Press Release

Continuing the Iznik Tradition

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

May 31, 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 Iznik 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.

An opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at UMAG today (May 31). Officiating guests included Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Hong Kong Korhan Kemik, Ministry of Tourism and Culture of the Republic of Turkey Aysun İmirgi, Artist Mehmet Gürsoy, Artist Nida Olçar and UMAG Director Florian Knothe.

Iznik pottery is named after the town of Iznik, 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 Iznik 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](http://www.umag.hku.hk/en/).

**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/](http://www.umag.hku.hk/en/)
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.

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