

Art Against Violence Project

Final Report

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Implementing Organisation: MaviKalem

Supporting Organisation: Embassy of Ireland

Project Name: Art Against Violence

Project Period: November 2022-December 2023



Ambasáid na hÉireann | An Tuirc
Embassy of Ireland | Turkey
İrlanda Büyükelçiliği | Türkiye

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MaviKalem
sosyal yardımlaşma ve dayanışma derneği

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March 8, International Women's Day

General Summary

The Art Against Violence Project was implemented with the aim of keeping violence against women on the agenda, raising public awareness on this issue, supporting solidarity among women and mediating the expression of women's reactions to violence through painting.

Accordingly, painting workshops were held with women in Istanbul, Adana and Hatay between March and August 2023. In these workshops, women first talked about violence, shared their own experiences and then painted together against violence.

The paintings produced by 129 women participating in the workshops were exhibited in November and December in Istanbul and Adana in cooperation with municipalities. The digital exhibition continues the web page created for the project.

In this report, the painting workshops are also included, and the exhibition process is discussed in detail.





1. Painting Workshops

(March-August 2023)

The painting workshops were implemented in Istanbul, Adana and Hatay earthquake zones between March and August.

The workshops consisted of two parts. In the first part, women talked about violence against women, shared their feelings and thoughts, and talked about their own experiences of violence. In the second part, women reflected their feelings against violence in paintings.

A total of 10 painting workshops were organised throughout the project. In Istanbul, 3 workshops were held with Avcilar Municipality, 1 workshop with Esenyurt Municipality, 1 workshop in Sulukule Neighbourhood House of Metropolitan Municipality, 1 workshop with Seyhan Municipality in Adana, 1 workshop with Antakya Municipality in Hatay, 1 workshop with Defne Municipality and 2 workshops in Serinyol Neighbourhood.

These workshops were implemented by Painter-Sculptor Meryem Tomak. A total of 129 women participated in the workshops.



Some of the women who participated in the workshops and painted against violence expressed the following about their drawings.

“In my painting I touch upon the reasons for violence against women. I wanted to symbolise bad upbringing and society. Even if we give children a good education, society will spoil it. For this reason, both the education given should be correct and the society should be moral. The painting I did in this workshop is a good way to express my thoughts. I give a message in this way.” (Adana- Seyhan Municipality, 15 June 2023)

“At first I thought I wouldn’t be able to express



my feelings, then slowly something came out. Frankly speaking, you encouraged me. In my painting, I wanted to show that no matter how much a woman is hindered, she insists on not extinguishing the fire inside her and continues to give hope both to herself and to those around her.” (*Adana- Seyhan Municipality, 15 June 2023*)

“Within the framework of this activity, we express our feelings to the outside world through drawing. When we draw a picture or make a sentence, it is as if we have found a solution to the problems inside us. Of course, this is not an actual solution, but it is a declaration that we need to find a solution. Therefore, it is one of the ways to get rid of our inner troubles and troubles. Customs, traditions and customs cause women not to live their lives. Women carry all the troubles of life inside them. That’s why I depicted the woman in the picture with a bulging body. The hand figure in the picture carries the

meaning of stop violence. The figure of a child symbolises child abuse. In cases of verbal and physical harassment against women and children, society and the family expect the victim to keep quiet to avoid a scandal. However, I believe that the incidents should be exposed in order to prevent harassment.” (*Adana- Seyhan Municipality, 15 June 2023*)

“We tried to express our state of mind as earthquake survivors. In fact, there is a happy woman by the sea, but there is a silenced bird above. Look, the bird’s mouth is closed. And the eye of the bird... An eye above us is constantly watching us. Our freedom has been taken away... Our houses have been demolished. We live in the garden all the time. I hope we will have a house. We thank the organisations that support us like this. This way, we relieve some stress and tell our problems. I hope we will regain our former happiness. We are hopeful.” (*Hatay - Defne Municipality, 10 August 2023*)



“I wrote ‘be a free spirit’ because I think that when we become free, we can say no to everything.” *(Istanbul - Avcılar Municipality, 8 March 2023)*

“What did I mean here? By drawing a purple hand... Women’s solidarity on violence...” *(Istanbul - Avcılar Municipality, 4 May 2023)*

