The Turkish International Plastic Arts Association (Uluslararası Plastik Sanatlar Derneği) was founded in 1989 in Istanbul. A large meeting of artists had gathered to select the eight founding members (Alaattin Aksoy, Beril Anılanmert, Bedri Baykam, Handan Börütecene, Mehmet Güleryüz, Hüsamettin Koçan, Bünyamin Özgültekin and Yusuf Taktak). Mehmet Güleryüz was selected as the first president. UPSD has had three other presidents since then: Hüsamettin Koçan, Nilüfer Ergin and Bedri Baykam. The actual President Bedri Baykam has been in office since 2006. The other board members are Tijen Şikar Parla (General Secretary), Bahri Genç (Treasurer), Ceylan Mutlu, Turan Büyükkahraman, Murat Havan and Ekin Onat von Merhart.

Since its foundation, the Turkish National Committee is an association representing the freedom of thought, committed to the freedom of creation, clashing against censorship, defending the freedom and rights of artists before social security and copyright, revealing efforts in instilling art works in state institutions to expand art. The total number of members is currently 1538, where the total of approximately 1200 members is from Istanbul, Ankara & Izmir, where Istanbul has the largest share, rest distributed in various regions of the country.

We have no other branch anywhere in the country, although we are in touch with artists all over. Since its establishment the core values of the Turkish NC has revolved around freedom of speech, the struggle against all kinds of segregation and hatred ramification, the collective cultural attitude and effort towards preconceived thoughts and ideas. UPSD also struggles for the freedom of all journalists unfortunately in prison in Turkey.
Photos and a small description of the most important activities in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 & World Art Day Events and Photos:

A press meeting was done for Mehmet Aksoy on January 12, 2011:
Among the reactions of UPSD towards society on the anti-democratic process prevailing Sculptor Mehmet Aksoy had erected a monument called “The Monument Of Humanity” in the city of Kars, East of Turkey, close to Armenian border. The Prime Minister Mr. T. Erdoğan defined the monument as’ disgusting-freaky’ after a visit to Kars. He ordered its destruction and removal.

A press release communicated to public and media as “The sculpture of Mehmet Aksoy is a permanent and great piece of art and cannot be removed.
March 8, 2011 - World Women’s Day Exhibition:
Every year, hundreds of women are killed by their relatives, husbands or lovers in what are called’ honor killings’ that reflect unfortunately a lack of tolerance, education and basic respects to human rights. UPSD brought to light this unfortunate reality of feudal type left-over of human relations.
Special exhibition organized by UPSD for fighting against aggression directed towards women at a growing rate. 36 Turkish Artists participated.
“World Art Day” Proposal of UPSD Accepted in Guadalajara – 2011:
UPSD has given a proposition that the Birthday of Leonardo Da Vinci, April 15 should became World Art Day. The proposal accepted by the General Assembly on its day of presentation.
Young Artistic Activity 5 – 12 April 2011:
On April 12th 2011, the exhibition of “Young Artistic Activity 5” with focus on “Independence from the beginning” was realized in the Mustafa Kemal Culture Centre of Beşiktaş Municipality. 111 Artist were selected by the jury. A catalogue of 128 pages was printed for occasion of the exhibition.

World Art Day Conference at the Italian Cultural Center in Tepebaşı Istanbul 2012:
**WAD EXHIBITION – 15 April 2012:**
On the evening of April 15th, World Art Day celebrations continued with the WAD Exhibition with the participation of 60 artists at the IAA Turkey’s gallery.

**SHOP WINDOWS EXHIBITION – 2012 (World Art Day):**
96 Artworks by 86 artist, including sculptures were displayed on the windows of 72 stores on the very well known districts of Şişli Nişantaşı Avenues for 14 days. Ministry of Culture and Tourism Ertuğrul Günay and Mayor of Şişli Mustafa Sarıgül visited the exhibition on April 12th.
WAD Conference at the Beşiktaş Akatlar Cultural Center - April 13, 2012:
On Saturday, April 13, 2012 Prof. Tomur Atagök, Bedri Baykam UPSD President and Yusuf Taktak the artist gave a conference entitled “out of ordinary Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci and World Art Day. The panel discussion about “The never ending Renaissance genius Leonardo Da Vinci and World Art Day” was held.

