



Netherlands

Bridging Cultures, Bridging Futures

**Dutch Cultural
Collaborations in Türkiye
Spring-Summer 2026**

COVER PHOTO: "ISHA" - Catch ISHA at IKSVMusic Festival

Dutch Cultural Collaborations in Türkiye

Dear reader,

It is a pleasure to present this Spring Summer 2026 edition of our cultural newsletter.

We have barely started this year and already now I can see Dutch–Turkish cultural collaboration growing in both depth and relevance. From exchanges between institutions such as Amsterdam Eye Filmmuseum and Istanbul Modern to projects like Stories of Migration, these initiatives bring together artistic quality and meaningful societal engagement. The exhibition Iron People by Jelle Krings, portraying Ukraine’s railway network as the nation’s lifeline during wartime, was a particularly powerful example of art as a reflection of both harsh realities and hopeful resilience.

In line with the International Cultural Policy Framework 2025–2028, our focus remains on sustainable partnerships, reciprocity and dialogue. This is reflected in a wide-ranging programme from April to July across Türkiye, including exhibitions such as Breaking Through a Dam and The Hard Edge of the Labour of Time, as well as collaborations in music, film, design and performing arts.

I am particularly pleased that many of these activities are accessible to a broad audience—from children’s theatre projects reaching rural communities to public concerts, festivals and museum programs that invite participation and exchange.

I warmly invite you to explore the programme and experience these collaborations firsthand.

Daan Huisinga

Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Istanbul



www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/turkiye

Looking back...

In January, Istanbul Modern Museums Talk Series hosted Bregtje van der Haak, director of Eye Filmmuseum (Amsterdam), for the talk “Past Forward”. She presented Eye as both a major international film archive and a dynamic public space, and opened conversations on future cooperation between Istanbul and Amsterdam in film heritage, curation and education.

From 22 February to 1 March, the project “Stories of Migration: Art, Resistance and Solidarity Across Borders” linked Dutch organisations New Women Connectors (Zoetermeer) and BAK Basecamp (Utrecht), with Turkey-based partners. During a 7-day residency in Turkey, Dutch storytellers worked with migrant women+ and queer artists to turn lived migration experiences into collective artworks, later shared with Dutch audiences at BAK in Utrecht.

Also in February–March, Dutch photographer and filmmaker Jelle Krings presented “Iron People” at the Netherlands Consulate General in Istanbul. The project documented Ukraine’s railway network as a lifeline during Russia’s full-scale war of aggression. After a reception, pop-up exhibition and artist talk at the Consulate, the exhibition travelled to the Rahmi M. Koç Museum in Istanbul and Gallery M at Armada AVM in Ankara, reaching wider Turkish audiences.



Looking back...

In March, Dutch-Armenian singer Ilda Simonian brought “Armenian Songs of Longing, Yearning, and Hope” to Istanbul, using concerts and a workshop to support the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage and to connect the Armenian community in Turkey with the Dutch-Armenian diaspora.

During the 32nd IFSAK Short Film Festival (9–15 March), three Dutch-linked short films were screened, including two animations on climate and sustainability and the drama Rotten by Asli Bildirici which explores women’s labour, migration and social inequality. A thematic event “Women in Culture” at the Netherlands Consulate also saw Bildirici join a diverse panel and openly discuss challenges and opportunities facing female cultural makers.

At the International Theatre Festival in Izmir (27 March – 11 April), Dutch street theatre company Bencha Theater performed TEMPO, a large-scale vertical wall dance performance about time, technology and human agency.

Dutch artist Casper Faassen opened his installation ReCollection at Pera Museum in collaboration with Martch Art Project. Faassen uses layered photographic techniques to symbolically “return” cultural objects, prompting reflection on ownership, appropriation and the movement of heritage between countries.

Between the 2nd and 5th of April, Istanbul Modern and Eye Filmmuseum co-presented Silent Film Days, screening 12 restored silent-era films with live music and talks by Dutch restoration experts.



Looking back...

The 45th Istanbul Film Festival (9–19 April) featured Dutch cinema in its selection, including screenings of *Memory* and *The Wolf, The Fox and The Leopard* by Dutch director David Verbeek, who attended for talks and meetings. The industry platform “Meetings on the Bridge” welcomed Dutch professionals Delly Shirazi (International Film Festival Rotterdam) and Isabel Arrate Fernández (Artistic Director, IDFA), strengthening professional links between the Dutch and Turkish film sectors.

From 12 April to 3 May, DAA Art Residency in Bodrum is hosting YAS, a choreographic research project by Netherlands-based choreographer Meriç Tuncer and Jack Bannerman, exploring private and public grief in the body.

