

DİDEM KARA SARIOĞLU

Artist | Artistic Research-Oriented Academic | Lecturer

Based in Istanbul, Türkiye

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Artist and academic whose work develops practice-based research at the intersection of ecological ambivalence and biophilic memory. My research examines human–nature relations through living materials, process-oriented installations and spatial interventions, investigating how nature is mediated through architectural and technological conditions. Alongside my artistic practice, I bring over a decade of experience in higher education, graduate supervision and academic leadership in art and design programmes.

RESEARCH FOCUS

- Ecological ambivalence and biophilic memory
- Practice-based artistic research methodologies
- Human–nature mediation through architecture and technology
- Living materials, temporality and spatial perception
- Environmental art and site-responsive installation

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Communication Design — Istanbul Okan University (2023–present)

Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts — FMV Işık University (2015–2023)

Research Assistant, Department of Visual Arts — FMV Işık University (2010–2015)

ARTISTIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ecological Material Investigations (2015–ongoing)

Ongoing practice-based research trajectory examining ecological ambivalence and biophilic memory through living materials. This body of work investigates growth, decay and ecological temporality using lentil germination, cotton substrates and spatial containment structures. By situating organic processes within architectural mediation (glass, enclosure, light), the project explores how personal, spatial and embodied memory intertwine within fragile ecological systems. The work reflects on how nature and memory are negotiated, observed and reframed under technological and institutional conditions. Documented through process photography, material studies and reflective notes.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Kara Sarioğlu, D. (2023). Beuys and Shamanism. In M. Graf (Ed.), 100 Yıl Beuys. Akbank Sanat.

Kara Sarioğlu, D. (2022). Land Art and Its Contemporaries. In M. Erdem Kaya (Ed.), Peyzajı Açmak. YEM Yayın.

Selected Conference Paper

Kara Sarioğlu, D. (2011). Environmental Artist Richard Long's Ambivalent Attitude to Nature. Sixth Annual Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Milwaukee, USA.

GRADUATE SUPERVISION (Selected)

Doctoral Supervision

Alev Cinbarcı (ongoing) — Entropic Behaviours of Art in Public Space

İrem Konukçu (2024) — Expressionist Approaches in Turkish Painting

Ece Yücel (2023) — Art Instinct in Human and Machine

İpek Ergen (2022) — Institutionalisation of Underground Art

Master's Supervision

Zelal Şükran Yetik (2024) — Relational Aesthetics and Participant Dialogue with Light

Mine Andırın (2019) — Use of Water in Contemporary Art After 1960

TEACHING (Selected – Research-Integrated)

Ecological Approaches in Art and Design (Graduate / Undergraduate)

Studio–theory hybrid course examining ecological aesthetics, environmental art and artistic research methodologies.

Environment and Art (Graduate / Undergraduate)

Critical exploration of human–nature relations, land art and contemporary ecological discourse.

Experimental Art Studio (Graduate / Undergraduate)

Practice-based studio focusing on material experimentation and conceptual development.

Environmental and Public Space Art (Undergraduate)

Theory-based course examining environmental art, public space theory and site-specific practices within contemporary art discourse.

Concept Development Practices I–II (Undergraduate)

Research-led studio course supporting conceptual development and project formulation.

SELECTED ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Vice Head of Department, Visual Communication Design — Istanbul Okan University (2024–2025)

Head of MA Programme (Painting) — FMV Işık University (2020–2023)

Head of Department, Visual Arts — FMV Işık University (2020–2023)

Faculty Coordination Officer (Dean's Office) — FMV Işık University (2018–2021)

Member, Faculty Board — FMV Işık University (2020–2023)

SELECTED INVITED TALKS & PANELS

Moderator, 'Art in Public Space' Workshop — YUNT (2025)

Invited Speaker, 'Beuys and Nature' — Akbank Sanat (2021)

Invited Speaker, 'Peyzajda Mürürü Zamanlar' — 3rd Istanbul Design Biennial (2016)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Paslaşmalar VIII / Yüz Yüze — İBB Müze Gazhane, Istanbul (2025)

MOTİİF I–II — Bekir Okan Culture and Art Center, Istanbul (2024)

Yeniden Filiz'lenmek (Re-Sprouting) (Solo Exhibition) — Istanbul (2007)

6th International Egeart Art Days — Ege University, Izmir (2015)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer Reviewer: Art-Sanat Journal (2022); İnönü University Journal of Culture and Art (2020)

LANGUAGES

Turkish (Native)

English (Professional Working Proficiency)