

# The Istanbul Modern

Istanbul's Museum of Modern Art occupies an old warehouse in Tophane, right on top of the Bosphorus Strait. Downstairs are rotating temporary exhibits, while the upper floor houses the permanent collection along with a stylish cafe that has great-looking food, and an even better looking view.



As is always the case in modern art museums, the quality of the work varies wildly. Some pieces are really cool, but many left us scratching our heads and making depreciative comments like "*This is art? My five-year-old niece could do that!*"

(I recognize that I'm just revealing the level of my ignorance by scoffing at modern art. A professional curator, educated in various artistic movements, selected this piece for the museum and it must be annoying to overhear some snide, clueless idiot like me saying, "*That's art?*" Because, as he very well knows, it definitely is. But any attempt at elucidation would fly right over my snarky little head, since I don't have the foundation necessary for even a basic understanding of it. Still. It's a bunch of damn scribbles. My five-year-