Finally, from 15 to 19 April, the Show of Hands Improvised Music Festival held its 7th edition in Istanbul, emphasising continuity over constant novelty. Dutch Edison Award-winning musicians Wolfert Brederode and Joost Lijbaart played a central role through concerts, workshops and panels, sharing their expertise in improvised music and engaging in peer-to-peer exchanges with Turkish and international artists. Read their interview on the next page.

Together, these activities demonstrate how Dutch–Turkish cultural cooperation combines artistic excellence with social relevance, reaching diverse audiences and building sustainable networks across borders.



Show of Hands Festival of Music

Istanbul | 16 - 18 April

What made this project a win?

There is respect. For musicians, for the craft, for the exchange itself. You feel it immediately. Two things stand out immediately. First, we got to truly share and grow our music with an audience that was not just listening, but deeply engaged. Second, the format. Through concerts, workshops and panels, we weren't just performing, we were connecting.

And how big was that ripple?

Between all the different elements, we reached a wide and diverse crowd. The energy carried across formats.

“Show of Hands” isn't your typical festival, right?

Exactly. It's less a festival, more an ecosystem. Musicians, journalists, students, industry folks, and audiences all mix together.

What clicked in the collaboration?

The organization was spot-on, but more importantly, there was real integration between musicians. That sparked ideas you wouldn't get in isolation.

Cultural Exchange - What did Türkiye teach you?

That audiences can be incredibly open and curious. People really leaned in, especially during workshops. There was a genuine sense that the music landed.



Who is coming?
Wolfert Brederode
Joost Lijbaart
April 17: Piano & Drums Concert
April 16 & 18: Panel Discussions
April 18: Workshop (Joost Lijbaart)

Among the most distinguished figures of the Dutch jazz scene, pianist Wolfert Brederode and drummer Joost Lijbaart have collaborated closely since 2005. They also released the acclaimed album *Ruins & Remains* (for piano string quartet, and percussion) and have continued to develop their musical language rooted in deep listening and open form. Brederode is widely known for his own jazz quartet and the long-standing collaboration with Swiss jazz vocalist Susanne Abbuehl and together with Joost also key members of Yuri Honing Quartet. Long associated with ECM Records, they will tell untold stories that one believes that had already heard before...

INTERVIEW - Wolfert Brederode & Joost Lijbaart

“You don’t just show up- you become part of something.”

Advice for Dutch artists eyeing Türkiye?

Don’t overthink the distance. Türkiye isn’t “far away” in the way people imagine. Istanbul, especially, feels very connected to Europe. Do your homework: start networking early, go to places like jazzhead, build relationships with venues and promoters before you arrive.



Anything you’d change next time?

Not much! It worked because people were open, prepared, and engaged.



The Scorecard.

A solid 5 out of 5. No hesitation.

Why so high?

The vision. The execution. And the community-building - credit to festival director Ramin for creating a space where people connect, not just perform.

Any wishlist for the future?

Yes - expand the network. Bringing in venues and festivals from other cities could open the door to longer tours and deeper exchange.

Final note?

“Show of Hands” proves that when music meets community, something bigger happens. Not just a performance—but a shared experience that sticks.

Upcoming Activities Calendar

April

20 April – 8 June



“Bitmeyen Emek, Bitmeyen Zaman (The Hard Edge of the Labour of Time)”

City: Istanbul | Venue: Kasa Galeri, Bankalar Cd. 2, Karaköy

22 April – 23 August

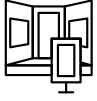


“Breaking Through a Dam”

City: Istanbul | Venue: SALT Beyoğlu

May

From May >



Sivas Children’s Theatre - ‘the Dreamer - Hayalperest

Türkiye - South and East Regions

05 May >



Ortak Miras - Shared Heritage Exhibition Trabzon

09 - 17 May



Beyoğlu Film Days. Venue: Istanbul Beyoğlu Cinema

14 – 17 May



Mercado Design Days

City: Istanbul | Venue: 212 Strudio Karakoy

16 – 20 May



17th International Eskişehir Children, Youth and Puppet Theatre Festival

City: Eskişehir

17 May



Opus Amadeus International Chamber Music Festival – Dokwerk Saxophone Quartet

City: Istanbul | Venue: Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Beyoğlu

