

ABOUT THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL IZMIR ART BIENNIAL

(4 – 11 MAY, 2011)

Art, not only uses imagination while creating aesthetic objects or environments, but also carries enthusiasm that awakens the joy of living in people's hearts. Art inspires people to express their feelings and thoughts regardless of race, culture and religion. The unique energy of art contributes to world peace greatly. Therefore, societies should always participate in all kinds of art organizations and events with dedication and perseverance in order to keep the connective and inspiring spirit of art alive.

The number of art events and organizations that take place in a society is considered one of the best indicators to gain insight to its level of cultural development and its commitment to endorse the rights to freedom of expression and speech. A major international art event also carries the potential to provide the host city or country with global recognition while contributing to economic development. In fact, this has been our principal motive when we embarked on the road of organizing the first international Biennial of Izmir. With the participation of around 535 artists from 46 countries, we now hope to prove the capacity and potential of Izmir to host a worldwide event while providing our share of support in promoting Izmir's unique cultural, historical and natural richness to the world.

Artists are the best examples of representing different ideas and thoughts in the same environment without being offensive to each other. The triumph of art is that black and white can co-exist. Artists are the symbols of respect to each other's existence, the best examples of how to connect with love. The language of art is constructive and restorative. In its expression, there is no destruction, anger or violence; on the contrary, there is so much hope, joy and love.

Seba Gallery of Art together with the jury and scientific committee have dedicated themselves to bring together these respectable artists from many different cultures and countries who skilfully reveal their artistic identities with their works.

Our ultimate aim is to turn Izmir into a world-renown city of art and culture. We truly hope that the 1st International Izmir Art Biennial will help us to achieve this and be the first of many to come in the future.

We thank everyone for their generous and sincere support in making this event possible.

Curator

Seba Ugurtan

General Director 1st International Izmir Art Biennial