IAA World Art Associations Union General Assembly was held on 12-13 October 2012 in Istanbul.
“The Three Generations Contemporary Turkish Art” exhibition was exposed to the art lovers in the UPSD Art Gallery between 11th of October and 11th of November 2012.

A Book For The Past 20 Years Of UPSD December 2012

A Book is prepared for the 20 year of UPSD, The Turkish National Committee. The book is an almanac of documents and information about artists of about 600 pages.

Youth Reunion Exhibition 15 April 2013 (World Art Day):

Youth Reunion Exhibition collecting the works of 60 young artists under age 36 was organized at the Istanbul gallery of UPSD / Unesco IAA with a reception.


On the 18th of April 2013, a panel discussion titled “Captivating and Situating Art in the Context of World Art Day” was held at the Caddebostan Culture Centre (CKM) with the attendance of UPSD President Bedri Baykam, Professor Tülin Onat and Professor Nilüfer Ergin.

SHOP WINDOWS EXHIBITION-2013 (World Art Day)

In Istanbul’s well known shopping district Bağdat Avenue some 23 shops have placed original 25 art works of famous Turkish Artists to their display which was provided by UPSD. In Nişantaşı 34 art works by 34 famous Turkish Artists were displayed on the windows of 34 stores on the very well known district of Şişli, Nişantaşı, Abdi İpekçi, Teşvikiye Avenues for 13 days (between 10th of April and 23th of April)
PARTICIPATION TO THE GEZI PROTESTS

The protests that shook the world when millions of Turks marched and protested against the government, in order to make them stop the occupation of the Gezi Park and transforming the area by constructing a shopping mall and a mosque. The Gezi events lasted 3 weeks all over Turkey and 9 young protesters were unfortunately killed. The UPSD participated to the demonstrations and the “occupy Gezi” events. Also President Baykam had already given three speeches on Taksim Square, denouncing the plans of the Government to the press and the public. Those demonstrations were held together with the Artists Initiative’s other spokesmen with Baykam, Poet Ataol Behramoglu and theatre actor Orhan Aydin. On June 15, the government forces attacked the Gezi Park with thousands of policemen, gas bombs and other light weapons to crush by violence the protests. President Baykam as well as several UPSD artists were on the Park at the Park on that Saturday late afternoon.

15 April 2014 “Young Artistic Activity 6” ROAD, TUNNEL, LIGHT (World Art Day):

UPSD, in the tradition of the Turkish National Committee has organized the 6th Young Artistic Activity6 (Genç Etkinlik) 69 Artists were selected by the jury. Selected works were exhibited at the MKM Art Gallery. A catalogue of 80 pages was printed for the occasion of the exhibition.
5 May 2014 - A Panel Discussion - Auctions Crisis:

We also have a huge different problem among the professional artists that we represent: that is the situation with the Auctions. Unfortunately, they act very irresponsibly and they just want to earn money from gross sales. They lower the first offering prices and thus hurt many artists’ market prices. They destroy all art values. No control, no inspection, they treat the situation like a market of small company shares. UPSD launched a joint-action together with the Galleries Association. The auction houses are threatening the real market value of almost every established artist. Also not only the prestige and the “collectability” of every artist in question are questioned, but also the trust of any potential collector in the art market’s future is destroyed right from the start. Besides these panel discussions, many press conferences and press releases were held and distributed by the UPSD. One more important detail: for instance in friends to be able to become an auction house runner you have to have a degree in art history as well as in Law. In Turkey, none of these conditions exist. It’s treated like a market where anything goes.
Turkey now is part of this much tormented region of the world in the near-middle-east. The famous "Arab-spring", has turned last May-June into a "Turkish Spring". The "Gezi Protests" widely publicized around the world, has almost lasted one full month between May 27 and June 25 all over Turkey. Millions of people marched protesting and the excessive use of force and violence by the government has resulted in an unfortunate bill with 7 dead persons and many blind youngsters due to tear-gas bombs.