June



4 – 6 June

Operator Radio x Arkaoda – Live Radio, DJ Sets and Cultural Exchange

City: Istanbul | Venue: Arkaoda, Kadıköy



13 – 21 June

Istanbul Documentary Days

City: Istanbul | Venue: See website for details



15 – 30 June

Bodrum Jazz Festival Artist: Fee Aaij 4tet

City: Bodrum | Venue: See website for details



15 June

IKSV Music Festival Artists: Jussen Brothers with Kammerakademie Potsdam

City: Istanbul | Venue: Atatürk Cultural Centre (AKM) Theatre Hall



20 June

IKSV: Weekend Classics II Artists: Hadewych van Gent, AnaCarmen Balestra

City: Istanbul | Venue: Yıldız Park, Beşiktaş



24 June

Istanbul Modern – “Museums Talk 5: From the Netherlands”

City: Istanbul | Venue: Istanbul Modern, Karaköy

July



8 July

IKSV Jazz Festival – “Night Out with +1” Artist: ISHA

City: Istanbul | Venues: Multiple venues in Kadıköy



17 – 19 July

Sound of Europe Music Festival Artist: Future Husband

Cities: Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir



21 – 25 July

Arkas Art Alaçatı x Stedelijk Museum

City: Çeşme district, İzmir | Venue: Arkas Art Alaçatı



Metincan Güzel - Too Close to Home

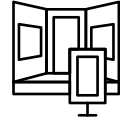


Areej Ashhab - Wild Hedges



Breaking Through a Dam

Istanbul | 22 April – 23 August



SALT Beyoğlu will host “Breaking Through a Dam”, an ambitious exhibition that will reflect on land, memory and archives across a geography. Land will be approached not as property or resource, but as a relational space where rivers, dams, deserts, surveillance systems, satellites, coffee houses and sidewalks intersect. The exhibition will show how landscapes bear visible and invisible traces of structural, colonial and slow violence, while also inviting audiences to imagine new ways of “being with place” based on care, coexistence and shared memory.

There will be many Dutch components in this collaboration including **Metincan Güzel** who will create a new installation, *Too Close to Home*. This piece will focus on the interiors of shops and cafés in Rotterdam Zuid run by Turkish migrants. These everyday spaces will be presented as “diasporic scenographies” that transport visitors to other places and times, showing how migrant communities recreate landscapes and rhythms of life in a new country. Artist and researcher **Areej Ashhab**, co founder of the Al Wah’at Collective, will present a new iteration of *Wild Hedges*, a project developed at the **Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht**. This work will explore the ecological and political histories of the prickly pear cactus and the cochineal insect across different regions, challenging colonial narratives about arid lands. Sociologist and architect **Pınar Şefkatli**, also based in the Netherlands, will give a talk on rhythm analysis, sharing her research on the everyday rhythms of migrant neighbourhoods in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Together, these Dutch contributions will show how land, memory and migration are intertwined across borders.

More information:

www.saltonline.org/en/anasayfa

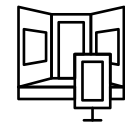
Instagram: [@salt_online](https://www.instagram.com/salt_online)

Metincan Güzel: INSTA: [@metincanguzel](https://www.instagram.com/metincanguzel)

Areej Ashhab: INSTA: [@areedge](https://www.instagram.com/areedge)

The Hard Edge of the Labour of Time

Istanbul | 20 April – 08 June



This exhibition will bring together Dutch artist Andrea Knezović and Turkish artist Yeşim Akdeniz in a dialogue on labour, care and rest from feminist perspectives. After its premiere at PAKT Foundation in Amsterdam (October–December 2025), the show now travels to Kasa Galeri in Istanbul, creating a cultural bridge between the two cities and building on connections made in Amsterdam with Turkish artists active in the Dutch art scene. Andrea Knezović will present participatory spatial vinyl diagrams in Turkish and English, placing visitors inside “mind-maps” that explore time, agency and exhaustion. She will also show new metallic kinetic works commissioned by the Mondriaan Fonds, which will translate the competing rhythms of contemporary life into sound and movement, making the relentless passage of time physically and aurally tangible. Together with Yeşim Akdeniz’s textile works on migration and labour regimes in Northern Europe, the exhibition will highlight how global financial pressures and precarious working conditions affect our right to rest, especially from feminist and care-centred viewpoints.

The project will also open a conversation about gentrification and the loss of independent art spaces in both Amsterdam and Istanbul, using the move of PAKT Amsterdam and the location of Kasa in Beyoğlu as examples.

More information:

Kasa Galeri | Istanbul
Bankalar Cd. 2, Karaköy, Istanbul

INSTA: [@kasa_galeri](https://www.instagram.com/kasa_galeri)



Beyođlu Film Days

Istanbul | 09 - 17 May



In May, we will join the Beyoglu International Film Days bringing the Dutch film Coppelia to Türkiye. Coppelia is a modern animated adaptation of one of the most famous comic ballets in classical dance history. The original ballet premiered in 1870 with music by Léo Delibes and quickly became known for its lighthearted story, technical choreography, and playful tone. This animated interpretation reimagines the story for contemporary audiences by blending classical ballet with modern dance styles and vibrant visual design. Unlike traditional ballet performances, the film uses motion-capture from professional dancers, allowing the choreography to remain central while making the story more accessible through cinematic storytelling and dialogue-free expression.

