

# ORHAN PAMUK: THE ART OF FICTION

## THE ART OF FICTION – IN THE MUSEUM

A seminar on Orhan Pamuk's Museum of Innocence and his museum vision

**Time:** 11 September 2017, 09:00 – 16:30, in conjunction with the exhibition *Orhan Pamuk: The Art of Fiction* (23 May to 15 October 2017), curated by Selene Wendt.

**Venue:** Lecture hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at Historisk museum, Frederiks gate 2 (Tullinløkka), Oslo.

*“In every novel and museum [...] the most delicate and entertaining question is the distinction between what is real and what is fiction.”*

Orhan Pamuk

*In 2008 Turkish writer and Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk published *The Museum of Innocence*, a work of fiction exploring objects, memories, and museums. In 1998 Pamuk bought a house in Istanbul where the heroine of a future novel was supposed to have lived with her family. He then spent many years collecting objects, writing and preparing the very museum he describes in the novel, and which he eventually opened in this Istanbul house in 2012.*



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**Themes:** In 2017 curator Selene Wendt and The Museum of Cultural Heritage have cooperated with Pamuk's Museum of Innocence for the Oslo exhibition *Orhan Pamuk: The Art of Fiction*. Among other elements, the exhibition includes 29 vitrines corresponding to chapters from the novel. In his book, which includes a manifesto for museums, Pamuk argues for the small and personalized museum. Our seminar seeks to explore the background for his literary and artistic venture into museums, and presents fresh research on how the Istanbul museum can be read and is actually experienced and received by its visitors. We further contextualize Pamuk's vision of museums within both the Turkish and European museum landscape, and discuss critically his plea for museums telling the stories of individuals. What experience and insight can the small museum offer?

**Audience:** The seminar is open for everyone taking an interest in museums and Orhan Pamuk's literary work, and is especially relevant for museum employees, researchers and students of museology, heritage and cultural history. The seminar is free of charge. Please register [here](#) or contact: [Martin Hager-Saltnes](#), +47 97 19 25 35.

Organized by:



UiO : Museum of Cultural History  
University of Oslo



UiO : Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages  
University of Oslo

## SEMINAR PROGRAM

- 08:45 Registration and coffee
- 09:00 Professor Brita Brenna, University of Oslo: Introduction to the seminar
- 09:20 Short video address from Orhan Pamuk on the Oslo exhibition and seminar
- 09:30 Curator Selene Wendt, The Global Art Project: ORHAN PAMUK: THE ART OF FICTION
- 10:00 Professor Bernt Brendemoen, University of Oslo: THE ROLE OF *THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE* IN THE LITERARY OEUVRE OF ORHAN PAMUK
- Discussion
- Coffee break
- 11:00 Researcher Bjørn Magnus Staaf, Lund University: CITY HISTORY AND FICTION – STUDYING THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE AND ITS VISITORS
- 11:30 Researcher Malene Vest Hansen, University of Copenhagen: PERFORMING TIME IN SPACE: THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE
- Discussion
- 12:15 Lunch break.
- 13:15 Research Associate Gönül Bozoğlu, Newcastle University: 'IN MUSEUMS WE HAVE HISTORY, BUT WHAT WE NEED IS STORIES': THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE IN THE TURKISH HERITAGE LANDSCAPE
- 13:45 Professor Christopher Whitehead, Newcastle University and University of Oslo: MUSEUMS OF EXPERIENCE: STORIES OF PLACES AND LIVES IN RECENT EUROPEAN MUSEUM PRACTICE
- Discussion
- Coffee break
- 14:45 Professor Mari Lending, Oslo School of Architecture and Design: THE SMALL MUSEUM: IDIOSYNCRACY AND SENTIMENTALITY
- 15:15 Discussion and conclusions
- 16:00 SUMMING UP – Professor Gro Ween and Professor Brita Brenna
- 16:30 Closing of the seminar

**Moderator:** Professor Brita Brenna, University of Oslo. **Discussant:** Gro Ween, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo.

**For questions:** Please contact [martin.hager-saltnes@khm.uio.no](mailto:martin.hager-saltnes@khm.uio.no), +47 97 19 25 35.

Biographies to be announced by 15 June, abstracts by 15 August

**WELCOME**