

February 18th, 2008

Masterpieces from the Islamic Art Collection
of the Louvre Museum
to be seen at the Sakip Sabanci Museum

The exhibition Istanbul, Isfahan, Delhi, Three Capitals of Islamic Art, Masterpieces from the Louvre Collection, with contributions by Turk Telekom, has opened at the Sabanci University Sakip Sabanci Museum (SSM). 220 masterpieces from Louvre Museum's Islamic Art Collection being examples of Ottoman, Iran Safavid and Indian Mughal art are being displayed in the exhibition held in cooperation with Arts Décoratifs Museum in Paris, the French Embassy and French Cultural Center, Istanbul.

A press meeting was held at SSM on Monday, February 18th at the inauguration of the exhibition which will be open to visitors from February 19th until June 1st, 2008. Louvre Museum Deputy Executive Director Hervé Barbaret, SSM Director Dr. Nazan Ölçer and Turk Telekom's CEO and General Manager Paul Doany were present at the meeting.

In her speech Nazan Ölçer said: "The exhibition will be awaiting its visitors for a period of 4 months. They will have the chance to see most magnificent works of art from Ottoman, Safavid and Indian Mughal empires which have never been on display out of Louvre Museum until today. The exhibition will provide a unique opportunity to observe the common grounds, disparities and progress in Islamic art in various geographies". Louvre Museum Deputy Executive Director Hervé Barbaret said "This relationship began with an exhibition of Ottoman calligraphy from the Sakip Sabanci Museum at the Louvre in 2000. This successful collaboration gained a new dimension by the signing of the agreement in Paris. This exhibition which is realized in scope of the agreement is the first step of the cooperation between the two major cultural institutions.". On behalf of Turk Telekom, Paul Doany said "As Türk Telekom, we attach great importance and value to our social responsibility projects in the field of culture & arts, as well as in the fields of education, sports, and innovation. We would like to thank the Sabancı Museum for giving us this great opportunity to support such an important project that brings the gemstones from the Louvre Museum to Turkey for the first time. We are very pleased to be a part of this project which will be the first in the history of exhibitions in Turkey and will bring the Turkish people together with great Islamic works of art of the 3 empires."

The exhibition stands out as the first major event to be held pursuant to the 5-year cultural and scientific collaboration agreement signed by the Sabancı University and Louvre Museum on March 20th, 2007. The "Museum Education Workshop" to be opened in SSM is planned to provide a common ground to share the scientific, professional and educational experiences of both SSM and Louvre on a regular basis, starting in 2008.

Louvre Museum Islamic Arts Collection Department
Established in

2003, Islamic Arts Department accommodates 1300 year old artifacts and masterpieces gathered from three continents. This affluent collection of 20.000 works of art echoes creativity and cultural diversity on different lands ruled by Islam. The majestic artifacts within “Islamic Arts Collection” brought together with great exertion are displayed in a venue other than Louvre Museum for the very first time in history due to the ongoing arrangements for new galleries to be added into the museum. It is planned to open new galleries in 2010 to accommodate Islamic Arts Collection Department in Louvre Museum overlooking into the Visconti Square.

For detailed information:

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