“We said what all women wanted to say. We did it with pictures. Woman is everything, life, flower... It was very enjoyable to do this work with my friends. On behalf of all the women of the world, we say ‘no to violence against women’. Women should smile, they should never cry.” *(Istanbul - Avcılar Municipality, 11 May 2023)*

In small cities like ours, it takes time for a woman who has been subjected to violence to share this. They are afraid of getting a negative reaction from their neighbours. Here, large families live in the same neighbourhood or in the same apartment. After the earthquake, tents were set up next to each other. We have no privacy left. In fact, this is also a form of violence. “We are better now. We poured our hearts out with pictures...” *(Hatay - Defne Municipality, 10 August 2023)*

It made us feel good that Mavi Kalem organised and participated in this activity in Defne Municipality.

Firstly, women should be informed more about violence against women. Especially girls



should be educated. Male dominance starts at a young age. After all, boys and girls are equal. We live a very difficult life as women. With this activity, we realised what the violence we experience is, we learned about the types of violence. We felt that we are not alone. **(Hatay - Defne Municipality, 10 August 2023)**

We started to live in tents after the earthquake. It is very difficult for relatives to live side by side and face to face in tents, we women and young girls do not have a separate place of our own. I want men to have psychological therapy. Thank you for organising this activity. We felt that we are not forgotten. **(Hatay - Defne Municipality, 10 August 2023)**

“Look how I paint colours on black! These colours symbolise ‘life’.” Women alone cannot find a solution to violence. The state needs to enact laws protecting women who

are subjected to violence **(Istanbul - Avcılar Municipality, 4 May 2023)**

“I’m not much of a painter. But when we played with colours, we liked what we did in the end. We generally tried to reflect the despair and anger inside us.” **(Istanbul - Avcılar Municipality, 11 May 2023)**

In the picture I drew in this activity, a woman is subjected to physical and psychological violence by her husband. When she complains, her husband goes to jail and the law generally does not punish him. I want the state to enact strong laws against men who perpetrate violence. I think it should be compulsory to send men who perpetrate violence to psychological treatment first. Going to jail is not a solution. **(Istanbul - Metropolitan Municipality Sulukule Neighbourhood House May 2023)**

In the picture I drew, I drew hands on which I wrote the numbers that women and young girls can apply when they are subjected to violence. I think it is important for all women and girls to know these. (*Istanbul -Esenyurt Municipality May 2023*)

I drew different faces in my painting, and I wanted to explain that violence against women is increasing not only in our society but also in the world. Even if there are differences in religion, language, race and culture, the violence problems of women who are subjected to violence in the world are the same. It does not matter whether it is a backward country or a modern country. Women should support each other. (*Hatay - Antakya Municipality, 2023*)

It felt good to participate in this activity against violence against women. I tried to draw my feelings that I keep inside myself. Women face violence at home, at work, in traffic, almost everywhere. Here, we are mostly under the pressure and surveillance of the environment we live in. This situation affects our whole life. Women, girls and the whole family, men should receive education on this issue. (*Hatay - Antakya Municipality, 2023*)

After the completion of the painting workshops, public exhibitions and digital exhibit were initiated.



Exhibition – Taş Mektep Büyükağa 2023



2. Exhibitions and Digital Exhibit

The exhibitions organised in Istanbul and Adana and the digital exhibition activities on the website are presented in this section of the report under the headings of “exhibition preparations”, “exhibition process” and “post-exhibition”.

2.1. Exhibition preparations (November 2023)

The interface design and update processes of the web page introducing the project were completed. The page is now available in Turkish and English. (See. www.art.mavikalem.org)

The exhibition promotion booklet was prepared and sent to the printer. A digital copy of the booklet is available on the project web page (See. <https://art.mavikalem.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Kadina-Yonelik-Siddet-Resim-Sergisi-Kitapcik.pdf>)

The 12 large-sized cloth paintings produced in the painting workshops were made ready for exhibition after processes such as sewing and ironing. Photographs taken during the workshops were also sent to the press for exhibition.