Before it was evacuated savagely by the Istanbul police, the Gezi Park has been an unmatched centre for a communal life that reminded us of the "Commune de Paris" from history. The Gezi Park united in its land, thousands of artists, writers, actors, journalists, directors, academicians, lawyers, businessmen, political party members as well as ordinary citizens that stood up in defence of democracy and freedom. It was quite a human laboratory at the most universal level. Also it created serious multi-disciplinary platforms of solidarity and union between various fractions of socio-'professional level.

Gezi Exhibition was organized to save and keep alive all the things which had happened in those days. The works of 54 Turkish artists were exhibited in UPSD Art Gallery and Pyramid Art Center. A catalogue of 184 pages was printed for the occasion of the exhibition. This exhibition was not of course Just an art exhibition. It had a lot of political impact and influence showing that we were not afraid of the government and that we were not going to make a censorship on ourselves. It was like an open challenge. Exactly like the during our positioning during the defense of the monument of humanity once again on a much greater scale we stood behind the Gezi protests.
Piramid Sanat

Sikiyorsa Gel!
#direnkalbim SENİ PAYLAŞIYORUM

Küraatörler
Bedri Baykam | Denizhan Özer

İlk Yılında Gezi : 28 Mayıs - 15 Temmuz 2014

İ˙dogan Akbulut, Suat Akdemir, Muzaffer Akyol, Mustafa Albayrak, İ˙lip Anısoy Kaya,
Selen Arslan, Şehmuz Atasever, Erdal Avo, Ali Ayyıldız, Resul Aytemur, Bülent Balkan,
Bedri Baykam, Deniz Beşer, Ezgi Bilgili, Özcan Bilgiler, Melis Buyruk, Tüker Büyükkayahan, Şahan
Çetin, Erta Çekiçi, Safiye Mina Er dürak, Bahri Genç, Deniz Gökdemir, Genco Gülcan, Gülçeren
Hacoglu, Ömer Nuri İyem, Murat Havran, Mustafa Horasan, Nesrin Jake,
Ali Rabıda Karakoç, Faikled Kendincı, Kayhan Keskinoğlu, Ahmet Kircı, Seydi Murat Koç, Komet, Temür
Köran, Sükrün Moral, Ekin Onat, Neriman Oyman, Mehmet Özenbaş, Denizhan Özer, Aslı Özok,
Çetin Pınarçi, Deniz Pınarçi, Ceren Selmanpakıoğlu, Doruk Seymen, Ermine Şensea, Furuzan Şimşek,
Deniz Yüner, Tuncaıý Yalıçar, Alpay Tuğlú, Tansel Turkoğlan, Öksüz Uluçoğlu, Faruk Yılmaz

PİRAMİD SANAT SEÇKİSİ
WORKS FROM PİRAMİD SANAT ARTISTS

EXTRA PLACE
SUAT AKDEMİR, ZAFTER AKŞİT, BOZKAYA ALDAS, HALE ARPAÇIOĞLU,
KORAY ERYAYA, BAHRI GENÇ, DENIZ GÖKDUMAN, NIKO GUIDO, Genco GULCAN,
MUSTAFA KARYAĞDER, HALIM KULAKSIZ, RAĐENKO MILAK, DENIZHAN ÖZER,
EDWARD LUCIE SMITH, MEHMET YILMAZ, VEJJKO ZEJAK
6th Artists’ Assembly – 7 June 2014:

The main subject of the Assembly was the draft resolution of Turkish Art Associations Law (TUSAK). UPSD was represented by the General Secretary Tijen Şikar and Artist Ekrem Kahraman. The president of UPSD Bedri Baykam’s text was about UPSD’s perspective on TUSAK. Tijen Şikar mentioned about the challenges in general that Turkish artists encountered in the artistic area in Turkey. Ekrem Kahraman summarized the history of the Autonomous Art Council. 86 civilian unions participated in the assembly publishing a declaration at the end.

Leonardo & His Turkish Connections - April 18, 2014 (World Art Day):
On the occasion of World Art Day and in collaboration with Istanbul Modern Museum, UPSD organized a lecture on Leonardo da Vinci by artist, author and scientist Professor Bülent Atalay described by NPR, the Washington Post and the National Geographic Society as a “Modern Renaissance Man”.

