

Yusuf Orhan

Selected Works (2020-2024)

Yusuf Orhan

Yusuf Orhan (b. 1988, Batman-Turkey) lives and works in Zurich. He graduated from Istanbul Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Between 2012-2013 he studied Spatial Planning at the Technical University of Vienna. Following his educational and professional experiences, Yusuf focuses on issues such as gentrification, urban ecology, urban migration, urban sociology, spatialisation policies and urban memory in the discipline of urban planning. Yusuf graduated from the Master of Fine Arts at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) in 2024. His artistic practice focuses on urban issues using video, photography, performance and sculpture. As an artist and urban planner, Yusuf aims to convey the urban phenomenon beyond numbers, maps and statistics through images, colours, textures and storytelling.



The video, shot as part of the research project “Ipragaz, A Neighborhood Expands Inward”, is about urban research in Ipragaz (Batman, Turkey), one of the neighborhoods that emerged unplanned and uncontrolled as a result of internal migration after the 70s.

Ipragaz, 2022-2024
Film Still (Film in process)



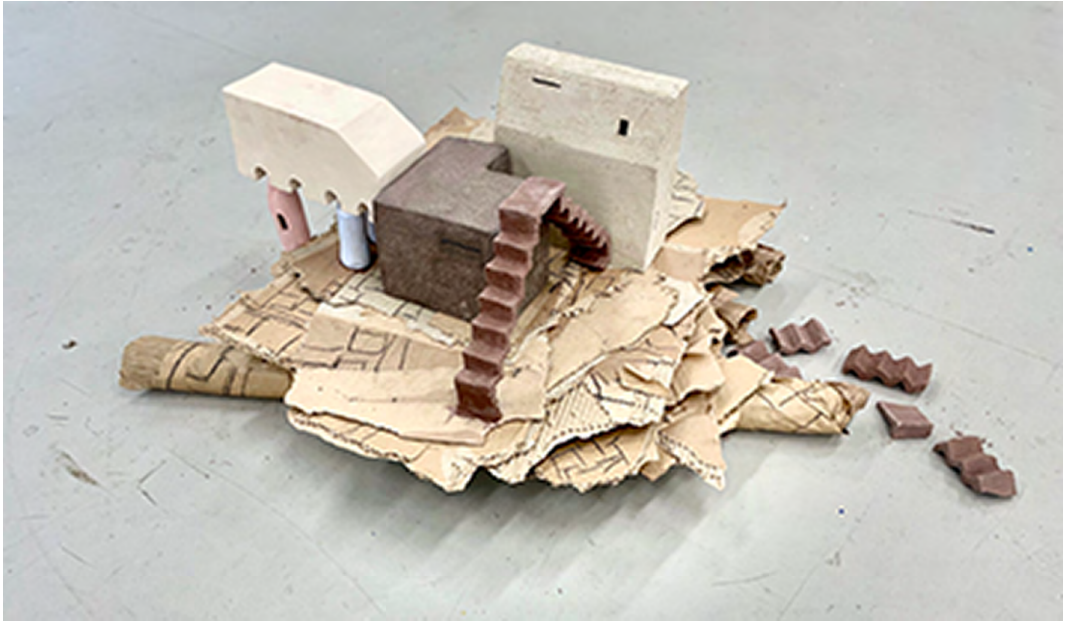
Gilc is a traditional street game played in the Kurdish region of Turkey. The game is played on a dirt ground with sharpened tree branches. The video performance explores the re-functionalization of urban space through the game performed in Kreis 5 in Zurich.

Gilc, 2023
Film Still
Single Channel Video, 7:25



The Gilc performance is named after a game I played as a child. Through the phenomenon of play, I address the social production of urban space, the concept of the playground, the play industry and memory. Gilc was performed in Prague and Fribourg in 2023.

Gilc, 2023
Performance
Approx. 12-15 min



The work refers to the relationship between children and architectural structures based on my own childhood experience. Ceramic sculptures are the result of the design of architectural forms in the neighborhood of Ipragaz in the form of simple toys made of mud.

