Alekos Fassianos: Sailing to Byzantium
In partnership with Alekos Fassianos Museum
23 October - 31 December 2024

This autumn, the 500-year-old Zeyrek Çinili Hamam will host its first exhibition in its recently discovered Byzantine Cistern, featuring unseen works by Alekos Fassianos as part of a solo show curated by Anlam de Coster in collaboration with Alekos Fassianos Museum and Estate.

Fassianos, a renowned Greek artist whose practice encompasses painting, poetry, ceramic, design, and architecture, is celebrated for his distinctive style that blends ancient art and modernism. His works, characterised by vibrant colours and flowing lines, are deeply rooted in Greek mythology and have the ability to mythologise the quotidian.

Fassianos' first institutional exhibition in Turkey provides a dialogue between the works of Fassianos and the multifaceted heritage of the hammam and its cisterns, presenting pieces that engage with Byzantine iconography, the ship graffiti discovered in the cistern and the mysteries that surround them, and the legendary figure of Barbarossa.Fassianos' works invite viewers to explore a layered dialogue between history, myth, and
imagination.

Five major works will be shown for the first time ever in the world, including a painting about Istanbul. Most other works will be shown for the first time outside of Greece.

Held in the enigmatic Byzantine cistern underneath the hammam, the evocative setting conjures new thematic connections with the artist, showing this selection of works together for the first time in response to the history of the hammam. The cistern will continue to serve as a space for contemporary art interventions, complementing the adjacent museum.

Notes to editors

Photography credit: Katoufas brothers, Courtesy Alekos Fassianos Estate

Zeyrek Çinili Hamam

Following a meticulous 13-year restoration, Zeyrek Çinili Hamam has reopened for bathing, bringing to Istanbul a high-end wellness experience enriched by centuries of history.
Commissioned by Hayreddin Barbarossa, the Grand Admiral of the Ottoman Navy, Zeyrek Çinili Hamam is one of Istanbul's landmark heritage sites built between 1530 and 1540 by the famed Mimar Sinan at the height of the Ottoman Empire. A place for healing and rejuvenation, the 'double bath' hammam combines restored original features with contemporary, site-specific marble furniture, sculptures and artworks by contemporary artists. Among the many historic details are intricate Iznik tiles, wall murals and hidden Byzantine cisterns.
The newly opened bathhouse is adjacent to a museum, which explores the hammam's history through archaeological finds during its conservation, as well as the traditional role of bathing in the Ottoman empire, a time when hammams acted as an important social space for gathering, particularly for women. Now entirely open to the public, the historical complex also features a recently discovered Byzantine cistern and an exhibition space for contemporary art and design installations.

Zeyrek Çinili Hamam is situated in Istanbul's Zeyrek district, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.

For detailed information, visit zeyrekcinilihamam.com or follow @zeyrekcinilihamam
Address: Zeyrek, Fire Station Cad. No:44, 34083 Fatih/Istanbul
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Zeyrek Çinili Hamam Museum:
Opening Hours:
Tuesday-Sunday, 10.00–18.00

About The Marmara Group
Founded in 1966, The Marmara Group is an international, private real estate investment company operating in the fields of construction, real estate development and accommodation. The firm owns and operates The Marmara Hotels with 10 locations worldwide. The Marmara Group also undertook the restoration of the Esma Sultan Palace in Istanbul, a magnificent multi-purpose event space built within the ruins of a 19th-century palace located on the Bosphorus.

Project partners

Architectural Design: KA-BA
Construction company: Dako Construction
Zeyrek Çinili Hamam Exhibition and Space Design: Atelier Brückner
Landscape Design: DS Architecture

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