A magical word “imece”...
"I haven’t made up this word. It is the fruit of the creativity of Turkish villagers. I am only interested in people who try to live a happier and joyful life free from selfishness and in those who are enthusiastic about enjoying the magical spirit of creating together. I am also interested in what the people create and the strength they possess. Those are the people who fight to change the world... " * —Abidin Dino

Adopted as an art and life philosophy by Abidin Dino** and foregrounded by him in every situation and referred as a concept supporting the pleasure of creating together, "imece" is reconsidered again in detail regarding art and design in today’s world where human beings are getting more and more lonely day by day. In this respect, for today imece cannot be defined only as a traditional activity or collective labor in Anatolian culture in which people living in the same village collaborate in carrying out certain social and economic activities. It also reflects the meaning of sharing, creating and interacting by bringing people together.

In today’s world where people are encouraged more for individualism, many values are ignored due to the rapid changes experienced. It seems crucial that we should preserve these values, reconsider them and get the most benefit especially by transferring them to next generations. It is clear that making use of what is available to initiate new beginnings by reconsidering cultural and local values is getting more and more important in today’s world.

Is it possible to establish local or universal expansions based on the concepts associated with "imece" so that we can analyze this concept from a wider perspective? How can this concept inspire a solution for art and design in future within the framework of tradition, solidarity, organization, interaction, creativity and education.

** Abidin Dino (March 23, 1913 - December 7, 1993) is a Turkish artist and a well-known painter.

The Aim of the Symposium
Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Anadolu University Faculty of Fine Arts has continuously expanded its academic, artistic and social activities within the university and the city it is located in with a purpose of fostering its relations with its environment. The main goal of this thematic conference, which consists of sessions, poster presentations, practical applications, workshops and exhibitions is to bring together local and international artists, designers, academics, philosophers, researchers, students and local craftsmen with a purpose of reconsidering artistic and imaginative creativity as well as the concept "imece" along with "human", "world", "tradition" and "future" concepts in order to initiate discussions accordingly.
Symposium Theme
Based on the concept "imece", the symposium is open to all expansions and experiences regarding today's art and design approaches through questioning the relationships between art and design, and future, technology, environment and craftsmanship. Adopting an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach, the symposium also highlights that art and design are not only aesthetic practices but rather culture paradigms. Furthermore, it foregrounds certain concepts naturally available in "imece" practice such as solidarity, collaboration, experience sharing, common production, interaction and common use of public places in terms of their contribution to development of creativity.

The sub themes based on the main theme "imece" that might be worth discussing within critical, theoretical, educational and practical framework of the symposium are given below:

• The Future of Tradition- From Tradition to Future...
• Creativity and Interaction
  Interdisciplinary Interaction
  Intercultural Interaction / Communication
• Creativity and Sharing
• Art and Design

Practical Applications
Open to all practical, theoretical and inquisitive approaches, this symposium aims at bringing together all artists and designers from painting, sculpture, glass, ceramics, printmaking, animation, interior design, graphic design, as well as designers, artists, academicians, theorists, philosophers and students who carry out their studies on other fields of art or design. The symposium will include sessions, poster presentations, workshops, common projects and exhibitions and it will provide artists and designers with an environment where they can be together, share their creative processes in an interdisciplinary atmosphere.
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Symposium Calendar
Deadline for abstract submission: February 27th 2009
Deadline for exhibition application: April 1st
Deadline for the submission of full papers: May 29th 2009
Symposium Dates: October 21, 22 and 23 2009
Workshops and Projects: October 18-24 2009
Closure: October 24th 2009

Attendance to the Symposium
Attandance to the symposium can be by paper, poster and/or art work for the exhibition. Applicants should send their abstracts and/or the documents about their art works for the exhibition in the symposium format before the deadline.

Papers/Posters
All abstracts of paper and poster submissions related to the symposium theme coming from all disciplines will be evaluated and then the selected works will be placed in the symposium program.

Exhibition
An exhibition will be held in the frame of the symposium theme. The applicants should send the picture of their work and the information in the symposium document format by e-mail.

Registration Fee
The early bird registration fee for the symposium is 100 Euros and the final date for registration May 11th 2009. The fee for registrations to be made after this date is 150 Euros. The registration fee for students (master and doctorate) is 50 Euros. Registration to the exhibition is 50 Euros. Transportation payment for the art work will be made by the owner.

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