The Metropolitan Municipality and Adalar Municipality in Istanbul and Seyhan Municipality in Adana were contacted to promote the project, to obtain the necessary permissions for the

exhibitions, and to determine the dates and locations of the exhibitions.

With a team of five people in Istanbul and three in Adana, the preliminary preparations and venue organisation of the exhibitions were completed. The preparation process before the Istanbul exhibition was featured on institutional social media accounts (See. *Instagram, Facebook, X*)

Exhibition invitations and posters were prepared and sent for printing. Digital copies were shared on social media. (See [invitation] *Instagram, Facebook, X* and [banner] *Instagram, Facebook, X*)

The announcement of the start of the exhibitions was shared on the institutional website and the project web page. (See. *mavikalem.org* ve *art.mavikalem.org*). Announcements were also made by municipalities and institutions associated with municipalities. (See. *Instagram, Facebook, X*)

A press release announcing the start of the exhibitions was prepared and shared with members of the press. Thus, the exhibitions were featured in national and local newspapers/news websites (See. *BasindaBiz*)



kadına yönelik
şiddete karşı resim
sergisi



**Kadına yönelik şiddete karşı
129 kadının yaptığı resimlerini sergiliyoruz!**

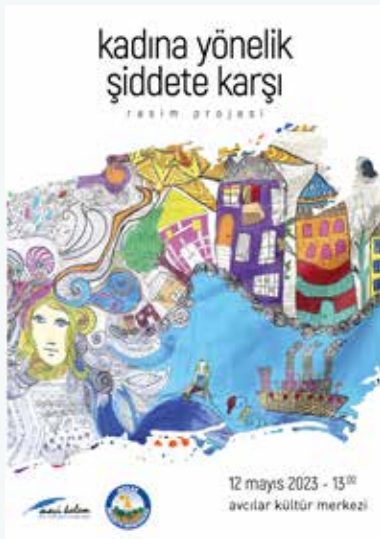
Kadına Yönelik Şiddete Karşı Resim Projesi kapsamında üretilen toplam 129 sergi
Adana Belediyesi ve MaviKalem Derneği çalışmalarıyla gerçekleştirildi.

Kadına Yönelik Şiddete Karşı Resim Projesi, İnönü Büyükşehir Belediyesi tarafından desteklenildi.
25 Kasım Kadına Yönelik Şiddetle Ulaştırmaya Mücadele Günü'nü Adana Belediyesi Bekir Sami Biderim Güllü
ve İnönü Büyükşehir'lerinden Komando & İnci Karap David Ağın Wajah ile birlikte
sergilerini açıyor. Sergi anımsında girmekten çok mutlu olacak.

MaviKalem

25 Kasım 2023 - 31.10.2023
Büyükkadı Taş Mektep

*Her sergiye katılan kadınlar için ücretsiz danışmanlık ve destek hizmetleri sunulmaktadır. Adana Belediyesi, İnönü Büyükşehir Belediyesi, Adana Belediyesi, MaviKalem Derneği ve sponsorlar tarafından desteklenmiştir.



**Kadına Yönelik Şiddete Karşı
Resim Sergileri**





2.2. Exhibition period (November–December 2023)

The first exhibition of the project was opened on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, at Büyükada Taş Mektep in cooperation with the Adalar Municipality of Istanbul.

The exhibition was opened with speeches by Erdem Gül, Mayor of Adalar Municipality, David Aşgın Walsh, Consul & Second Clerk of the Embassy of Ireland, Filiz Ayla, Chairman of the Board of MaviKalem, and Meryem Tomak, Painter/Sculptor and Member of the Board of MaviKalem, who implemented the painting workshops.

12 large-scale paintings produced by 129 women in 10 different workshops throughout 2023 and photographs taken during the workshops were exhibited. The exhibition lasted for two days on 25-26 November.

The second exhibition of the project was opened in Adana on 14 December at Yaşar Kemal Cultural Centre in cooperation with Seyhan Municipality.

The exhibition was opened with speeches by Akif Kemal Akay, Mayor of Seyhan Municipality, Ronan Cunniffe, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland, Tiraje Zeynep Yüregir, Vice Chairman of the Board of MaviKalem, and Meryem Tomak, Member of the Board of MaviKalem – Painter/Sculptor.

