

ANNA BORGHI'S STATEMENT

After the censorship at the 4th Children and Youth Biennial Istanbul



Anna Borghi, *A midsummer's dream*, full HD video| installation, 2016

I took part to the 4th Children and Youth Biennial in Istanbul. I was invited by Pasaj, the curatorial team of the event. The day before the opening, several works from both artists and children have been censored by Beyoglu Municipality. The reasons of the censorship was the relation of these works with issues like Kurdistan, Gezi Park, or war in general. The installation of artist Nurdane Turkman, located next to my video installation, was dismantled the same day of the opening. It was a documentary installation about her work in Kurdistan, showed some drawings of children related to the war, and some photos of children waving the kurdish flag.

After the censorship, and together with other artists of the Biennial, I would like to set down immediately my video installation. A collective discussion started between artists and Pasaj team, but due to fear of risk for the turkish artists participating the protest, together we decided to wait. But as foreign artist, I accepted to participate to this art Biennial in Turkey with the same conviction that my works are dealing with issues of democracy and freedom of speech.

After that, understanding that the Biennial management didn't take reasonable part at the discussion, but on the contrary they discredited Pasaj as the true responsible of the censorship due their wrong selection of artists, we decided to remove all our works from the biennial.

Anna Borghi, Istanbul 4th May 201

