

**Press Release**

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“At Sea We Sense, On Land We Reason”**A BIENNALE THAT BEGINS BEFORE THE EXHIBITION:
THE 10TH EDITION OF SINOPALE
BEGINS WITH THE PRODUCTION PROCESS ON 2 SEPTEMBER!**

Sinopale – International Sinop Biennial, the first biennial in Anatolia, celebrates its 20th anniversary with its 10th edition, taking place from 2 September to 15 November 2026. Titled “At Sea We Sense, On Land We Reason,” Sinopale 10 brings together approximately 25 artists from 12 countries in Sinop. Distinguished by its process-oriented structure, in which artistic production begins long before the exhibition opening, the biennial will see artists begin producing their works in the city as of 2 September, working together with local craftspeople, communities and volunteers. The main exhibition, featuring works produced in Sinop, will open on 25 September at the Sinop Military Casino Building.

First held in 2006, **Sinopale – International Sinop Biennial** reaches an important milestone with its 10th edition, taking place from **2 September to 15 November 2026**, following twenty years of history. Through its commitment to local participation, its collective production model based on *imece*—a tradition of collective work—and its collaborations with national and international artists, the biennial has transformed Sinop into an important meeting point for contemporary art. With its 10th edition, Sinopale aims to carry this legacy into the future. Since its inception, rather than appointing a single chief curator, **Sinopale** has adopted a horizontal curatorial model in which different voices work together on an equal footing. The 10th edition is co-curated by **Deniz Kırkalı, Mariam Natroshvili, Marina Fokidis** and the biennial’s founder, **T. Melih Görgün**.

Sinopale 10 adopts a more inclusive and polycentric approach as an alternative to the established structure of contemporary art, which predominantly relies on Europe-centered circulation networks. Bringing together artists from diverse geographies including Georgia, South Korea, Kazakhstan and Venezuela alongside Europe, the participation of **Mariam Natroshvili** from Georgia as a co-curator is also an important part of this approach. This choice reflects **Sinopale’s** commitment to establishing new relationships between different geographies and diversifying the channels through which contemporary art circulates.

One of **Sinopale’s** most distinctive characteristics as one of Türkiye’s longest-running contemporary art biennials is its process-oriented structure, in which artistic production begins long before the exhibition opening. Rather than presenting pre-existing works, all works in the biennial are produced in Sinop and together with the people of Sinop. The production process will begin on **2 September**, while the main exhibition resulting from the collective production process, in which international artists will work together with local craftspeople, communities and volunteers, will open on **25 September**.

What's on at Sinopale 10?

Inspired by the words of a Sinop fisherman, the title **“At Sea We Sense, On Land We Reason”** invites us to reflect on different ways of producing knowledge, making decisions and living together in today's world marked by uncertainty.

Sinop's historical relationship with the sea forms one of the starting points of the biennial. In Sinop, known as one of the Black Sea's safe harbours, an approaching storm often first reveals itself through the behaviour of the sea and the fishermen. The sight of boats beginning to seek shelter in the harbour signals changing conditions. Drawing on this observation, **Sinopale 10** highlights the importance of solidarity, collective production and local forms of knowledge in times of uncertainty. Placing the principle of *imece* at its centre, **Sinopale 10** also invites audiences to reconsider who shapes artistic production, and through which forms of knowledge and experience.

The Exhibition and Events Will Spread Across the City

While the main exhibition of **Sinopale 10** will meet audiences at the **Sinop Military Casino Building**, performances, film screenings, workshops and public events organised throughout the biennial will take place at various locations across the city, including the **Hal**, **Sinop Meeting Center**, **Sabahattin Ali Cultural Center** and the **Sinop Chamber of Architects Building**.

As part of its parallel programme, the biennial will also host an international collaborative project developed with **Klima Biennale Wien** and **Brunnenpassage**. The project aims to strengthen processes of artistic production and exchange between cultural institutions in Sinop and Europe, with a focus on public outcomes.

All events within **Sinopale 10** are free and open to everyone without registration. Further information about the detailed programme is available through the biennial's social media channels.

ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN SİNOPALE 10

Adina Mocanu, Aleksi Soselia, Ali Kazma, Angela Bonadies, Angelo Plessas, Anna Dziapshipa, Anuar Duisenbinov, Ayesha Hameed, Burak Kabadayı, Collective MASI, Evrim Kavcar, Eylem Ertürk, Ezgi Tok, Fisherwomxn, Giorgi Khasaia, İpek İpekçioğlu, Kadir Kayserilioğlu, Loopntale, Natalia Nebieridze, Paky Vlassopoulou, Paloma Proudfoot, Serkan Aka and Tanja Ostojić.

ABOUT SİNOPALE

Sinopale – International Sinop Biennial was founded in 2006 as the first biennial in Anatolia. Working within the context of local development, Sinopale aims to foster dialogue through culture and art and operates through a model of “artistic production based on sharing.” It invites residents of all ages to look at their everyday environments from different perspectives, think collectively about issues concerning the city, and transform shared memory into artistic production. With its process-oriented and participatory structure, Sinopale positions art not merely as an exhibited outcome, but as a practice of *imece*—a process of learning, producing and sharing together.

ABOUT THE CO-CURATORS OF SİNOPALE 10

Deniz Kırkalı, a London-based independent curator and writer, is co-founder of topsoil, a transnational research collective, and the Garp Sessions summer residency programme in Babakale. Developing a research-based curatorial practice focused on collaboration and experimental pedagogies, Kırkalı holds a PhD in Curatorial Practices from Goldsmiths, University of London.

Mariam Natroshvili (1987), an artist and researcher based in Tbilisi, explores memory, forgetting and urban transformation through an interdisciplinary practice. Her work, which encompasses oral history collection, text-based art, archival research and digitally interactive experiences, has been presented in Georgia and on international platforms.

Marina Fokidis, an Athens-based curator, writer and educator, is the founder of Kunsthalle Athena and South as a State of Mind magazine. Her practice explores geography, coexistence and socio-political issues, and she served as the Head of the Athens Art Office as part of documenta 14. She continues to bring Mediterranean perspectives into global contemporary art debates.

T. Melih Görgün, an artist, curator and academic born in Sinop, continues his work between Istanbul, Sinop and Berlin. He is the founder of Sinopale – International Sinop Biennial and the Weltoffenschule platform, bringing together art, the city and cultural research through an interdisciplinary approach. He has co-curated numerous editions of Sinopale.

More Information: sinopale.org
[instagram.com/sinopale](https://www.instagram.com/sinopale)