The exhibition continued for two days on 14-15 December.



Filiz Ayla, Chairman of the Board of MaviKalem , Erdem Gül, Mayor of Adalar Municipality, David Aşgın Walsh, Consul & Second Clerk of the Embassy of Ireland, Meryem Tomak, Painter/Sculptor, Arjen Uijterlinde, Consul General of the Netherlands in Istanbul



Tiraje Zeynep Yüregir, Vice Chairman of the Board of MaviKalem, Akif Kemal Akay, Mayor of Seyhan Municipality, Ronan Cunniffe, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland, and Meryem Tomak, Member of the Board of MaviKalem - Painter/Sculptor. Irish Embassy Office Manager Hande Özden



Filiz Ayla-Chairman of the Board of MaviKalem, Tiraje Zeynep Yüregir-Vice Chairman of the Board of MaviKalem, David Aşgın Walsh- Consul & Second Clerk of the Embassy of Ireland



Yaşar Kemal Cultural Centre in cooperation with Adana Seyhan Municipality -Adana



2.3. Post-exhibition (December 2023)

News announcing the start of the exhibitions organised within the scope of the project were shared on the institutional website and the project website. (See [Istanbul] mavikalem.org and art.mavikalem.org, [Adana] art.mavikalem.org)

Social media posts were made about the opening of the exhibitions. (See [Istanbul] Instagram, Facebook, X and [Adana] Instagram, Facebook, X)

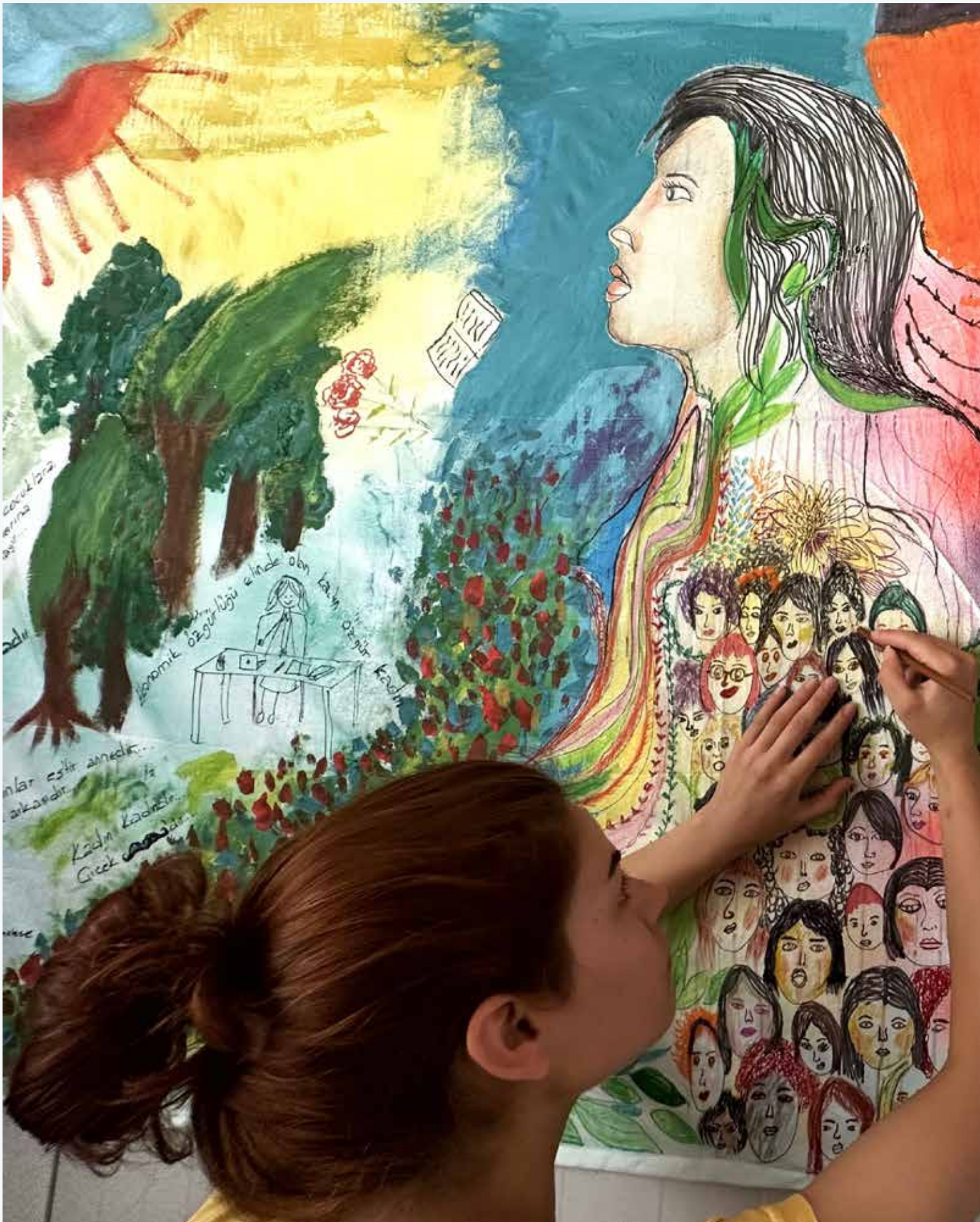
A promotional video of the exhibition, including the opening speeches, was shared on the institutional YouTube account. (See. YouTube)