Artists Initiative:
The leading artists of Turkish culture and artistic sphere have represented themselves in an artistic initiative to speak out for the democratic rights. UPSD has been an active player in leading this effort and has been a very important voice since 2012. The President of UPSD Bedri Baykam is one of the three speakers of this initiative.
Cafer Sadık Abalioğlu Education and Culture Foundation, which particularly gives importance to the education of children and young people, was established in Denizli in 1999. The Foundation carries out studies on education and culture in accordance with the principles of “People First” and “Sharing what you receive from the society with the society again by growing it”.

Art for Civil Society Dialogue project, which was implemented for strengthening the dialogue between the Civil Society Organizations, enabling development of the cultural communication between the European Union and Turkey, was put into practice with the joint financing of Cafer Sadık Abalioğlu Education and Culture Foundation, the European Union and the Republic of Turkey.

Within the scope of this project carried out jointly with UPSD International Plastic Arts Association of Turkey and Associazione di Promozione Sociale Lunaria operating in Italy, a Workshop was held between 17 and 24 January 2015 in Denizli. 9 from Turkey and 3 from the European Union member countries, in total 12 artists to be determined by UPSD and Lunaria has created plastic art works with the theme of “fight against all kinds of discrimination and hate speech”.

Besides their mutual interactions, our valuable artists has been able to introduce their opinions and thoughts to our youth and the art lovers and had the opportunity to interview. Thanks to this artistic event, UPSD believes that it has added value to our country’s cultural and artistic life, and we were honored to invite our artists and art lovers to Denizli.

With the Workshop, Talk Sessions, Art Days Events (panel, concert, dance show) within the scope of the Project, the works produced by 12 artists were exhibited in Denizli and Istanbul.

Reception of “Art for Civil Society Dialogue” exhibition
WORLD ART DAY CELEBRATIONS IN TURKEY
11-12 April 2015

This year UPSD Turkey organized joint activities in two major municipalities, Şişli and Kadıköy.
On the 11th and 12th of April, in 35 stands set up at Abdi İpekçi and Bağdat Street respectively, books and various products of publishers and museums were displayed and sold, namely Museum of Archeology and Istanbul Modern accompanied by concerts of famous rock musicians together with live sculpture and pantomime.

On the 15th of April, due to the 100th anniversary of the Çanakkale victory, exhibition named “AZGIN SULARIN BOĞAZINDA ÖLÜM SİPERLERİİNİN KOYNUNDA” collecting the works of Turkish artists started at the gallery of UPSD with a reception.

On the 17th of April, a panel discussion on “Why the Atatürk Culture Centre is closed” was held at the PİRAMİD Art Centre. Many speakers and NGO’s participated.

On the 16th of April, a dinner was organized by the municipality of Beşiktaş where the president and artists gathered together at the Feriye Restaurant. The honor awards of UPSD were presented to 10 Turkish artists.

In various locations of Turkey, joint activities were organized to encourage and create awareness around April 15th World Art Day, supported by press releases.

OCTOBER MEETING TWO
8-9 October 2015, UPSD Art Gallery Istanbul

UPSD, WinsorNewton and COLORBOX jointly performed an activity which was named October Meeting 2.
The participants of the “October Event 2” event has found the chance to try the Professional Watercolor Paints and created paintings that reflect their individual styles. 80 member
artists attended the event. The paintings will be exhibited in UPSD’s gallery and will be open to the visits of interested parties.

15 April 2016 - World Art Day Celebrations in Turkey

President Baykam this year gave all responsibilities for WAD to the Turkish UPSD executive committee and left for the Celebrations held in Los Angeles and Mexico City. Those events were extremely successful as the USA, California were widely introduced to the IAA and WAD. In Mexico City, Bedri Baykam also met with ex-President Rosa Maria Burillo Velasco and other members of the Mexican Committee such as Margarita Chacon and Sonia Calderon.

As IAA Turkish National Committee, we have identified our slogan for the World Art Day of 15 April 2016 as “Art is the oxygen for independent thought and art is the guarantee in encountering darkness”- “The world is to be saved by art not war” with the emphasis on the uniting nature and joy of art.

