



**PRESS RELEASE**

**October 16th, 2010**

Another attack on art, this time at Beşiktaş Square...

**15 people attacked an installation presented under the 4th edition of İDANS**

An exhibition project titled *Free Zone Istanbul* developed for the 4th edition of iDANS International Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival organized and presented by Bimeras Cultural Foundation got attacked while the works were being installed at Beşiktaş Square. Some 15 people claiming to be members of RPP (CHP) Youth Section took an art work that did not appeal to their political visions down and tore it into pieces.

The exhibition designed and conceived by the internationally-renown designers Rosan Bosch and Rune Fjord transform familiar signs of urban public spaces in order to highlight humorously the habits and rules that govern everyday life. The exhibition aims to explore the boundaries between private and public space and to create common zones for discussion and conversation.

One of the 25 objects in the exhibition which evokes the prayer zones in airports had the image of Atatürk along with the signs of world's three major religions. The sign which aimed to question whether or not Atatürk is perceived by some as a kind of religion was the object of assault by a group present at Beşiktaş Square. An argument started between the artists and the group and the tension rose once another group that got down from a Beşiktaş Municipality bus joined in. In the meantime, they took down the art object and destroyed it.

As Bimeras Cultural Foundation we condemn this attack on the freedom of expression. It is quite worrisome that the attack took place in an enlightened neighbourhood such as Beşiktaş. One of the artists of the exhibition, Rosan Bosch, who is currently one of the designers of the International Criminal Court in The Hague reported: "There is a question in all the objects in the exhibition. It is possible to have different answers to these and of course it is possible to disagree with the expressions conveyed. However, the absence of the possibility of discussion shows clearly the presence of some dogmas. I am quite upset that an exhibition that aimed to create common spaces of exchange and discussion was met by such a reaction."

The exhibition, albeit incompletely, is available for viewing at Beşiktaş Square. It will also be installed at Kadıköy and Üsküdar Squares on Monday.

You can view some photos of the exhibition as it was being installed at Beşiktaş Square and of the attack in the attachment.

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**Bosch&Fjord**

***Free Zone Istanbul***

**Beşiktaş, Üsküdar and Kadıköy Squares**

**18-24 October 2010**

**Concept and Creation: Rosan Bosch & Rune Fjord (Bosch&Fjord)**

With their performative project at the crossroads of visual arts, design and urban planning, the Denmark based artists Bosch & Fjord transform familiar signs that orchestrate the choreography of everyday life, such as traffic signs, and invite novel uses of urban public spaces. They expose the uneasy boundaries between the private and the public spaces, and explore the ways in which cultural codes are met with conformity or dissidence. *Free Zone*, which is realized under the specific circumstances of Istanbul after previous versions in Gothenburg and Budapest is at the same time a new method for applied and comparative sociological research.

The art project *Free Zone* is a performative visual arts project where different signs are designed to resemble traffic signs that are familiar from public space, however, encouraging to other kinds of actions than those conventionally prescribed by traffic signs. The purpose of the signs is to investigate city space and to draw attention in a humorous way to which activities and actions we can invite people to perform within this space. The signs investigate the boundaries between the public and the private sphere. Where are the limits for what we can do in public space? And what can we do together? When is it allowed to participate in a conversation or an activity with strangers?

**Bosch & Fjord** creates comprehensive projects using art, design and architecture. The projects are developed in close collaboration with the users and the location. The art becomes part of everyday life as a natural part of the organization and the location's function and identity. The result is projects where art has a function and design a meaning.

Bosch & Fjord creates space, where form brings forth challenges and poses questions. The projects influence how we act and think, and change for example the organization, work methods or learning situations. The projects often find their way into existing structures, and thus have a thorough influence on people's everyday life. Breaking with old habits and ways of thinking, and ultimately opening up for dialogue is here central.

Bosch & Fjord works as designers, interior architects and innovation consultants. The company has specialized in creating spatial framework and design environments that invite to take on new behavior patterns and communicates the brand and set of values. Bosch & Fjord also creates exhibition projects for art institutions. In addition, Bosch & Fjord offers unique solutions to different tasks such as events, talks, visual coaching in connection with brainstorming, and conceptual development.

Bosch & Fjord is part of the team that, under the direction of schmidt hammer lassen architects, has won the prestigious competition for the design of the new permanent premises of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, The Netherlands. In close collaboration with schmidt hammer lassen architects Bosch & Fjord will work with interior design and art aiming to create a building complex that appear as a symbol of justice and reconciliation. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Bosch & Fjord was awarded a prize of honor by the Inga and Ejvind Kold Christensen Foundation. Every year the foundation awards three prizes of honor recognizing significant designers and artists, who characterize Danish visual arts, craft and design.

For more information about the artists:

<http://www.rosanbosch.dk>

<http://www.bosch-fjord.com>