Some of the pictures produced by women against violence were also featured on social media. (See Instagram, Facebook, X)

The opening of the exhibitions was also shared on the social media accounts of the municipalities and related organisations. (See. Instagram, Facebook, X)

A press release was prepared and shared with members of the press to announce the start of the exhibitions. Exhibition openings were covered in national and local newspapers/news websites. A section called “us in the press” was created on the project’s web page and news in the media were included. (See. BasındaBiz)







Çocuk Evliliği

112

Kadın- Ev işi- Çocuk Bakım
SİL- Süpür- Yetiştir- Sıkayet Etme

Sadere ütü yapmak
istemiyomuz

Sen kadınsın
komusuna!

İş hayatında çok çalıs
terfiyi erkek alsın!

Sen kadınsın
çeremazsın

3. Challenges Encountered and Solutions

Earthquakes in Turkey: The earthquakes that struck Turkey on the 6th of February 2023 affected the work of MaviKalem as well as many other organisations working in the field of humanitarian aid. The earthquakes caused great destruction and loss of life in 11 provinces. According to official statements, 53 thousand 537 people died, and 107 thousand 213 people were injured. Hatay was one of the provinces most affected by the earthquake.

MaviKalem travelled to Hatay immediately after the earthquake and became a part of the relief efforts. One of the employees sent to the earthquake zone from Istanbul was Meryem Tomak, who was born and raised in the region, was familiar with the culture and was also the implementer of the Art Against Violence workshops. While coordinating the work in the earthquake zone, she also conducted painting workshops and exhibitions. She travelled between cities. They endeavoured to do great and effective work with teams that could be considered small.

After the earthquake, not only organisations working in this field but also municipalities participated in the relief efforts. Therefore, the workshops could not be implemented on the planned dates with the municipalities with which the painting workshops were previously discussed. In addition, since municipality premises in Hatay were also destroyed after the earthquake, it was difficult to find a place for the workshops.

Turkey General Elections: The 2023 Presidential and Parliamentary General Elections were another issue that made it difficult to cooperate with municipalities. It became very difficult to plan and communicate with the municipalities, which focused on election activities, about the locations and dates of the workshops.

Solutions: With all these difficulties, changes were made to the previously targeted workshop and exhibition locations and dates. While the dates were brought forward, the workshops were expanded to the provinces most affected by the earthquake. In addition to Istanbul, women affected by the earthquake in Hatay and Adana were also included in the painting workshops. Painting exhibitions were held in Istanbul and Adana towards the end of the year. In the new year, the visibility of the project continued to be maintained with additional activities. We also plan to continue these exhibitions in different cities such as Hatay and Ankara.







