



## *Biography*

Born in 1970, Osman Akan studied graphic design at Bilkent University and holds a masters degree in Critical Studies and Integrated Media from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Akan is known for his use of unusual materials and his large-scale installations. Since 2004, he has been working with light as a medium, particularly with optical fibers. In 2006, Akan installed his first large-scale public commission utilizing fiber optic systems in Franconia Sculpture Park in Minnesota, USA. The following year Akan received a New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) grant to realize The Third Bridge, a commission for the 40th year celebration of the arts in New York City Parks. In 2009 he was commissioned by the City of Denver to create a permanent sculpture for the entrance of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Currently, he is working on a commission for Garanti Cultural Center, Istanbul.

Akan's work stands at the crossroads of art, design and architecture. His works are involved in cityscapes, public spaces and eco-systems. His installations respond to the specifics of site from both aesthetic and logistical concerns. On one hand, they bare questions such as efficiency and sustainability, and on another, they openly question the existence of such structures. From the Internet to television, today optical fibers have become the basis of our networked society. By using materials such as these Akan positions the audience between the organic and the man made. His art invites the audience into a dialog of existence in a society that is hyper-dependent on such networks. Full of light and hopeful for a better future, his installations are mere gestures to remind us of the importance of healing and sustaining the environment to which we are physically bonded, reminding us that this bond is as important as our new technologies.

Akan has been involved in many public and private projects and has had exhibitions both in United States and abroad. He has received several grants and fellowships and has been a professor of advanced computer arts for many years. Osman Akan lives and works in New York City.