

**Ferhat Özgür: Turkey, born in Ankara, currently lives and works in the UK.**

**STATEMENT ON THE “off the record” project – Tokyo – Japan /2007**

**As I was looking at my family photo album I found an old picture of my aunt holding her baby on her lap. It was an old black and white photograph and must have been taken in a studio, as they were posturing like models. The album was just next to my Western Art History books on the shelves. There were many paintings in the art history dealing with the theme of “Virgin Mary and Christ The Child” depicting them in a similar position to the one in my family album. What was more interesting was that the name of the child on my aunt’s lap was “İsa” which has the same meaning of Christ in Turkish. In this sense the two photographs looked to me like a bridge between the East and The West. I decided to put them into the locker across from each other.**

**As the West and the East look at each other, the middle surface of the locker has another image of a man who is trying to mitigate his pain by pulling the glasses off his back. This is another kind of acupuncture therapy in Turkey. The pain represents the struggle and unrest between these two civilizations, while the other images emphasize the sisterhood via similarities.**