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## **SSM brings two sides of the Aegean together with new exhibition entitled “Across”.**

**Sabancı University Sakıp Sabancı Museum (SSM)** is getting ready to host a very important exhibition under the main sponsorship of ÇİMSA. The exhibition, entitled “Across - The Cyclades and Western Anatolia During The 3rd Millennium BC” is composed of artifacts from various Turkish museums as well as the National Archaeological Museum of Athens and the N. P. Goulandris Foundation Museum of Cycladic Art. The exhibition examines the relations between Anatolia, where the first steps towards civilization took place, and the nearby Cyclades islands in the Aegean that gave rise to reciprocal influence that created two cultures that while similar in many respects, nonetheless maintained distinctive regional characteristics. The exhibition, that also marks the first official cooperation between museums from Turkey and Greece will be open to visits between 23<sup>rd</sup> of May – 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2011.

The exhibition is the first time that artifacts from museums with extensive collections, such as the National Museum of Archaeology in Athens and the N. P. Goulandris Foundation Cycladic Art Museum, will be shown side by side with findings from Anatolia in Turkish museums. A total of 340 artifacts are displayed in the exhibition, which also carries the message that the Aegean is once again a sea of peace, as it was in the past.

The exhibition will display the interaction between the civilizations in Western Anatolia and Greece that date back to the 3rd Millenium BC, and by doing so, aims to contribute to the intercultural dialogue. The exhibition, in which the 5.000 years old trade and cultural relations between these two sides of the Aegean Sea is brought to light, hosts many pieces from the Early Bronze Age, including examples from the **Cycladic** art, figurines, ceramics and bronze tools.

An 14-meters long exact replica model of the Cyladic ships, stands out as one of the most interesting pieces of the exhibition. The replica shows the impact of the Cycladic ships on the interaction between the two cultures, as the ships were the only way of transportation between the two sides of the Aegean for a long time. The ships are built by Ankara University Research Center for Maritime Archaeology as a part of the “Cycladic Ships Revival Project”. Cycladic ships are built without any binder materials or nails, by taking advantage of the swelling nature of the wood when goes into contact with water.

The exhibition has caused a stir on both sides of the Aegean, as it marks the first official cooperation between museums from Turkey and Greece. Boris Micka, an award winning architect of Czech origin, who also conceptualized the “From Byzantion to İstanbul – 8000 Years of a Capital” exhibition that was held in SSM last year, designed the exhibition.

ÇİMSA is the head sponsor of the exhibition, the others include Akbank as the sponsor for education, Bergen Fine Arts Logistics and Turkish Airlines for transportation, and Turgut Pharmacy and Monte İda for the catalogue.