

ARTnews

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Reviews: New York

Ayşe Erkmen

SculptureCenter

Ayşe Erkmen's *Busy Colors* (2005) was an electric-colored site-specific installation commissioned through the SculptureCenter's artist-in-residence program, and it marked the artist's U.S. debut. The Turkish-born Erkmen splits her time between Istanbul and Berlin and has shown widely in Europe, where she is known for her public projects that engage the legacy of Minimalism at sites that evoke



Ayşe Erkmen, *Busy Colors* (exterior view), 2005, photograph on self-adhesive vinyl, 97' x 30'.
SculptureCenter.

historical and political identities, including museums.

Installed on the ground of the SculptureCenter's courtyard entrance, *Busy Colors* began with two giant color photographs of an obscure, shiny dark green object against monochrome fields of sun-

shine yellow and cerulean blue. Like the uncanny feeling produced by walking on a Carl Andre floor piece, the sensation of Erkmen's images underfoot was mysterious and vaguely threatening, despite the luminous jewel tones. The feeling was only heightened upon learning that the object pictured was a small sculpture of a land mine.

Inside the cavernous main gallery of the SculptureCenter's old factory space, Erkmen installed two enormous monochromatic sails of billowing fabric. Colored magenta and teal, the sheets were suspended from the building's original gantry crane, 25 feet high, creating two dynamic catenaries. Their edges moved along two rails on the ceiling as the clanking motor churned them back and forth, an ongoing balancing act that continuously reorganized the space of the gallery.

Referencing Daniel Buren's striped banners placed in public spaces and the architectural interventions of Michael Asher, Erkmen explores the experience of looking as it is constructed and deconstructed in institutional settings. But like Kimsooja's found textiles, Erkmen's choice of silky fabric in rich, festive hues that rippled luxuriantly in the airy gallery added a playful, light-as-air energy to her Minimalist-flavored works.

—Megan Heuer