



PRESS RELEASE

WOMEN'S MUSEUMS: CENTRE OF SOCIAL MEMORY AND PLACE OF INCLUSION, edited by Meral Akkent, Güldünya Yayınları, İstanbul 2017, 236 p., ISBN 978-605-83000-3-3

Women's museums have reshaped the perception of official historiography, culture, art, and everyday life by making visible aspects which have been ignored in other museums. In the 40 years since the foundation of the first women's museum the number of such museums has increased to over 80. They have enriched the world of museums. Several women's museums have developed various inclusive concepts. Some have even been founded on the principle of being an inclusive museum.

The reader **WOMEN'S MUSEUMS: CENTRE OF SOCIAL MEMORY AND PLACE OF INCLUSION** presents experiences of women's museums with inclusive practices. Ten women's museum's from nine countries show us how they deal with "forgetting", "remembering" and "diversity".

In the book you will find answers to the main questions discussed at the conference "Women's Museums – Centre of Social Memory and Place of Inclusion" organized by Women's Museum İstanbul and İstanbul Bilgi University in 2016:

- how the term "inclusion" is defined in the participating museums;
- how the topics "social memory and awareness" are dealt with in their research and in exhibitions;
- how in their work diversity is reflected in the construction of social memory;
- which social institutions the museums collaborate with;
- which methods are used to meet goals such as creating a platform for debate in the museum and developing participation processes.

The book also contains "Guidelines for Women's Museums and Gender Related Museums" which can be a source of inspiration for women's and gender related museums having existed for a long time as well as for those that are to be founded.

We learn what a saying such as "*When a woman comes to realize her own history, she changes*" means for a museum's practice.

We are informed about the fruitful relationship between gender studies and women's museums.

We are told how girls in the whole world are given the opportunity to realize their own museum.

We learn about the challenges of opposing traditional history writing, struggling with male norms in museums and analyzing the norms with a critical view.

We recognize that to keep alive the problem of violence against women in war and conflict situations in general is a challenge and means a lot of effort especially when the story of sexual crimes carried out by the military forces of one's own country has to be told.

We learn about projects that practise the "acceptance of diversity and respect for difference" in a concrete form.

In the book you will also find basic articles about inclusion, a tour d'horizon of the history of women's museums, the audioscripts of a public discussion reflecting concepts that may play a role in the formation of an alternative (women's) culture of remembrance beyond the official history, as well as two interviews dealing with the response to the information gained at the conference by students of the Faculty of Communication of İstanbul Bilgi University.