

VILLAGER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Four complex, collaborative Downtown projects
Surreal concepts encourage imagination, contemplation

BY STEPHANIE BUHMANN



Photo by Adam Reich

THE COLUMNS HELD US UP

Through August 1
 At Artists Space
 38 Greene Street, 3rd Floor
 (212) 226-3970 or www.artistspace.org

This complex, collaborative project brings together a group of artists working in different media—and marks a unique collaboration between two institutions: New York's Artists Space and the Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul.

As one of the first alternative exhibition spaces in the city (founded in 1972), Artists Space has long been devoted to the support of artistic experimentation and dialog in contemporary culture. For July, it has invited Platform (whose own space is currently closed for renovation) to take over its SOHO space and organize an exhibition as well as a series of events.

Curated by Vasif Kortun and November

From "The columns held us up"

Paynter, "The columns held us up" pays homage to both institutions' fundamental approach to collaboration and diversity of artistic expression. In addition to being an exhibition venue, Platform also provides artist residencies. The exhibited works are primarily by New York based and international artists, who have participated in the program in Istanbul.

Many of the works focus on complex everyday systems. A multimedia installation by collaborators Can Altay and Jeremiah Day, for example, explores how these systems can be spun into narratives. By documenting the production of stuffed mussels (a well-known street delicacy in Istanbul), Altay and Day succeed in revealing an unusual facet of a local industry, but they while painting a por-

trait of the city at large.

Another fascinating work is by Bulgarian-born, New York-based artist Daniel Bozhkov. By hosting a site for storytellers which traces the journey of a family jewel engraved with an Ottoman Persian poem, Bozhkov creates an unusual document of the object's meanings gathered along the way.

Other works in the exhibition include videos "Telematch Suburb" by Wael Shawky, a series of photographs by Corey McCorkle, a slide installation by Christodoulos Panayiotou, and an installation entitled "Kara-kum" by the late Hüseyin Alptekin.

Concurrent with the exhibition, Artists Space will accept book donations for Platform Garanti's library through July.