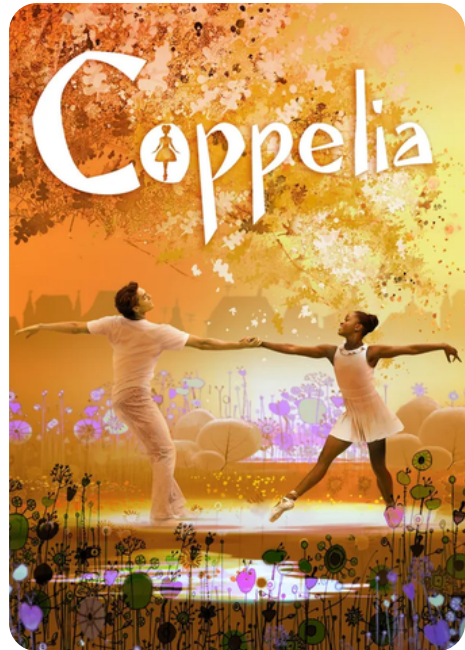
A romantic and vividly colorful fairy tale inspired by a classic comic ballet. In a lively village filled with dance and music, Zwaan and Frans meet and quickly fall in love. Their joyful world is disrupted by the arrival of the sinister Doctor Coppelius, who promises to make the townspeople more beautiful in his mysterious salon. When Zwaan begins to uncover the truth, she realizes that nothing is as it seems - and that she may be the only one who can save Frans and the entire village.

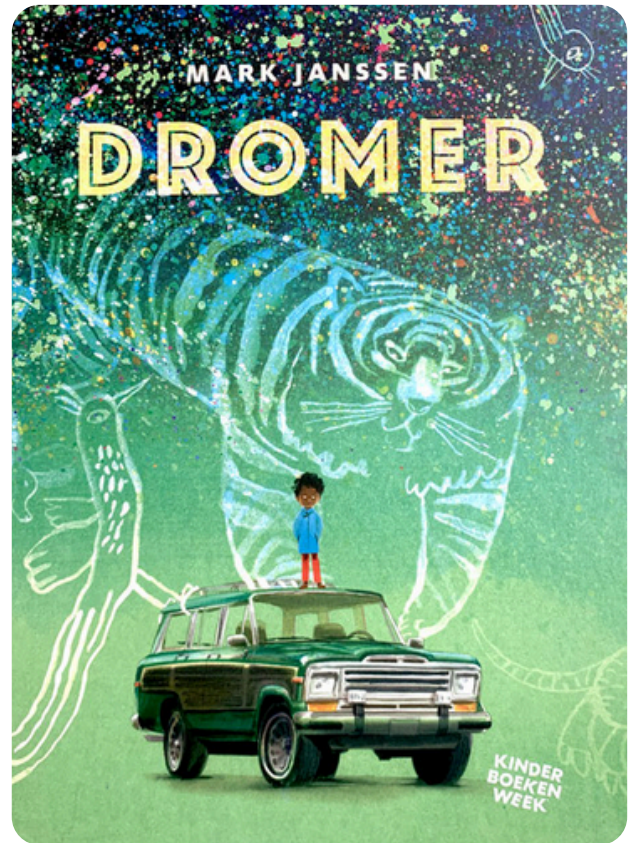
This playful, theatrical experience is especially suited for younger audiences.

More information:

INSTA: [thecoppeliafilm](https://www.instagram.com/thecoppeliafilm)

INSTA: [ibb.beyoglusineması](https://www.instagram.com/ibb.beyoglusineması)

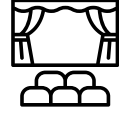




Sivas Children's Theatre

Türkiye - South and East Regions

From May >



Sivas Görsel Sanatlar ve Kültür Derneği, known for its motto “Art is Everywhere”, will continue their children’s theatre project in 2026 and will once again bring Dutch children’s literature to rural areas across Türkiye. Over the past 10 years, the association has developed many successful projects to make art visible in disadvantaged regions. Building on this experience, it will now adapt the world-famous Dutch children’s book *The Dreamer* by Dutch author and illustrator Mark Janssen, into a theatre play for young audiences. Janssen is widely known for the strong pedagogical value of his stories and by turning *The Dreamer* into a stage production, the project will introduce Turkish children to Dutch storytelling, imagination and values in a format that is both entertaining and educational.

Before each performance, children will receive fairy-tale books translated into Turkish from Dutch children’s literature, free of charge. This will not only give them a first encounter with Dutch culture, but also encourage a habit of reading and open the door to foreign literature at an early age. Across 50 performances, approximately 17,500 children will watch the play and take home a book, making this one of the most far-reaching Dutch–Turkish cultural projects for young audiences in rural areas.

All performances are planned as free of charge with details on cities, dates and times to be announced by Sivas Görsel Sanatlar ve Kültür Derneği through their local partners and channels.

Sivas Sanat Konağı

INSTA: [sanatkonagisanatevi](#)

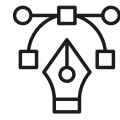
Mark Janssen

www.markjanssenshop.nl

INSTA: [markjanssenpicturebooks](#)

Mercado Design Days

Istanbul | 14 – 17 May



Mercado Design Days is a four-day event that brings together creatives from design, art and technology in Istanbul. Organised by Mercado, a local design and art platform, the programme features talks, masterclasses, and exhibitions. Its goal is to create an inspiring meeting point for local and international designers, to share knowledge and to position Istanbul as a hub for the creative industries.

The Netherlands will be represented by designer Audrey Large and curator Martina Muzi, director of the Leading Technogeographies Studio at Design Academy Eindhoven. Audrey Large will share her experimental approach to digital aesthetics and new technologies, showing how digital tools can generate new forms and visual languages in design. Martina Muzi will bring a research-driven perspective on contemporary design practices, focusing on how design relates to technology, geography and society. Together, they will give keynote talks, join discussions with Turkish designers and students, and record a podcast that will explore the global design landscape and curatorial practices. Their presence will give Turkish audiences a direct window into current debates in Dutch design and will encourage cross-border collaboration.

More information:

Mercado:

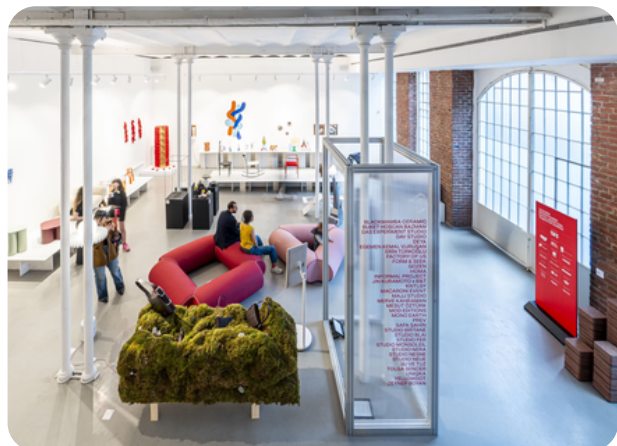
www.studiomercado.com

Instagram:

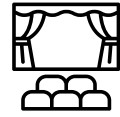
Mercado: [@studiomercado](https://www.instagram.com/studiomercado)

Audrey Large: [@audreylrg](https://www.instagram.com/audreylrg)

Martina Muzi: [@martina.muzi](https://www.instagram.com/martina.muzi)



International Eskişehir Children Youth & Puppet Theatre Festival



Eskişehir | 16 – 20 May

The International Eskişehir Children, Youth and Puppet Theatre Festival will unite theatre groups from across Europe to create a playful and educational environment for children and young people. Over several days, the programme will include performances, workshops, interactive activities and a joint final artistic production. The festival aims to support the artistic and social development of young audiences and to encourage creativity, imagination and intercultural understanding.

From the Netherlands, the festival will host Steven Luca and Totaal Theater. This Dutch group will perform four short shows on two different days, introducing Dutch youth and puppet theatre to children and families in Eskişehir. In addition to the performances, the Dutch artists will take part in workshops, artist talks and collaborative sessions with other European and Turkish participants. These activities will allow young audiences to meet artists, learn about theatre making and experiment with puppetry and storytelling themselves.

The Dutch participation will showcase the Netherlands' strong tradition in theatre for young audiences and will highlight themes such as inclusion, cooperation and freedom of expression in an accessible way.

More information:

[Official Website](#)

Totaal Theater

www.totaaltheater.com



Opus Amadeus International Chamber Music Festival

Istanbul | 17 May



The XIV Istanbul International Opus Amadeus Chamber Music Festival, organised by Artisan Organizasyon, will host the Dokwerk Saxophone Quartet from the Netherlands. Known for its creative approach to wind chamber music, the ensemble will present a concert in the atmospheric Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Beyoğlu, one of Istanbul's most beautiful historical venues. The programme will introduce audiences to the versatility of the saxophone in a classical context and to the energy of a new generation of Dutch musicians.

During their stay, the quartet will also give a two hour masterclass at the Mimar Sinan University State Conservatory. Young Turkish musicians will have the opportunity to work directly with the Dutch ensemble, receiving feedback on their playing and learning about ensemble work, interpretation and career development. This educational component will strengthen artistic exchange and support the training of the next generation of classical musicians in Turkey.

Concert: Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Beyoğlu, Istanbul

Ticketed, with sales via Opus Amadeus and partner ticket platforms.

More information:

Opus Amadeus

www.opusamadeus.com

INSTA: [@artisan.organizasyon](https://www.instagram.com/artisan.organizasyon)

Dokwerk Saxophone Quartet

www.dokwerksaxophonequartet.com

INSTA: [@dokwerksaxophonequartet](https://www.instagram.com/dokwerksaxophonequartet)



Operator Radio x Arkaoda

Istanbul | 04-06 June



Rotterdam-based Operator Radio will team up with Istanbul venue Arkaoda to create a three-day programme that will connect Dutch and Turkish alternative music scenes. Operator is known in the Netherlands for promoting underrepresented sounds and stories through internet radio, events and workshops. At Arkaoda, they will bring this approach to Istanbul, making “invisible networks” between music communities visible.

The Dutch contribution will include a live electronic performance by a Dutch artist linked to Operator’s residency programme, a full day of live radio from Arkaoda’s garden featuring Dutch and Turkey-based DJs, and a closing party with Dutch DJ sets. The radio broadcast will be streamed worldwide via Operator’s platform, reaching an estimated 2,500–3,000 online listeners, while around 300–400 visitors are expected to attend the on-site events. All shows will be recorded and archived online, allowing audiences to revisit the sets and extending the impact of the collaboration beyond the festival dates.

- Live electronic performance by a Dutch act: 4 June
- Live radio broadcast from Arkaoda garden: 5 June
- Closing DJ event with Dutch artists: 6 June

More information:

Operator Radio:

www.operator-radio.com

Arkaoda:

www.arkaoda.com

INSTA: [@arkaodamusic](https://www.instagram.com/arkaodamusic)



Istanbul Documentary Days

Istanbul | 13-21 June



Istanbul Documentary Days will celebrate its 19th edition as Turkey's only dedicated documentary festival screening creative documentaries from around the world to Istanbul, alongside masterclasses, workshops, round-tables and side events. This edition will focus strongly on young filmmakers and film students, while remaining open to all film lovers. The Netherlands will have a prominent presence through the screening of four Dutch (co-)produced feature-length documentaries.

- **Ni Una Más** – by Julia Hollander (Mexico, Netherlands, 2025, 96'), about musicians, mothers and activists who use protest songs to fight femicide in Mexico.
- **The Coriolis Effect** – by Petr Lom (Netherlands, Norway, 2025, 110'), filmed in Cape Verde, exploring life in the birthplace of Atlantic hurricanes and the impact of climate change.
- **Rain** – by Mark Limburg (Netherlands, 2024, 73'), a poetic exploration of rain as both a natural phenomenon and a growing climate challenge.
- **Mohammed Paul – Once Upon a Time in Tangier** – by Nordin Lasfar (2025, 95'), about Moroccan storyteller Mohammed Mrabet and his complex relationship with writer Paul Bowles, raising questions about authorship and post-colonial power relations.

Director Julia Hollander (Ni Una Más) will travel from the Netherlands to Istanbul to attend a special session at the Dutch Chapel with NGOs, activists and invited guests, where she will discuss the themes of in depth.

In addition, the festival will once again present the Johan van der Keuken New Talent Award, supported by the Consulate General of the Netherlands since 2010, to a promising Turkish documentary filmmaker.

More information:

www.documentarist.org

INSTA: [@documentar_ist](https://www.instagram.com/documentar_ist)

Bodrum Jazz Festival

Bodrum | 15-30 June



Dutch performance: Fee Aaij 4tet (exact date and time tbc)

The Bodrum Jazz Festival, organised by Caz Derneđi / Jazz Society, will once again bring jazz to different corners of Bodrum. Over two weeks, audiences will be able to enjoy concerts, workshops, masterclasses and special events in a variety of venues, from open air spaces to museums. The Jazz Society has been promoting jazz in Turkey since 1995 and has organised dozens of festivals and hundreds of concerts, as well as scholarships for young musicians.

