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THE PARIS BIENNIALE
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Contemporary Istanbul’s 12th Edition Adds More Than 20 New Exhibitors

The 12th chapter of Contemporary Istanbul, September 14-17, with a line up of more than 70 galleries, including more than 20 new exhibitors, will open in a revised exhibition design at Lütfi Kirdar ICEC Rumeli Hall and the Istanbul Congress Center. Ever since its inception, the fair has succeeded in giving a regional and international focus to the contemporary art scene of Istanbul that has attained a certain dynamism in the past few decades.

The fair’s sections include Plugin, dedicated to digital art and multimedia, the CI Dialogues discussion series, and CI Design, a section introduced last year that focuses on functional art and design pieces.
The fair will also present a new sculpture exhibition at the neighboring Sanatçlar Park. Titled “The Fifth Element” and curated by Prof. Hasan Bülent Kahraman, it is Istanbul’s first outdoor contemporary sculpture exhibition in a public park organized by Contemporary Istanbul. Participating artists include: Erdal Aksel, Fabian Marcaccio, Jan Fabre, Janis Kounellis, Johan Tahon, Magdalena Abakanowicz, and Tony Cragg.

New galleries at the upcoming edition of the fair include Anna Laudel (Istanbul), Archeus Post Modern Gallery (London), Eastwards Prospectus (Bucharest), Flowers Gallery (London, New York), Gallery 1957 (Accra), Gallery Tableau (Seoul), Gazelli Art (London, Baku), Leila Heller (Dubai, New York), N2 Gallery (Barcelona), and Parasite Gallery (Tel Aviv).

The 12th edition of the fair will be watched closely because it should signal firm rooting of the initiative—it helps to know that the last edition was held close on the heels of political uncertainty in the country just months before the fair in November. The fair was held, nonetheless, and has dared to go stronger and better with this edition.