5 May 2009

"70 Years of Turkish Painting" at Sakıp Sabancı Museum...

Sabancı University Sakıp Sabancı Museum (SSM), is hosting the exhibition titled "**TRAVEL TO THE WEST - 70 Years of Turkish Painting (1860 - 1930)**", between 16 April - 30 June 2009. Sponsored by Yüksel İnşaat A.Ş., the exhibition focuses on the rich story of the Turkish art of painting through works conducted by artists such as Osman Hamdi Bey, İbrahim Çallı, Feyhaman Duran and Namık İsmail, all born in the 19th century.

In addition to artists with military formations such as Şeker Ahmet Pasha and Halil Pasha the ones that introduce analytic and impressionistic interpretations are represented by 150 works selected from private collections and the collections of the Presidency Atatürk's Museum House, Ankara Museum of Painting and Sculpture, TBMM National Palaces Dolmabahçe Palace Museum, MSGSU Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture, Sabancı University Sakıp Sabancı Museum. Moreover, another replica of *the Tortoise Trainer*, the masterpiece of Osman Hamdi Bey, will be displayed for the first time at this exhibition.

At the exhibition that has reconceptualized the Turkish art of painting in the Western sense, curated by Ferit Edgü, the works of artists such as Jean-Léon Gérôme and Gustave Boulanger who have guided first generation Turkish painters located in Paris will be on display as well. Thus, the works that belong to the period between the second half of the 19th century and the end of the 1930's and represent the era of Osman Hamdi Bey and his contemporaries will be exhibited together for the first time with the works of the masters that influenced those painters.

SSM Director Dr. Nazan Ölçer, said "We are introducing the development of 70 years of Turkish painting through a retrospective exhibition. The paintings of the exhibition present a solid base for the understanding of diverse points of view and artistic convictions developed within Ottoman and Turkish painting's various views and tendencies on modernism. Our education programs and workshops designated for children and teenagers which aim the development of art appreciation within the society will be organized during the exhibition. Moreover, documentaries named "Ottoman Palace Paintings", "Osman Hamdi Bey" and "Memories from the Independence War" will be available for the visitors."

Deniz Sazak, Corporate Communication and Human Resources Coordinator of **Yüksel İnşaat A.Ş.** that sponsors the exhibition, said "As a board of Yüksel İnşaat, we are proud to support such a great art event. Yüksel İnşaat conducts a lot of projects in various fields such as education, art, archeology and sport, as a company that is aware of social responsibility in a changing world order. We sincerely thank to Ferit Edgü who provided the opportunity for us to see the pioneers of modern Turkish painting alltogether as a valuable man of letters and curator; to SSM Director Nazan Ölçer and to Güler Sabancı, the chairperson of Sabancı Holding, due to her great vision."

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