

# Cevdet Erek

## 29.11.2025 – 22.2.2026



Cevdet Erek, *Bergama Stereo*, 2019–20, installation view, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin, photo: Matthias Voelzke

Cevdet Erek creates works on the intersection between sound, sculpture and architecture. In his audiovisual practice, he explores tone, space and its perception and the concepts of time and history. The Istanbul-based artist applies his extensive backgrounds as an architect, educator, musician and sound engineer to construct spatial site-specific installations and sonic environments. They invite the audience to actively engage with the space and reflect upon the physical sensations transported through the rhythmic reciprocity between sound and the body. Erek often employs seriality as a means to emphasize the subjectivity of lived experiences in different locations, times and cultural contexts.

A characteristic example is *Bergama Stereo* (2019–24), an architectural installation with sound and a performance program, which he first exhibited at the Ruhrtriennale in Bochum in 2019. In the late nineteenth century, the German Empire transported fragmentary relics of the Hellenistic Pergamon Altar from their original site in present-day western Türkiye to Berlin. Taking the altar's form, the historically attributed function and the ongoing reception as a reference point, *Bergama Stereo* was subsequently shown at Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin. The 34-channel composition with loudspeakers interprets the sculptural frieze through acoustic activation by mixing techno, an important cultural

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addition and now part of the current collection display at Hamburger Bahnhof. These different versions spread across various countries contribute to a critical discussion of cultural ownership and alternative ways of display.

*Room of Rhythms* (2010–12) was conceived for documenta 13 in Kassel then became a series, with volumes shown at MAXXI, Rome, and the Istanbul and Sydney Biennials. In 2017 Cevdet Erek presented the architectural intervention with sound *ÇIN* in the pavilion of Turkey at the 57th Venice Biennale.

## Artists

**Cevdet Erek**

born 1974 in Istanbul, lives in Istanbul

## Programmed by the board of the Secession

## Curated by

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