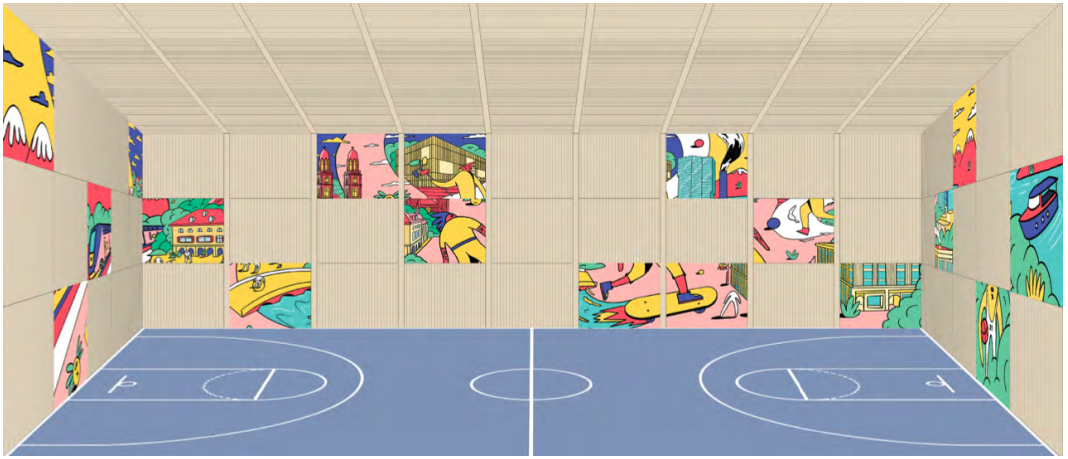
Memorial Forms, 2022
Ceramic, cardboard, pencil
Size variable



“The Vineyard” is a site-specific work in the group exhibition organized for the 4th Tbilisi Triennial. The work was produced within the context of the Triennial’s theme of “microclimates”. The installation, which rises from the center of the room to the ceiling, focuses on providing spatial integrity within the room.

Vineyard, 2022
Installation
Razor wire, wax, rope





Puzzle Hall is one of the last 7 competing projects that made it to the second round of the Kunst am Bau art competition for three new sports halls to be built in Zurich, organized by Canton Zürich in 2022. The image is a mural design draft that depicts some of the traditional games being played on the streets of Zurich. The project was led by Yusuf Orhan in collaboration with Uğur Acil and Nicolas Desarzens.

Puzzle Hall, 2022
Project proposal draft



The performance is inspired by several traditional games from Turkey. The work is done by collaboration with choreographers. It is a research in physicality and performativity of the street games. It has been performed in Zurich and Biel

Street Games, 2021
Performance
Approximately 15 mins



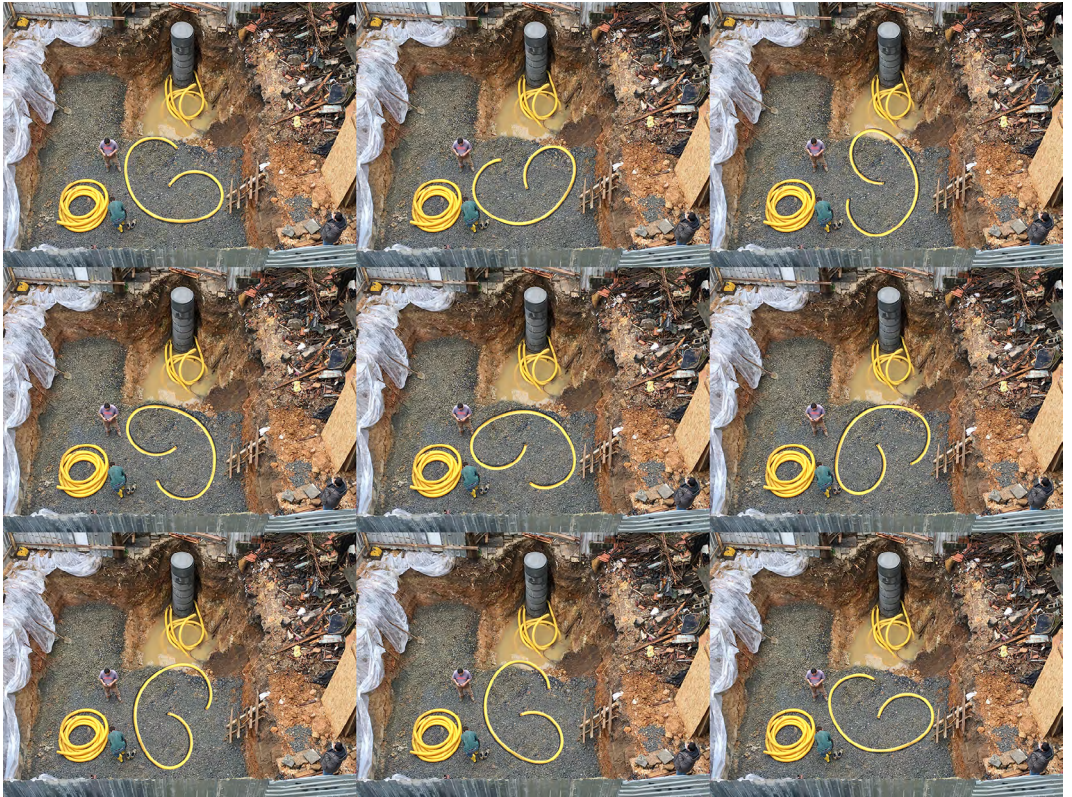
Fikirtepe is one of the most gentrified neighborhood in Istanbul. Most of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood live in very poor housing conditions. There is a serious segregation between different social groups.

