

STROB BAR



Özge Açikkol
The party is over
2018

The image (2012) is from Tarlabası district, that used to be a run-down area where different ethnical groups and people from different nationalities live together. It hosted small hotels for migrant workers or bed-sitting rooms, and that has an underground nightlife culture with genuine bars and night clubs. 9 blocks were torn down in Tarlabası in 2010 to start an urban transformation construction and habitants and shop owners were forcefully evicted. The plan was to build a new residential area, with offices, shopping malls and hotels, cafes, restaurants. But in 2017, the renewal project was cancelled by the jurisdictional decision.

The fallen letters that reads "disco bar" are the leftovers from the destruction and they are the "late" sign of the end of an era in which the party is over. The use of the word Disco (not the music itself but as the name of the music hall) that goes back to '70s, started to fade away by the mid-90s. But the idea of the "Disco as a place" was preserved in Tarlabası until the urban transformation process has begun.

Özge Açikkol // Born in 1976 in İstanbul. She graduated from Marmara University, Fine Arts Faculty's Painting Department. In January 2000, she founded Oda Projesi artist collective with Güneş Savaş and Seçil Yersel. She's been working as editor and translator for different publications always in paralel to her Oda Projesi work. Oda Projesi is an artist collective based in İstanbul; they turned their collaborative experience starting from 1997 to a project in 2000. From January 2000, their space functioned as a non-profit independent space, hosting projects, gatherings and acts up until march 16th 2005, when Oda Projesi was evicted from the apartment due to the gentrification process. Since then Oda Projesi was no more space based but always carrying the idea of the creation of a third space, a space for socialization. While doing this, the project looked at how İstanbul as a city, is organized spatially by its habitants.