**

Markiz Collection, https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=NmiA0bIJTfA&feature=emb_logo

Palladio Collection, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv48Eb2LZmE&t=36s>

UNICEF

UNICEF COVID-19 Distribution, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFgUKM-Gt20>

UNICEF interventions in Edirne, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmTp-uWgWNk&t=2s>

Mustafa continues school thanks to Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme (Social Media), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVLmCrRUQew>

Nehle continues to school thanks to Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme (Social Media), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIPDxJumsac>

Mustafa continues school thanks to Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej5Rpld46LU&t=44s>

Nehle continues school thanks to Conditional Cash Transfer for Education Programme, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PxNg2CSkM0&t=81s>