



Russia's GAZ to launch vehicle output in Sakarya

**Istanbul (Dunya)** - Russian motor vehicle producer GAZ on Sunday will begin production of light commercial vehicles at its new factory in Sakarya province, in northwestern Turkey. The company, plans to manufacture and export 2,500 vehicles a year to the European Union and Africa from its base in Sakarya. Its local partner is Mersa Otomotiv.

# Exhibition shows potentials, shortcomings of modern art

The works of 612 artists from 102 Turkish and foreign galleries exhibited their works at last week's Contemporary Istanbul Art Exhibition.

By **Metin Demirsar**

**Istanbul (Dunya)** - Last week's Contemporary Istanbul Art Exhibition at the Lutfu Kirdar Convention Center dramatically demonstrated how Istanbul is becoming a major international center for art production and marketing.

The exhibition also showed how art is shifting away from simple painting and sculpture to photography, multimedia, and collage (mixed art techniques) and digital works.

Several on-line commercial companies, including burayos Fine Arts of Istanbul, displayed their works at the arts fair, indicating how the business of art is changing.

Contemporary Istanbul also showed the potentialities of contemporary art, where there are no boundaries to creativity and aesthetics and to the materials used.

But the grand fair also exhibited glaring weaknesses in modern and pop art, in which creativity appears to be stunted, and where the mundane and commonplace and, often, the repulsive are passed for as works of great significance.

Many works without design, style, purpose, universality and aesthetics, which are essential for objects to be considered art, unfortunately, cluttered the exhibition. Some works at the exhibition looked like simple 'cut and paste' operations.

Many of the objects of pop art, some of which were exhibited at Contemporary Istanbul, aren't what I would want to display at my home. Pop art and universal art are as far apart as heavy metal music is to classical or New Age music. But there are buyers of pop art as well, and many are willing to pay enormous amounts of money for such works.

Nevertheless, many great works of art were displayed at the exhibition.

### Foreign domination

Foreign galleries, a few of which have now opened in Istanbul, dominated the exhibition that brought together the works of 612 artists. Some 102 art galleries, of which 57 were from abroad, took part in Contemporary Istanbul, the seventh annual event in running.



French artist Laurence Jenkell displays her bonbon art statues made from twisted plexiglas. Foreign artists dominated the exhibition.

Art galleries from the U.S., Bulgaria, Austria, Georgia, Romania, France, Italy, England, South Korea, Holland participated.

The Marlborough Gallery from New York City displayed the works of Columbian painter Fernando Botero, 80, including his 'Equilibrant on Horse,' showing a fat woman acrobat standing on a galloping circus horse, and the drawings of Pablo Picasso. Botero's large window-pane sized water color painting 'Equilibrant' was selling at \$375,000.

Italy's Louise Alexander Gallery displayed the works of the late French fashion photographer Guy Bourdin (1928-1991), including his famous 'In Between.' The photo shows several women's hands with nails polished red, covering the eyes of what appears to be fashion model with red lipstick.

Bulgaria's Modern Art Gallery showed the works of young Bulgarian artists, including painter and conceptualist artist Houeben Cherkov, 42, who lives and works in the U.S. His 'Washington Crossing Delaware' is a fantasy of colors of a famous American Revolutionary War scene.

The original works of Yorgos Kypri, a Greek sculptor, were shown at the exhibition, including the well designed and conceptualized 'schools of fish.'

New designs and concepts were also exemplified with the works of French bonbon artist Laurence Jenkell, a former hotel executive. Ms. Jenkel's huge colorful statues of wrapped candy produced on twisted Plexiglas, aluminum and synthetic fibers statues were delightful. One of these bore the red colors and the moon and star of the Turkish flag.

### Turkish artists

Many local galleries displayed the works of Turkish artists.

Olçay Art Gallery on Istanbul's Asian side exhibited the works of Devrim Erbil, 75, a professor of fine arts at Dogus University. Prof. Erbil, one of the leading names in contemporary Turkish art, is famous for his etchings and paintings of Istanbul's historic peninsula from a bird's eye view.

Art lovers would like to see Prof Erbil draw other major cities of the



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world, such as New York, London, Paris, Leningrad, Mumbai and Beijing, and not just focus on Istanbul's city center.

Olçay Art also exhibited the works of several young artists, including 'the Powder Odour Women' of Filiz Top, the 'Lovely Girls' of Mithriban Mirap, and 'Haydarpasa' of Gaye Ates.

Burhan Dogancay's collages of city walls, including 'Matador,' his signature work of Spain, were also displayed at the exhibition. His works can be seen at the Burhan Dogancay Museum in Istanbul's Beyoglu district off Istiklal Caddesi in Galatasaray. Mr. Dogancay is one of Turkey's best artists. Industrialist Murat Ulker brought his painting 'Blue Symphony' in an auction a few years ago, paying \$1.7 million.

Photographer Nazan Azeri chose the 'homeless people' of Istanbul's streets as the original topic of one of her exhibitions. She had these down-trodden persons put on the finest design clothing for her photo exhibition "Dream Roles." Several photos from this exhibition were on display at Contemporary Istanbul.



Balıkcı Sabahattin, one of Istanbul's most popular seafood restaurants is making a comeback after years of decline.

## Seafood eatery has Renaissance

By **Mina Erceci**

**Istanbul (Dunya)** After receiving topnotch international reviews, Sultanahmet's renowned seafood restaurant of Balıkcı Sabahattin is making a strong comeback following a few years of decline. With additional seating and a few new introductions to its standard renowned appetizers, Sabahattin seems to be the choice for tourists as well as locals of Istanbul.

Fame and popularity has not gotten the best out of this established fish restaurant in the historic area of Istanbul's Sultanahmet district. Balıkcı Sabahattin, Cankurtaran, Sultanahmet (behind Armada Hotel) Tel: 0212 458-1824, was covered twice by the New York Times in the year 2000, and by many other international media organizations.

Since then it has gotten more press coverage and attention than almost any other seafood restaurant in Turkey. Thick-wallet clients from the nearby Four Seasons Hotel keep coming around as well as the elite Turks in their Range Rover Jeeps for the quality of the food and uniqueness of ambience.

Located on the charming cobble stoned streets in the back area of Sultanahmet, Balıkcı Sabahattin is situated inside a restored 1927 Ottoman house near the train tracks. Following extensive renovation, additional seating has been added on the outside patio. Many prefer to sit outside on its lovely yard and enjoy the food in the outdoors amongst the neighborhood cats and even hens!

Although finding the location is a bit tricky, visitors and lo-

cals travel from afar and roam the small streets to find this hidden treasure. Influential and well-known Turkish customers journey to Sultanahmet from all corners of Istanbul; from Tarabya to Erenkoy for the ambience and of course Balıkcı Sabahattin's distinguished seafood fares.

Furthermore, due to its location in a historic site a few blocks from the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sofia, Balıkcı Sabahattin is probably written and recommended on every city guide book from Lonely Planet to Frommer's to Travel and Leisure Magazines' guide on Istanbul.

With regards to food and starter mezzes, the cold starters are pretty standard (presented in a traditional Turkish seafood restaurant fashion displayed on a wooden tray) with a choice of eggplant salad, melon and feta cheese, marinated beans, octopus salad, roasted peppers, marinated sea-bass and tossed salad of greens and tomatoes. Hot appetizers include the shrimp with tomatoes and peppers sizzled with butter in a clay dish and grilled squid. The grilled squid, chewy and warm is highly recommended. Brown rice with mussels is Balıkcı Sabahattin's signature dish. The tourist loves it while some many locals generally may find it oily and uninteresting.

For a main seafood course, seasonal fish on display is cooked to perfection. Top it with Sabahattin signature desserts and Turkish coffee. Full meal costs about 100-120 Turkish Liras per person depending on drinks and alcohol. Well worth it for celebrations and special occasions in old town.

## ISTANBUL AND ANKARA EVENTS

### ISTANBUL CONCERTS

Paco Pena at Is Culture stage

**(Concert)** Legendary flamenco guitarist Paco Pena is coming to Turkey to perform at Is Sanat on December 4. Paco Pena's Quimeras made its world premiere at Edinburg Festival in 2010. Quimeras presents a mix of Spanish and African music and combines them with their traditional dances to show us the harmony between music and dance. This is the show for flamenco lovers, don't miss it. (December 04, Is Sanat Cultural Center, 20.00, Levent, www.issanat.com.tr)

Violonist Ning Feng in ICEC

**(Concert)** Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra will be at Lütfi Kirdar Auditorium on December 1, 2012. They will be the host for famous Chinese violonist Ning Feng who will be in Turkey for the first time. The orchestra will perform Weber's Oberon Overture and Tchaikovsky's Pathétique Symphony 6 in the lead of Chief Executive Saim Akcil. (December 01, Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center, 20.00, Harbiye, www.icec.org)

Turkish cult trio MFO

**(Concert)** As one of the oldest and most important band, MFO, has a really important place in Turkish pop-rock music history. After the meeting of Mazar Alanson and Futat Guner in 1966, they released an album in 1971 and in same year with the attendance of Ozkan Ugur, their 40 years of trio has begun. On mid 70's they broadcasted the first music video of Turkey. Besides their works as MFO, the band members kept continuing their solo careers in many areas, such as, cinema, theater advertisements, TV series. (December 01, Jolly Joker Barlans, 22.00 Beyoglu, www.iistanbul.com)

Alva Noto & Blixa Bargeld

**(Concert)** The electronic music and visual artist Carsten Nicolai AKA Alva Noto will be joined by singer Blixa Bargeld, who previously performed with Einsturzende Neubauten and Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds. The two, who have known each other for years and had planned a project together for a long time, will finally take the stage together. (November 30, Borusan Music House, 21:30, Beyoglu, www.borusanmuzikevi.com)

**FESTIVALS Sustainable Living Film Festival**

**(Festival)** The festival will take place on November 29-December 2, 2012. The festival will offer 26 documentary, short films and animations with subtitles. Thematic talks following some of the screenings, musical performances are among the facilities of the festival. All events are open to public and free of charge. (Italian Cultural Center, Salt Galata, www.surdurulebiliryasam.org)

Efes Pilsen Blues Festival

**(Festival)** Efes Pilsen Blues Festival finally comes to Istanbul. Now in its 23rd year, the Efes Pilsen Blues Festival has been responsible for bringing 267 different artists to Turkey. This year, the festival took place in 20 different cities around Turkey bringing some of the most important names from the Blues scene to the stage. One of the masters of the harmonica, Billy Branch and his group The Sons of Blues will take part in the Istanbul concert as well as Mississippi native Zora Young. One of the important representatives of Texas style blues, electronic blues guitarists Smokin' Joe Kubek & Bnois King will also take the stage, as well as one of the world's most talented drummers, Cedric Burn-side. The concerts will take place at Lutfi Kirdar ICEC Rumeli Hall on Friday and Saturday at 18:30. Age limit is 24. (No-

vember 30, December 01, 18:30 Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center, Harbiye, www.icec.org)

IWI Christmas Bazaar

**(Festival)** An array of stalls will be set up for this year's International Women of Istanbul (IWI) Christmas Bazaar selling all kinds of goods for the festive season. The Guide Istanbul will also have a stall, so come meet us, browse through our magazine and website, and sign up for a subscription! The event will start at 11 am and continue until 5pm. (December 02, Grand Hyatt Istanbul, events@iwi-tr.org)

**Design Biennial focus on urban life**

**(Exhibition)** The theme of the inaugural Istanbul Design Biennial is imperfection, an apt motif for a changing urban landscape. So much about the metropolis, often heralded as an up-and-coming capital of culture and finance, is ramshackle, makeshift, provisional. Istanbul's material extremes, from the manicured window boxes of Nisantasi to the blockish suburban exiles, serves as the contextual base for the Biennial's inquiry, an exploration of faults and exceptions in a world where cut-and-copy design no longer satisfies. (Until December 12, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Karakoy, www.istanbulmodern.org)

### ART

**The Colors of Dunhuang**

**(Exhibition)** The Colors of Dunhuang n The Magic Gateway to the Silk Road Exhibition was opened in Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Tophanei Amire Culture and Art Center. The exhibition, which is part of 2012 Year of Chinese Culture in Turkey. The art of Dunhuang Grottoes are being exhibited in Europe for the first time. Over 2000 ancient wall paintings and the sculptures from the Mogao Caves of Dunhuang will be on display. Wall paintings and sculp-

tures combine Greek, Roman, Buddhist, Hindu and Gandhara arts with the style of Middle Asia. (Until January 07, 2013, Tophanei Amire),

**Treasures of Ancient China**

**(Exhibition)** Topkapi Palace is hosting "Treasures of Ancient China" exhibition featuring 5000 year old Chinese relics including four soldier statues from the world famous Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses. Terra cotta soldiers are rarely taken out of China the four soldiers on display has never left China before. In addition to Terra Cotta Army soldiers more than 100 pieces of historical artifacts from major Chinese museums such as Imperial Palace Museum, Shanghai Museum and Qin Shi Huang Terra Cotta Museum are also on display. (Until February 23, 2013, Topkapi Palace)

**Golden Children on display in Pera**

**(Exhibition)** Pera Museum presents a selection from the Yannick and Ben Jakober Foundation's Children Portraits Collection, a collection unique in the world: Golden Children 18th-19th Century European Portraits. Fifty-seven selected portraits of children explore the European political history and its aristocratic traditions, as well as the beliefs and fashions of their era. In addition to this selection, Portrait of Cameria, Daughter of the Emperor Soliman, from the Jakober Foundation's Collection, and Prince Abdurrahim Efendi, a portrait of an Ottoman prince from the Suna and Inan Kirac Foundation's Orientalist Painting Collection, have been especially added to the exhibition. (Until January 6, Pera Museum, Tepebasi, www.peramuzesi.org.tr)

**Tankut Oktem Retrospective**

**(Exhibition)** Tankut Oktem, a child prodigy best known for his bronze sculptures of Ataturk during the Turkish Independence War, is enthroned in all his glory at the Cadeboston Cultural Center. This mega exhibition

has a vast array of the sculptor's famous statues in bronze, stone, and clay. (Until December 10, Cadeboston Culture Center, www.ckm.gen.tr)

**Neset Gunal Retrospective**

**(Exhibition)** Is Sanat Kibele Art Gallery is hosting of the greatest painters, Neset Gunal in the first exhibition of the 2012-2013 season. One of the most important representatives of figurative drawing in Turkey, Neset Gunal's portraits and patterns, created from 1946 to 2001, will be shown this retrospective exhibition. With his excellent patterns, impeccable compositions and power of expression, Neset Gunal is regarded as one of the greatest classics of today's Turkish paint. As he tackles the problem of cultural identity in his paintings from the very beginning, Gunal also ranks among the rare masters that reach universality form locality. (Until 01 December 2012, Is Sanat Kibele Art Gallery, Levent, www.issanat.com.tr)

**Izzet Keribar and Leon Keribar**

**(Exhibition)** The work of renowned photographer Izzet Keribar and the posthumous work of his brother Leon Keribar will be on display at the Istanbul Photography Museum. In this very special exhibition, portraits from Izzet Keribar's time in Cuba will bring viewers face to face with a different culture while Leon Keribar's work will be of a retrospective nature to honor his memory and talent. (Until December 08, Istanbul Photography Museum, www.istanbul-fotografmuzesi.com)

**Hassan Khan's Solo Retrospective**

**(Exhibition)** Innovative, Cairo-based artist, musician and writer, Hassan Khan, brings his most comprehensive exhibition to SALT Beyoglu. Before showing his talents to the world in the late 1990s, Khan was involved in an underground art and music scene that was rarely seen by the public. Because of

this, Khan is successful in presenting an alternative perspective to mainstream art, and is considered a pioneer of experimental music and video by his peers. His exhibition will feature multifaceted layering of video, digital animation, performance documentation, sculpture, text and language, photography, sounds and installation, together aiming to produce a very personal, yet formal language, which seeks to primarily offer a unique encounter for the viewer to react to. (Until January 06, SALT Beyoglu, www.saltonline.org)

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**Here Comes the Sun for kids**

**(Exhibition)** "Here Comes the Sun" is an interactive exhibit for kids aged seven to 14 years old exploring the potential and the energy of one of the life-giving forces of this planet. The best time to visit the exhibition, which was prepared in both Turkish and German, is on the weekends. (Until July 14/2013, Rahmi Koc Museum, Haskoy, www.mkm-museum.org.tr)

**Claude Monet at Sabanci Museum**

**(Exhibition)** The exhibition, titled "The Garden in Giverny" is a joint effort with Musee Marmottan Monet, Paris and focuses on the last 30 years of the

great French impressionist artist. Giverny is a northern French village where Monet settled in early 1880s and where he painted his famous flower garden and water garden paintings. In addition to Monet's large paintings of flowers and nature, the exhibition also features Monet's close friend Auguste Renoir's portraits of Monet and his wife Camille. Monet's personal belongings such as artist's palette and glasses and photographs are also on display. (Until January 06/2013, Sakip Sabanci Museum, Emirgan, muze.sabanciuniv.edu)

### ANKARA

**Festival on Wheels**

**(Festival)** The 18th Festival on Wheels, which is organized by the Ankara Cinema Association with the support of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, will take the road between November 30 and December 10, 2012. This year the Festival on Wheels will start its journey in Ankara, its home ground. The film lovers will have the chance to watch classic films as well as recent ones between November 30 and December 6. Screenings will be held in Ankara at the Kizilay Büyüdü Fener Cinema and the Goethe Institut and in Sinop at the city's only movie theatre, Deniz Cinema. (www.festivalonwheels.org)

**Van Gogh Alive in Ankara**

**(Exhibition)** The Turkish pharmaceutical company Abdi Ibrahim is celebrating its 100th year by travelling "Van Gogh Alive Digital Art Exhibition" presenting a selection of Van Gogh's masterpieces enriched with audiovisual effects. Following Istanbul, Ankara's Cer Modern 3 is hosting this exclusive exhibit until January 3, 2013. Van Gogh Alive is a frameless art exhibit which was developed by Australian Grande Exhibitions and 3000 digital images of the artist's lively and passionately detailed works from 1880-1890 are reflected through 40HD projectors on giant screens, walls, columns, floors and ceilings. (Until January 3, Cer Modern, www.cermodern.org)