



OCTOBER 11, 2025

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AUGUST 16, 2026

Curators:

**Merve Elveren**

**Meriç Öner**

Artists:

**Gürbey Hiz**

**Emre Hüner**

**Mona Mahall**

**& Aslı Serbest**

**Metehan Özcan**

**Firuzan Melike Sümertaş**

**Deniz Tortum**

## PresentAbsent

*PresentAbsent*, curated by **Merve Elveren** and **Meriç Öner**, will be on display at YUNT from **11 October 2025** to **16 August 2026**. Through people, objects, places, and times, it reveals past and future imaginings that are tangential to each other over the course of a year in three sections. In the exhibition that leap across different moments and geographies, participants reinterpret their research and productions through the lens of a destabilized tension between the private and public.

From **11 October 2025** to **1 February 2026**, the first part of the project, *PresentAbsent: Alive*, brings together a selection from the critical modernity atlas created by architectural historian **Gürbey Hiz**, based on the science and literature magazine *Servet-i Fünûn*, with artist **Emre Hüner**'s video *Neochronophobiq* (2015) and the ceramic figures he designed for the video. The progressive future delineated by Hiz from this late Ottoman periodical unfolds through scenes stretching from the home to the street, from the sky to the underground. In Hüner's sculptures, reminiscent of archaeological findings, one encounters rudimentary tools resembling jawbones and vertebrae, animal fossils, ambiguous ritual objects, meteor fragments and menhir-like forms, all presented within architectural shells they inhabit. In the installation at YUNT, these figures, independent of the video, represent lives that continue in another time or place.

*PresentAbsent: Alive* is followed by *PresentAbsent: Under the Rug* from **4 February 2026** to **3 May 2026** with the participation of **Metehan Özcan**, **Mona Mahall** and **Aslı Serbest**. The final part of the programme, *PresentAbsent: Monumentesque*, will bring together **Firuzan Melike Demirtaş** and **Deniz Tortum**'s works from **6 May 2026** to **16 August 2026**.

As a continuation of YUNT's efforts to reveal the responsibilities and awareness that a contemporary cultural institution should undertake, *PresentAbsent* expands its content through talks and workshops. Across three parts unfolding over the course of a year, the works interlock; through works that reference previous and subsequent sections, and objects that decrease or increase in number, participants accompanying YUNT's inquiry throughout the exhibition raise a new question:

"Are the things we once accepted as absolute being shaken to their core for the first time? Or were the sudden shifts that appeared recently merely a rehearsal for what is now already underway?"



## Curators:

### Merve Elveren

Curator and researcher. With an emphasis on the social and cultural landscape of the 1980s and 1990s in Turkey, her research-based curatorial practice examines critical discussions and new institutional formations around shifting political urgencies. Between August 2011 and September 2018, Elveren was part of Research & Programs at Salt. Elveren was the curator of the Guest Programme of the 39th EVA International-Ireland's Biennial (2020-2021) titled *Little did they know*. In 2022, she co-curated *In Time / On Ground*, an archive project realized in collaboration with the Women's Library and Information Center (Istanbul), in the 17th Istanbul Biennial. She curated *Translated into Socialism*, researched by Sezgin Boynik and Tevfik Rada (Pykë-Presje), which opened at Salt Galata in 2024 and Moderna galerija (Ljubljana) in 2025. She co-edited "Cengiz Çekil: 21.08.1945-10.11.2015" (2020), "Day to Day" (2025), and "National Identity and Feminist Praxis: Perspectives from Kosovo and Turkey" (2025). In 2018, Elveren was the recipient of the Independent Vision Award for Curatorial Achievement, awarded by Independent Curators International, New York.

### Meriç Öner

Architect, curator, and researcher. Öner has worked on design and architectural culture since 2005. She was the founding associate director at Salt, where she shaped the institution's critical approach to studies of the built environment. Her inquiries into material culture initiated local and international conversations and enabled the public presentation of multiple narratives and timelines through exhibitions, workshops, talks, and screenings. As director, she expanded Salt's role as a co-learning agency, advancing the dissemination of digitized archives and activating the *Office of Useful Art* in partnership with Asociación de Arte Útil. She also developed long-term collaborations with local institutions, most notably Kadir Has University, which led to the digitization of the *Istanbul Encyclopedia* (1945–1975), an unfinished publication on the city. In 2022, she founded Meriç Öner Culture Works, through which she provides strategic consultancy and develops exhibitions, publications, and independent programs.

**About YUNT:**

Founded by Muratcan Sabuncu and located in Sultanbeyli, **YUNT** is a non-profit art and interaction space. With Seren Şehitoğlu as its artistic advisor and Prof. Eva Şarlak as its academic advisor, **YUNT** aims to increase the opportunities for the public to encounter artistic activities. In addition to exhibitions, events, the educational programme and the publications, it enables all those it comes into contact with to establish new sensory relationships with the world.

**YUNT** aims to help increase the potential for social change through the experience and interaction opportunities offered by the venue.

**YUNT** supports art production and intellectual thinking with its programme of events and incentive policy.

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**How to get there:**

You can use Mescidi Aksa Mosque Bus Stop for İETT transportation. Car parking is available.

**Please contact for detailed information and requests for events:**

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