

SKY DOME

Istanbul's domes bear the spatial, symbolic, and cultural traces of a multilayered civilizational memory extending from the Ottoman period to the present day. In the same city, different faiths and cultures have contributed to Istanbul's multilayered memory around this shared roof form. Domes should be seen not merely as architectural elements, but as the embodiment of the idea of a "shared sky." In this respect, Istanbul's domes are perhaps among the most powerful images of the visual and intellectual bridges established between the past and the present.

The "Sky Dome" project may be considered a photographic series positioned between the representation of space and a love for Istanbul. In this work, I aimed to transform the domes, one of the most iconic architectural forms in Istanbul's urban silhouette, into a timeless art form on both optical and intellectual planes through the language of photography. As carriers of thousands of years of historical accumulation, the domes have been reconstructed in this project as layers of visual thought. Here, the dome ceases to be a fixed architectural element and becomes a symbolic form of collective memory. Bringing together various faiths, cultures, and communities across different historical periods, domes symbolize the idea of gathering under a common roof. These works visualize the idea of existing beneath the same "Sky Dome."

While producing the photographs with a medium-format camera and multiple-exposure technique, I aimed not to represent a singular moment, but to render it visible anew through an experimental approach. The overlapping domes multiply space rather than fix it, fragmenting the perception in our minds; thus, the dome becomes a layered thought and functions as an artistic field of construction. The shoots were not carried out at random moments, but were carefully planned for specific times when the light was at its strongest and most aesthetic. Accordingly, the city's silhouette was reconstructed through light, and selected structures were photographed under ideal lighting and seasonal conditions based on precise calculations. At moments when light transformed the space most intensely, unconventional viewpoints were sought. In this respect, each photograph reflects a meticulous construction process filtered through the lens of the visual arts, as the product of both an intuitive and a calculated aesthetic understanding.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Murat Ülker, who made this exhibition possible; to Mr. Mehmet Tütüncü, Chair of the Board and CEO of Yıldız Holding, the host institution; to his colleagues; and to everyone who contributed.

Nevzat Yıldırı



Nevzat Yıldırım was born in Adapazarı in 1987. He is an academic, photographer and visual artist producing work in the fields of documentary photography and contemporary art. He graduated with honours in 2010 from the Department of Photography, Photography and Graphic Arts Division, Faculty of Fine Arts, Kocaeli University. In the same year, he received the “Young Photographers Award” in the “Moon and Stars” project organized by The American Turkish Society in New York, USA.

In 2011, the artist’s works were included in the permanent photography collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), one of the world’s leading art institutions. He completed his master’s degree in 2015 in the Department of Photography at the Institute of Fine Arts, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. In 2024, he received his PhD degree from the Art and Design Program at the Institute of Social Sciences, Yıldız Technical University, with a dissertation in the field of photography. Having won more than 50 awards in national and international photography competitions, the artist’s works are included in museum and private collections in different countries. In his practice, the artist approaches the conceptual and aesthetic dimensions of photography as a powerful narrative field. Yıldırım also serves as a jury member in photography competitions and considers photography as an object of narrative and thought through his published photobook projects. He edits and shapes the publishing direction of photography book series published by Anadolu Agency under the AA Kitap imprint.

Represented by Albumen Gallery in London, the artist’s works have been exhibited at international art platforms such as Photo London and Paris Photo. Nevzat Yıldırım, a Board Member of the Turkish Photography Foundation, teaches academic courses in photography at various universities and continues his work between Istanbul and London.

Selected Art Collections

2019 – Albumen Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2011 – Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), USA

Selected Solo Photography Exhibitions

2025 – Loving Istanbul, Turkish Photography Foundation, Istanbul, Türkiye

2025 – Sleeping Cars, Lianzhou Photography Festival, Lianzhou, People's Republic of China

2019 – After The Conflict, Albumen Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Published Photobook Projects

2019 – After The Conflict, Albumen Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2015 – Istanbul Culture and Literature Atlas, prepared together with author M. Davut Göksu, Touring and Automobile Club of Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye