



MAK

Press Release

MAK Exhibition *Signs Taken in Wonder: Searching for Contemporary Istanbul* starting on 7 September 2013 in the Hanover Kunstverein

The MAK exhibition *Signs Taken in Wonder: Searching for Contemporary Istanbul*, on show in the MAK Exhibition Hall from 23 January to 21 April 2013, is to be taken over by the Hanover Kunstverein. “The art scene in Turkey and Istanbul will gain increasingly in significance in the coming years. The exhibition *Signs Taken in Wonder: Searching for Contemporary Istanbul* takes an exciting approach in linking up different artist generations in the Turkish art scene. Even more important—in my opinion—is that the exhibition unites the works by artists of Turkish origin as well as other nationalities, thus projecting a dual cultural perspective onto the creative scene in Turkey,” says René Zechlin, director of the Hanover Kunstverein, on the decision to show this much lauded exhibition project in a slightly reduced form in Hanover from 7 September to 10 November 2013.

With this exhibition the curator team of Simon Rees and Bärbel Vischer successfully presented a multifaceted picture of a metropolis shaped by European, Oriental, and Asian influences that is being shifted more and more into the focus of contemporary happenings in art. “*Signs Taken in Wonder: Searching for Contemporary Istanbul* manifests the inspiration resonating from Istanbul, the secret capital of Europe, and I am delighted that the Hanover Kunstverein is paying tribute to the relevance of this exhibition project in deciding to take over the show,” says MAK director Christoph Thun-Hohenstein.

Works by artists from three generations born in the years between the nineteen-thirties and -eighties sketch a unique, updated snapshot of contemporary art production in the context of Istanbul. The exhibition not only presents the creative worlds of artists who live and work in this city, but also Turkish artists who live abroad, as well as international artists who illuminate the cultural memory of Istanbul. Produced at a time of fast-paced globalization, the works on show engage with a process of introspection, a personal and visionary narrative and dialogue, and document a widely resonating dynamic of external and internal movement and change.

This seminal exhibition project in the MAK was made possible by the integrated, international oil and gas company OMV, which focuses its cultural sponsoring activities on cultural exchange in the area of contemporary art between the company’s core markets in Austria, Romania, and Turkey. This contribution by OMV produces important cultural dialogue over-and-above its economic engagement in these regions.



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