

YUNT

MAY 6, 2026

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AUGUST 16, 2026

“Monumentesque”: The Final Instalment of the *PresentAbsent* Programme at YUNT from 6 May

Curators:
Merve Elveren
Meriç Öner

Participants:
Gürbey Hiz
Emre Hüner
Mona Mahall
& Aslı Serbest
Metehan Özcan
Firuzan Melike Sümertaş
Deniz Tortum

Curated by **Merve Elveren** and **Meriç Öner**, “*PresentAbsent: Monumentesque*”, the final instalment of the *PresentAbsent* Programme, will be on view at YUNT from **6 May 2026 to 16 August 2026**. Spanning a year and divided into three parts, the exhibition deepens its long-term investigation into publicness, concluding with the participation of **Firuzan Melike Sümertaş** and **Deniz Tortum**.

In her research on structures commissioned by female patrons during the Ottoman era, **Firuzan Melike Sümertaş** highlights the influence of women, predominantly members of the dynasty and their immediate circles, on the physical and social fabric of Istanbul. She notes that these women, who are often portrayed in historical narratives primarily through their roles as “mothers” or “wives,” gained visibility and shaped public life through the buildings they commissioned. At the heart of the exhibition lies the **Büyük Valide Han**, built by Kösem Sultan in the 17th century. Despite its current worn state and fragmented ownership, the *han* continues to maintain its place in Istanbul’s commercial life through the popular culture imagery frequently found in Eminönü shops, its commercial structures, workshops, and its roof and domes, which have recently gained fame via social media. Within the scope of the *PresentAbsent* project, the han is integrated into the narrative in its contemporary form through the photography of **Metehan Özcan**.

Filmed in Upstate New York and New Jersey (Princeton), **Deniz Tortum**’s experimental film *Earth* (2011) traces singular or collective efforts of (non) existence, (non)inclusion, and (non)alignment through a camera drifting across an unknown time and space. Responding to the poem of the same name by poet, translator and historian **Efe Murad**, Tortum shares with the audience an attempt to transform a poem into a film.

Over the course of a year, the exhibition space has undergone constant transformation through works that have been articulated, diminished, or expanded. As it takes its final form within the *PresentAbsent* programme, it establishes a multi-layered foundation for YUNT’s invitation to sustain a collective practice of reflection aimed at understanding the transformation of publicness.

Featuring a selection from different moments and geographies, the programme makes visible the blurred boundaries and evaporating sense of belonging across individuals, objects, spaces, and histories, allowing for a distanced perspective on grand narratives.

YUNT

About Us

YUNT, located in Sultanbeyli, is a non-profit art and interaction space. It aims to increase the community's exposure to artistic activities. In addition to exhibitions, and events, it provides an educational program and supports publications, allowing individuals it engages with to establish new sensory relationships with the world. It aims to contribute to the proliferation of potential social change through the experiential and interactive opportunities it offers. Through its event program and incentive policy, YUNT supports artistic production and intellectual thought.

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Transport:

For public transport (İETT), please use the Mescidi Aksa Camii bus stop. Private parking is available for visitors.

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