The short WAD Film was filmed by UPSD and Piramid Art; 19 famous Turkish Artists participated from various art disciplines. The link to the film is below; https://youtu.be/eZN8m8wG6Hk

Below is the breakdown of all celebrations within the activities performed in Turkey for the World Art Day.

In the evening of April 15th, WAD Celebrations started with the “Kazan Kayıyor” Exhibition collecting the works of 27 young artists under age 36 started at the Istanbul gallery of UPSD with a reception. The former President of UPSD Nilüfer Ergin and UPSD General Secretary Tijen Şikar gave a speech about WAD in the opening ceremony.
UPSD Turkish National Committee organized joint activities in four major municipalities in Istanbul.

The celebrations that took place with the contributions of Şişli Municipality was on the 16th of April. In Istanbul’s famous shopping district Nişantaşı, 30 stands were set up at Abdi İpekçi Street respectively, books and various products of publishers and museums were displayed and sold, namely Museum of Archeology and Istanbul Modern, Istanbul Toy Museum, IKSV Istanbul Art and Culture Foundation, Literature, Milenyum, Neo-fikir, Patika Publishing, Piramid Art Center, several publications such as İşbank, Yapı Kredi Bank, Suna and İnan Kıraç Foundation, Taschen, Phaidon, Colorbox Art Materials.

The WAD Information Brochure was distributed to each guest.
On the 17th of April, the Opening Celebration of World Art Day with the contributions of Kadıköy Municipality was in the Kadıköy district.

In Istanbul's well known shopping district Bağdat Avenue 30 Stands set up at Çakır Street respectively, art books and handcrafted products were displayed and sold. Museum of Archeology, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul Toy Museum, IKSV Istanbul Art and Culture Foundation, Literature, Milenyum, İzlenim, Neo-fikir Publishing, Piramid Art Center, Colorbox Art Materials participated likewise.
In Caddebostan Cultur Center, UPSD and Kadıköy Municipality organized a workshop in which 95 children participated. The Kadıköy Mayor accompanied this event.
SANAT
ÖZGÜR DÜŞÜNCEnin
OKSİJENİDİR!

Dünya Sanat Günü
Nisân 15

Pınar Karapınar

Dünya Sanat Günü
Nisân 15
Five thousand balloons with the World Art Day Logo were given to children on the Bağdat Avenue.

On Sunday the 16th of April, amongst the well-known museums, Sabancı Museum and the Borusan Contemporary Museum, were free for visitors.

On 23rd of April, with the participation of President Baykam who had returned from WAD activities in Los Angeles and Mexico City, a dinner Gala was held together with the Municipality of Beşiktaş and yearly WAD awards were distributed to winner artists and art historians.

On the 27th of April, a panel discussion titled “Turkish Contemporary Art and Market / who appraises the value of Turkish contemporary art? / Who is to appraise? / What are the factors that lead to uncertainty in the market? / Does foreign art work present a challenge to the Turkish market?” was held at the “İstanbul Modern” with the attendance of UPSD President Bedri Baykam, Ekrem Kahraman (Artist), Can Elgiz (Art Collector) and Marcus Graf (Art Critic). It was very successful activity with a huge attendance and lively participation. This issue which had become a second threat to Turkish artists, were analyze in depth, since an important group of collectors had been using a very dangerous slogan such as “I am out of Turkish art” which meant, “foreign art is a better investment, so we must move out of Turkish art, sell those works to buy more foreign pieces.” Through this panel discussion, articles of Baykam and press releases from the UPSD, this strange “fashion” started to recede.
Kartal Municipality organized an event where the reproductions of 20 famous world artists were displayed in the Hamam street.

Exhibitions were held in main streets and avenues.
Beşiktaş Municipality organized a celebration dinner for about 250 people.

Besiktas District Municipality also granted the World Art Day Honorary Awards.

