

Istanbul Okan University Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture

Manifest'ou 2nd International Symposium on Art and Design

**“EVERYDAY LIFE: THE AESTHETICS AND POLITICS OF THE QUOTIDIAN IN
ART AND DESIGN”**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organized by the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture at Istanbul Okan University, the Manifest'ou 2nd International Symposium on Art and Design will convene in person and online under the theme “Everyday Life”. This year’s symposium seeks to explore how, in the 21st century, the everyday has been engaged, represented, and transformed across the disciplines of art and design.

Although often considered mundane, trivial, or invisible, everyday life constitutes the sphere where social structures, cultural codes, and personal experiences most intensely converge. Routines, habits, objects, and spaces extend far beyond mere functionality; they carry aesthetic, political, and cultural significance. In this sense, art and design emerge as powerful instruments that make the everyday visible, transform it, and imbue it with new meanings.

Since the second half of the twentieth century, everyday life has been a crucial site of inquiry in both social theory and artistic practice. Henri Lefebvre identified the everyday as the most invisible yet decisive domain of modern capitalist society, while the Situationist International developed strategies of creative action to subvert the mechanisms that turn individuals into passive consumers, thus transforming the quotidian into a space of resistance and invention.

Art and design, therefore, do more than represent daily life—they actively reshape it. From bringing ordinary objects into the realm of art, to turning everyday gestures into aesthetic performances, or reimagining familiar objects in terms of form, function, and meaning, these practices reveal the aesthetic, political, and cultural dimensions embedded in the everyday.

Guiding Questions:

- How is everyday life approached and critically engaged within artistic practices?
- Can art become a method of resistance within daily routines?
- How might the ordinary and the invisible be rendered visible through art and design?
- In what ways can the performative dimensions of daily life—embodied in gesture and action—be articulated through art and design?
- How can the reconfiguration of everyday objects, spaces, and practices through design contribute to cultural and social transformation?
- Might re-examining the conventional relationships between people and spaces through design foster new perspectives in both individual and collective perception?
- To what extent do artworks that inhabit or represent everyday life shape cultural and aesthetic values, and can such influences serve as catalysts for future artistic production?
- Could the intersections of daily routines and artistic experience play a strategic role in fostering environmental awareness?

- How does digitalization alter the experience of everyday life, and what implications does this shift hold for art and design practices?

The Manifest'ou 2nd International Symposium on Art and Design invites scholars, artists, and designers to engage with these and related questions. Together, we will reflect on how everyday life is represented, reimagined, and transformed within art and design in the 21st century, and what aesthetic, cultural, political, and social questions emerge from these engagements.

DATE AND VENUE

The symposium will be held on March 10–12, 2026, at Istanbul Okan University Tuzla Campus, both in person and online.

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Abstract Submission: December 30, 2025 (Submissions will close at 00:00 (the very first minute) on December 30, 2025.)

Notification of Accepted Papers: February 12, 2026

Program Announcement: February 26, 2026

Symposium Dates: March 10–12, 2026

Deadline for Full Paper Submission: March 12, 2026

You can visit our official website for further information:

<https://oevent.okan.edu.tr/Manifestou>