This year, the festival will host the **Fee Aaij 4tet** from the Netherlands. The quartet will present a concert that will introduce Turkish audiences to contemporary Dutch jazz, combining strong musical craftsmanship with improvisation and interaction. By placing the Dutch group alongside Turkish and international acts, the festival will create opportunities for musical discovery and cross cultural dialogue. The performance will also contribute to the visibility of Dutch jazz in Turkey and may open doors for future collaborations and tours.

More information:

Bodrum Jazz Festival /

Caz Derneđi

www.cazdernegi.org/festivals/bodrumcazfestivali

INSTA: [@cazdernegi](https://www.instagram.com/cazdernegi)

Fee Aaij 4tet:

<https://feeaaaj.com/>

INSTA: [fee.aaij](https://www.instagram.com/fee.aaij)



54th
İSTANBUL
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

11-25
HAZİRAN
JUN E
2026

54. İSTANBUL MÜZİK FESTİVALİ



HAFTA SONU KLASİKLERİ II

20 Haziran 2026 Cumartesi, 17.00
Yıldız Parkı



KAMMERAKADEMIE POTSDAM & JUSSEN PİYANO İKİLİSİ

15 Haziran 2026 Pazartesi, 20.00
İş Kuleleri Salonu

IKSV Music Festival

Istanbul | 15 June



As part of the Istanbul Music Festival, the acclaimed Dutch piano duo Lucas and Arthur Jussen will perform with the renowned Kammerakademie Potsdam. The Istanbul Music Festival is Turkey's most established classical music event, known for its high artistic standards and innovative programming. Hosting the Jussen Brothers will underline the festival's strong connection to Europe's leading classical music scenes.

Lucas and Arthur Jussen, are among the Netherlands' most celebrated young classical musicians. They will present a programme of major works that will highlight both their virtuosity and their close musical partnership. Their performance with Kammerakademie Potsdam will offer Turkish audiences a chance to experience Dutch excellence in classical music in one of Istanbul's most prestigious venues (Atatürk Cultural Centre (AKM) Theatre Hall).

More information:

Istanbul Music Festival:

www.muzik.iksv.org

INSTA: [@istanbulmuzikfestivali](https://www.instagram.com/istanbulmuzikfestivali)

Lucas & Arthur Jussen:

www.arthurlucasjussen.com

INSTA: [@lucas_arthurjussen](https://www.instagram.com/lucas_arthurjussen)



IKSV Music Festival Weekend Classics II

Istanbul | 20 June



Within the Weekend Classics series of the Istanbul Music Festival, a free open-air concert will take place in Yıldız Park, one of Istanbul's most beloved green spaces. The concert will feature Dutch artists Hadewych van Gent – Dutch cellist and vocalist, Ana-Carmen Balestra – Dutch soprano and accompaniment by Brazilian guitarist Vitor Noah.

Weekend Classics is designed to bring classical music to a broader and more diverse audience, especially families and children, by offering free concerts in public parks. The Dutch artists will present a programme that will be accessible and engaging, combining high artistic quality with a relaxed outdoor atmosphere. For many visitors, this may be their first encounter with live classical music and with Dutch performers.

More information:

Istanbul Music Festival:

www.muzik.iksv.org

INSTA: [@istanbulmuzikfestivali](https://www.instagram.com/istanbulmuzikfestivali)

Hadewych van Gent:

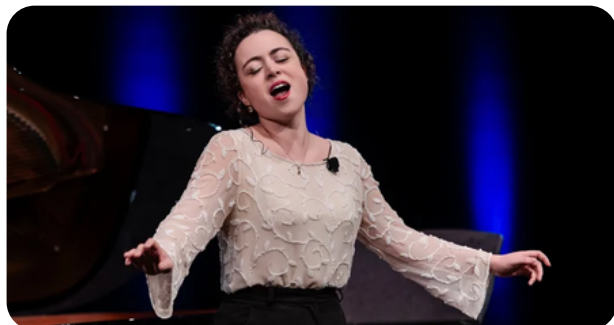
www.hadewychvangent.com

INSTA: [@hadewych.van.gent](https://www.instagram.com/hadewych.van.gent)

Ana-Carmen Balestra:

www.anacarmenbalestra.com

INSTA: [@anacarmenbalestra_soprano](https://www.instagram.com/anacarmenbalestra_soprano)



Istanbul Modern - Museums Talk

Istanbul | 24 June



Türkiye's first and foremost museum of modern and contemporary art, Istanbul Modern, will continue its "Museums Talk from the Netherlands" series with Roos Gortzak, Artistic Director of the Groninger Museum (Netherlands).

"Museums Talk" is a conversation platform that brings together museum professionals and audiences from Turkey and abroad to discuss contemporary museology and museum experiences. After previous talks with Dutch museum directors from Boijmans Van Beuningen, Stedelijk and Rijksmuseum, this new session will broaden the perspective by including a major museum from Groningen, outside the traditional Amsterdam–Rotterdam axis. This will highlight the diversity of the Dutch museum landscape and support gender equality by featuring a female museum director.

This event will explore topics such as museum management, curatorial practices, collections and archives, audience development, education and social programmes, marketing strategies, new technologies and museum architecture.

More information:

Istanbul Modern:

www.istanbulmodern.org/en

INSTA: [@istanbulmodern](https://www.instagram.com/istanbulmodern)

Groninger Museum:

www.groningermuseum.nl

INSTA: [@groningermuseumofficial](https://www.instagram.com/groningermuseumofficial)



IKSV Jazz Festival

Istanbul | 08 July



The Istanbul Jazz Festival, organised by İKSV since 1994, will once again present its distinctive programme “Night Out with +1” (Turkish title: +1’li Gece Gezmesi). This event will turn Kadıköy into a musical route for one night, allowing audiences to move between several venues with a single ticket and discover a wide range of artists.

The Netherlands will be represented by ISHA, a producer, bass player and multi-instrumentalist. ISHA’s music blends neo-soul, jazz, R&B and contemporary electronic sounds, representing a new generation of Dutch talent shaped by international collaborations and cross-border creative networks. Her project is female-led, highlighting the role of women producers and instrumentalists in today’s music scene.

If you enjoy her performance at “Night Out with +1”, then check out her music through her website and socials and look out for planned 2026 debut album release.

More information:

Istanbul Jazz Festival

www.caz.iksv.org/en

INSTA: [@istanbulcazfestivali](https://www.instagram.com/istanbulcazfestivali)

ISHA: [Isha - EBB Music](https://www.instagram.com/ishamusic)

INSTA: [byishamusic](https://www.instagram.com/ishamusic)



Sound of Europe

Istanbul | Izmir | Ankara

17-19 July



The Sound of Europe Music Festival will bring emerging and innovative artists from across Europe together with performers from Turkey. Initiated by the Istanbul and Ankara clusters of EUNIC (European Union National Institutes of Culture) and supported by the Creative Europe Programme, the festival will take place in public spaces such as parks and open-air venues in Izmir, Istanbul and Ankara. This festival aims to create a platform for musical discovery and intercultural exchange that is accessible to people of all ages. For the festival's fifth edition, the Dutch act will be Future Husband, a musical collective originally founded around singer-songwriter Adura Sulaiman. Their sound blends synth-pop, neo-soul and indie rock, combining dreamy atmospheres, grooving beats and introspective lyrics. Following the release of their debut album *Confused Kids* in 2025 and performances at festivals like Best Kept Secret and Eurosonic Noorderslag, Future Husband will bring their dynamic live show to Turkish audiences. Their participation will position Dutch alternative pop music within a broader European context and will encourage new connections between Dutch and Turkish artists, festivals and audiences.

More information:

Sound of Europe Festival:

www.soundofeuropeturkey.com/ana-sayfa

INSTA: [@soundofeuropetr](https://www.instagram.com/soundofeuropetr)

Future Husband:

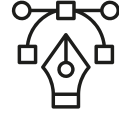
INSTA: [@future.husband.forever](https://www.instagram.com/future.husband.forever)



Arkas Art Alaçatı x Stedelijk

Izmir - Alaçatı

21-25 July



Arkas Art, which has been developing “İzmir’s Art Route” through multiple art centres, will host a five-day programme at its new venue Arkas Art Alaçatı. This centre, opened in 2024, focuses on modern and contemporary art and includes both temporary exhibitions and a permanent display of works from the Arkas Collection, as well as talks, workshops and educational events.

In July 2026, Arkas Art will collaborate with the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam to introduce a youth-centred, participatory museum education model inspired by the Stedelijk’s successful Blikopeners programme. The Dutch team will include Emma Harjadi Herman – Head of Education and Inclusion, Stedelijk Museum, Olmo Garcia Koel – Coordinator of the Blikopeners programme, Two Blikopeners participants – young people who work with the museum as peer educators. The programme will bring together 15 young participants (aged 16–25) and 20–25 educators and cultural professionals for a combination of hands-on youth workshops and professional seminars.

More information:

Arkas Art Alaçatı:

www.arkassanatalacati.com

INSTA: [@arkassanatalacati](https://www.instagram.com/arkassanatalacati)

Arkas Art: www.arkassanat.com

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam:

www.stedelijk.nl

INSTA: [@stedelijkmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/stedelijkmuseum)



Dutch Cultural Collaborations in Türkiye Spring-Summer 2026