Gratis, 2020
Edited image
120 x 100



In this photo, where only boys are on the street, the light is manipulated to resemble nightlife. Gender inequality in urban life begins from childhood.

Streets of Boys, 2020
Edited image
120 x 100



“Güç” means “Power” in Turkish and it starts with letter G, which is reminded by the form of yellow pipe in the middle. In this photo we see the beginning of a new structure, which was not legal officially. The power of money can bend the laws.

Yellow Pipe, 2020
Edited image
120 x 160 cm



New cafes, restaurants, bars opened in Karaköy, where is another gentrified neighbourhood in Istanbul, are designed to appeal to only new generations. Low-income users are re-functioning the undefined spaces in the neighbourhood according to their needs.

Contemporary Cafe, 2020
Edited image
120 x 154



Traditional street games have an important place in urban memory. However, in modern cities, games and sports areas are formed under the authority of spatial design. Accordingly, games also become standardised. A sculpture draft that I designed to be applied in public space inspired by traditional games.

Kortik, 2020
Visualization for a sculpture in public space



This is the documentation of an intervention of an urban furniture in Istanbul. The work underlines the silence of garbage container in public space, which provide an important but passive communication with us.

That Glorious Moment When We Throw, 2020
Colored stickers on found garbage container

Yusuf Orhan

1988, Batman, Turkey

Lives and works in Zurich

Selected Exhibitions

2023	<i>Un miroir plus vert, WallStreet Offspace, Fribourg, CH</i>
2023	<i>Unnecessary Skills, AVU POP-UP Gallery, Prague, CZ</i>
2022	<i>If It Is A Garden, That Has Become A Wilderness, ZHdK, Zurich, CH</i>
2022	<i>Winter is coming, Toni Areal, Zurich, CH</i>
2022	<i>Microclimates/Education, CCA, Tbilisi, GA</i>
2022	<i>Street Games, ACT Performance Festival, Biel, CH</i>
2022	<i>Kunst Kreuzt Weg, Offenekirche, Bern, CH</i>
2021	<i>Fänschter, Cafe Bar Settler, Bern, CH</i>
2021	<i>following the un-seen, Toni Areal, Zurich, CH</i>
2016	<i>Ji'de Siradan Bir Pazar, Ji Sanat, Istanbul, TR</i>

Workshops

2024	<i>Traditional Street Games, Co-Habitations, WEAREAIA, Zurich, CH</i>
2023	<i>Traditional Street Games, Co-Habitations, WEAREAIA, Zurich, CH</i>
2023	<i>Traditional Street Games, Stadt Zurich, Familientreff Hard, Zurich, CH</i>
2022	<i>Traditional Street Games, School of Commons, Zurich, CH</i>

Awards & Grants

2024	<i>ZHdK-IFCAR Research Grant</i> , Zurich, CH
2024	<i>ZHdK-Dossier Nachhaltigkeit 2024, Research Grant</i> , Zurich, CH
2024	<i>School of Commons</i> , Zurich, CH
2022	<i>Kunst Am Bau, Second Round</i> , Kanton Zürich, Zurich, CH
2021	<i>ZHdK-Avina Fund for Students</i> , Zurich, CH
2021	<i>School of Commons</i> , Zurich, CH

Ongoing Projects

2024-2034	<i>Leaf – Flame – Ash – Soil -?</i> , Dossier Nachhaltigkeit, TR
2024	<i>Urban Rhythms: Navigating Spaces in Istanbul and Zurich</i> , SoC, CH-TR
2024	<i>Urban Rhythms: Navigating Spaces in Istanbul and Zurich</i> , IFCAR, CH-TR
2022	<i>Ipragaz, A Neighborhood Expands Inward</i> , Dossier International, TR
2022-2024	<i>Traditional Street Games</i> , Workshop Series With Children, TR

Education

2021 - 2024	<i>MA Fine Arts</i> , ZHdK, Zurich, CH
2009 - 2020	<i>BA Urban and Regional Planning</i> , MSFAU, Istanbul, TR
2012 - 2013	<i>BA Spatial Planning</i> , TU, Vienna, AT