

DIRIMART

OZAN SAĞDIÇ: *ELEGANT MOCKERY*

Elegant Mockery

Ozan Sağdıç

Opening: 12 November 2026, 6pm

Venue: Dirimart Pera

The exhibition can be visited from 12 November to 13 December 2026 (except Mondays).

The exhibition *Elegant Mockery*, bringing together Ozan Sağdıç's photographs from different aspects of everyday life, focuses on moments in which people, movements and objects come together in the same frame, sometimes deliberately and sometimes by chance.

ISTANBUL, 27 OCTOBER 2026 — Dirimart is pleased to present *Elegant Mockery*, Ozan Sağdıç's first solo exhibition with the gallery, following the recent announcement of his representation by Dirimart. Bringing together photographs from different aspects of everyday life, the exhibition presents crowds, streets, workplaces and places of leisure as scenes in which associations, sometimes deliberately arranged and sometimes formed by chance, acquire a temporary sense of harmony.

In Sağdıç's photographs, separate lives briefly take on a common form while people retain their individuality. A step, a pause or a turn of the head is enough to alter the relationships within the image. Deliberate arrangement and spontaneous harmony intertwine, and the distinctive order of each moment is shaped as much by small gestures that break from repetition as by movements that recur. Everyday life shared by people, animals, objects and spaces extends these relationships further. A sculpture appearing to join a group of people seated on a bench, or a handcart passing close to an aeroplane and sharing the same frame, creates unexpected connections within otherwise familiar scenes.

Sağdıç's own measure of photography also becomes apparent here: an image that might initially be called 'good' becomes 'beautiful' when it captures our attention, and 'masterful' when it inspires admiration. The irony that the artist describes as *zarifane alay*, or 'elegant mockery', arises from these unexpected proximities. Sağdıç believes that photography should give pleasure, tickle our sensibilities, make us smile and prompt us to think. Visual harmony also brings the differences between those placed side by side into sharper focus.

Clothing, workplaces, modes of transport and public spaces connect these moments to a changing social landscape. Each scene bears the traces of its time, while relationships that continue to evolve in the flow of life remain fixed in the photograph in an equilibrium specific to that moment.

Ozan Sağdıç's *Elegant Mockery* will be on view at Dirimart Pera from 12 November to 13 December 2026.



press@dirimart.com
dirimart.com

DIRIMART DOLAPDERE
İrmak Caddesi 1-9
34440 Dolapdere İstanbul
+90 212 232 66 66

DIRIMART PERA
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 99
34430 Beyoğlu İstanbul

DIRIMART LONDON
23 Princes Street Mayfair
London W1B 2LY
+44 203 833 91 55

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Ozan Saędıç (b. 1934, Balıkesir) studied under the painter Âbidin Elderoęlu at Buca Secondary School before attending Kabataş High School in Istanbul. In 1956, he became one of the first two photojournalists at Hayat magazine. In 1960, when the magazine decided to establish an office in Ankara, he was appointed to set up the bureau and relocated to the city. His solo exhibitions include *Elegant Mockery*, Dirimart Pera, Istanbul (2026); *Ozan Saędıç: The Photographer's Testimony*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2024); *Kültür ve Sanat Yolunda*, CSO Ada Ankara, Ankara (2023); *'Resmen' Tanıđım ki*, Contemporary Arts Centre, Ankara (2014); and *Fotoęrafın Ozanı*, Istanbul Photography Museum, Istanbul (2013). His group exhibitions include *Photography in Days of Pandemic*, Istanbul Modern, online (2020) and *People Attract People*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2016). Alongside his photojournalism, he photographed stage productions for the Turkish State Theatres and worked on poster, book cover and publication design. During the founding years of Ankara University's Faculty of Communication and Hacettepe University's Faculty of Fine Arts, he taught photography courses. Awarded the title of State Artist in 1998, Saędıç has received numerous honours, including the Art Institution Award (1985), the Aydın Doęan Award for photography (2014), awarded annually to a single individual in a different field, the TFSF Artist of the Year Award (2020–2021) and the ÇAĖSAV Honorary Award (2023). Ozan Saędıç lives and works in Ankara.