Press invitation

Continuing the İznik Tradition

**Contemporary Blue-and-White: Turkish Ceramics by Mehmet Gürsoy and Nida Olçar**

May 25, 2018

The University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) will present **Contemporary Blue-and-White: Turkish Ceramics by Mehmet Gürsoy and Nida Olçar** from June 1 to August 19, 2018. **Contemporary Blue-and-White** exhibits forty ceramic works by two award-winning contemporary Turkish potters. Both artists work in a traditional İznik style that makes use of contemporary design elements. Mehmet Gürsoy was recognised as a UNESCO Living Human Treasure in 2010, while Nida Olçar, a much younger artist, has continued the renowned workshop and ceramic style of her late father Sıtkı Olçar, who received the same prestigious UNESCO award in 2008.

İznik pottery is named after the town of İznik, where these finely decorated ceramics have been manufactured since the last quarter of the 15th century. Local craftsmen developed simple earthenware pottery into a more sophisticated manufacture of high-quality ceramics painted with cobalt blue patterns and coated with a colourless glaze.

This modern form of production developed under the patronage of the Ottoman court in Istanbul, which traded with China and greatly valued Chinese blue-and-white porcelain. Consequently, the iconography of İznik ceramics combined traditional Ottoman arabesque patterns with Chinese motifs. Today, contemporary artists remain true to traditional design sources by creating objects that relate to cultural exchanges from the time of the Ming dynasty.

For more images and captions of the exhibits, please click [here](#).

**Media preview**

**Date:** May 31, 2018 (Thursday)

**Media registration:** Starts at 17:00

**Time:** 17:15 – 17:45

**Meeting Point:** 2/F Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam

**Language:** English

**Speakers:** Mehmet Gürsoy, Artist; Nida Olçar, Artist

**Media RSVP:**
Elena Cheung, Tel: 2241 5512, Email: elenac@hku.hk
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**Opening ceremony**

**Date:** May 31, 2018 (Thursday)

**Time:** 18:00 – 19:30

**Venue:** 2/F Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam

**Officiating Guests:**
Korhan Kemik, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Hong Kong
Aysun İmirgi, Ministry of Tourism and Culture of the Republic of Turkey
Mehmet Gürsoy, Artist
Nida Olçar, Artist
Host: Florian Knothe, Director of UMAG, HKU

Details of the Exhibition
Period: June 1, 2018 (Friday) to August 19, 2018 (Sunday)
Opening Hours:
09:30 – 18:00 (Monday to Saturday)
13:00 – 18:00 (Sunday)
Closed on University and Public Holidays
Venue: 2/F Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam
Tel/Email: (852) 2241 5500 (General Enquiry) / museum@hku.hk
Admission: Free
Website: http://www.umag.hku.hk/en/

Connect with UMAG on social media:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/umag.hku
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UMAG_HKU
Instagram: #TurkishCeramics, #MehmetGürsoy, #NidaOlçar, #UMAG
Weibo: @香港大學美術博物館 UMAG

About University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong (UMAG)
UMAG was founded in 1953 as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. It was originally established as the Fung Ping Shan Library in 1932 in honour of its benefactor. For more information on UMAG, please click here.

Media enquiries
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