



## *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. Trained as a new media artist, Akan is known for his use of unusual materials and large installations. He has been working with light as a medium, especially with optical fibers, since 2004. Akan installed his first large public commission utilizing fiber optic systems in Franconia Sculpture Park in Minnesota, USA. In 2007 Akan received New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) grant to realize *The Third Bridge*, a commission for the 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the arts in New York City Parks. In 2010 he completed “Albedo” a permanent sculpture commissioned by the City of Denver and the Denver Botanic Gardens and he is currently working on a permanent commission for the city of Anchorage, Alaska.

From the internet to television, optical fibers have become the basis of our networked society. By using these materials, Akan positions his audience between the organic and the man made. His art bares the questions of existence in a society that is hyper-dependent on such networks. However, the installations are always full of light; full of hope. They are mere gestures to remind us of the importance of the physical in a world going towards a virtual one. His works assert the importance of healing and sustaining the environment to which we are physically bonded, reminding us that it is as important as our technologies.

A Jerome fellow, Akan has been involved in many public and private projects and has had exhibitions both in United States and in Europe. Osman Akan lives and works in New York.