ÇİNİLİ HAMAM
ZEYREK

Alekos Fassianos: Sailing to Byzantium
In Partnership with Alekos Fassianos Museum





This winter, the 500-year-old Zeyrek Çinili Hamam and Museum will unveil its first exhibition designed specifically for its recently discovered Byzantine cistern, presenting unseen works by Alekos Fassianos in a solo show curated by Anlam de Coster in collaboration with the Alekos Fassianos Museum and Estate.
Sailing to Byzantium, on view from October 24 to December 31, 2024, brings the work of renowned Greek artist Alekos Fassianos (1935–2022) into dialogue with the hammam's rich historical and cultural heritage.

Fassianos, whose practice spanned painting, poetry, ceramics, design, and architecture, is celebrated for his distinctive style, blending ancient art with modernism. His works, marked by vibrant colors and flowing lines, transform everyday moments into mythology. This exhibition features five never-before-seen pieces, including a painting of Istanbul shown to the public for the first time anywhere in the world, offering a rare opportunity to experience a significant body of Fassianos' work outside Greece.

Taking inspiration from William Butler Yeats' poem *Sailing to Byzantium*, Fassianos' first institutional exhibition in Turkey unfolds as a journey through layers of history, myth, and imagination. His works, deeply influenced by Greek mythology and Byzantine iconography, are recontextualized alongside the enigmatic ship graffiti discovered in the cistern, believed to have been etched by Hayreddin Barbarossa's galley slaves during the hammam's 16th-century construction. In this haunting space, Fassianos' dreamlike depictions of everyday heroes echo the sailors and pirates who may have once passed through these underground chambers.

Following this inaugural exhibition, the cistern will continue to host contemporary art interventions, complementing the adjacent museum with an artist residency program.