4. Additional Work (January-March 2024)

In the institutional Christmas/New Year card, a photograph of women painting in painting workshops was used and a text was created accordingly. (See. Instagram, Facebook, X)

A news item introducing the project and the digital exhibition on the project's website was included in the e-bulletin published on the 8th of March International Women's Day, which focused on MaviKalem's work for women. (See. e-bülten)

In addition to the e-bulletin, the project's web page was also reminded on institutional social media accounts in March. (See. Instagram, Facebook, X)



HER ŞEYE
BİR UMUDU VA
KADINI



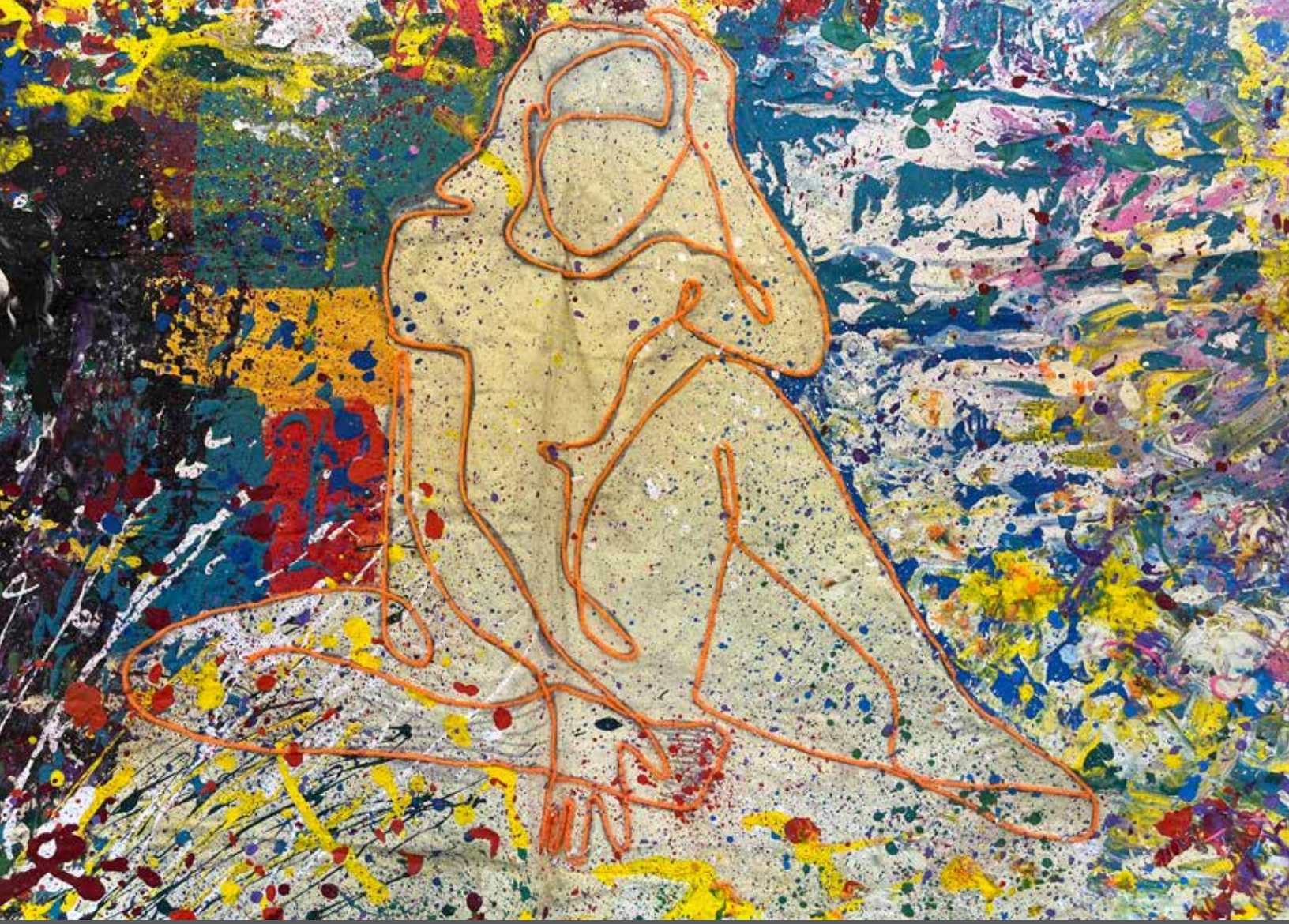
RAĞMEN
AR OLAN
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