The honorary awards:

“Artists”
Ekrem Kahraman

“Art person”
Prof. Dr Jale Erzen

“Press”
Hami Çağdaş

“Art Association of the year”
4L project, Elgiz Contemporary Art Museum Müzesi / Can Elgiz

“Young artist of the year”
Ceren Selmanpakoglu
The Maltepe Children Penitentiary Manager Naci Yıldız, opened the door to UPSD Turkish National Committee Artists, Tijen Şikar, Murat Havan, Bozkaya Aldaş, Hülya Botasun, Şener Taciroğlu, Nilüfer Çile and Elvan İzli gave the information about 15th of April World Art Day. Several solicitors from the Istanbul Bar Association Center of Juvenile Rights came together at the Maltepe children penitentiary, a painting workshop was done together with 80 children.
Various WAD group exhibitions were organized in numerous cities in Turkey in April.

WAD posters and WAD Logos were used in the various artistic events organized all around the country including conferences, panels and workshops.

Winsor Newton has included in its trade newsletter the WAD event.
In various locations of Turkey, joint activities were organized to encourage and create awareness around April 15th World Art Day, supported by press release.

Celebrating the 5th World Art Day
April 16-17, 2016

The World Art Day took an important place in the programs of many primary and secondary schools and universities. Several schools organized workshops, panels and seminars to bring students together with artists.
İzmir
Dünya Sanat Günü’nü Kutluyor
‘Barış İçin Sanat’
Karma Plastik Sanatlar Sergisi
15 Nisan - 04 Mayıs 2016
Sergi Açılışı: 15 Nisan, Cuma • 18.30
İzmir Resim ve Heykel Müzesi • Kültüprpark Sanat Galerisi (Fuar - Alsancak)

15 Nisan Dünya Sanat Günü Etkinlik Programı

Küçük Şehitleri Caddesi
- Duvur Boyama 11.00-16.00
  Çağdaş Şeker - DEÜ Eğitim Fak.
- IFOD Fotoğraf Sergisi 11.00
  (İnfak'ta Ulu Sokak)
- Canlı Heykel 13.00-17.00
  DEA Sanat
- Sokak Tiyatrosu 14.00
  Yenikapı Tiyatrosu
- Dans Show (Flash Mob) 15.00
- Bizim Orkestra 16.00-17.00
  (İsmail Sivri Heykel Onu)

Dantel Sokak
- Suluboya Çalıştayı 11.00-16.00
  Ertuğrul Saray - İzmir RH M
- Canlı Heykel 13.00-17.00
  DEA Sanat

Resim Heykel Müzesi
Kültüprpark Sanat Galerisi
- Resim Performansı 11.00
  Canlı Aşçı - M. Kental Üni. Ekt. Fak.
- Heykel Çalıştayı 12.00
  Arzu Çakılar Anı - DEÜ GSF
- Desen Çalıştayı & Sergisi 13.00
  Sergi Avm - DEÜ GSF
- Resim Performansı 14.00
  Bedri Karayöncü
- Canlı Heykel 18.00-18.30
  DEA Sanat
15 NİSAN DÜNYA SANAT GÜNÜ

ELLERİM KÇUK DUSUNCEM BUYUK

YER: TED MALATYA KOLEJİ
AÇILIŞ: 15 NİSAN 2016 12:30
PROJE KOORDINATÖRÜ:
YILMAZ ÇAVUŞ
KONUK SANATÇI:
SAFIYE MİNE ERDURAK
EROL ÖZDEN

RESİM SERGİSİ

GALERİ IŞIK ŞILE

19 Nisan 2016 - 20 Mayıs 2016

İŞİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ ŞİLE KAMPÜSÜ ODİTORYUM
Dünya Sanat Günü

15 Nisan Cuma
Saat: 17.30

Tekirdağ'da
Sanat Sokağa Taştı
OCTOBER MEETING THREE

20 October 2016, UPSD Art Gallery Istanbul

UPSD, WinsorNewton and COLORBOX jointly performed an activity which was named October Meeting 3. The participants of the “October Event 3” event has found the chance to try the Professional Pigment Markers and created paintings that reflect their individual styles. 56 member artists attended the event. The paintings will be exhibited in UPSD’s gallery and will be open to the visits of interested parties.

https://youtu.be/aim254xW-Xs

Tijen Şikar
General Secretary
IAA The Official Partner of UNESCO
UPSD
Turkish National Committee
International Plastic Arts Association