

FINANCIAL TIMES

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ART | NEED TO NOW

Raging Istanbul

ArtInternational muscles its way onto the global arts calendar

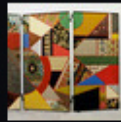


Image: Courtesy of the artist and Yvon Lambert

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Istanbul may be reeling with political turbulence at the moment, but its cultural exuberance continues to grow in both influence and reach. ArtInternational Istanbul, a contemporary art fair launching in September, promises to become a key event on the global arts calendar.

Presented by the founders of Art HK (the Hong Kong international art fair) and the co-owners of India Art Fair, its aim is to offer a fresh view of the contemporary art scene by focusing strongly on Turkey, the Middle East and further afield. And its superb location in the Halic Congress Center, overlooking the Golden Horn, enhances its appeal further still.

“We’ve been considering Istanbul as a potential location for a new fair over the past few years,” says the show’s co-founder Sandy Angus. “The Turkish art scene is incredibly vibrant and the city offers a persuasive location with immense draw for new and more established collectors.” Lovers of contemporary work will find a very diverse selection from 60 leading and emerging galleries, both regional and international. London galleries Lisson and Pace, Venice’s Contini Art Gallery, Berlin’s Arndt, New York’s Leila Heller and San Francisco’s Hosfelt Gallery will be joined by Jeddah’s Athr Gallery, Dubai’s Gallery Isabelle Van Den Eynde and a strong showing of Istanbul venues, including Egeran, Galeri Mana, Pi Artworks, Galeri Non, Rampa and Galeri Zilberman.

Highlights include Susan Hefuna’s ribbon-like *Untitled* sculpture in silver bronze (second picture, €40,000) from Pi Artworks; Bertrand Lavier’s bright-blue, Picasso-like form in polyester resin (first picture, price on request) from Paris gallery Yvon Lambert; Joachim Koester’s *From the Secret Garden of Sleep #3* (price on request), a frondy fantasy captured on a silver gelatine print from Galleri Nicolai Wallner; Santiago Sierra’s monochrome photograph *NO (Police)* (price on request) from London’s Lisson Gallery; and Yto Barrada’s tropical C-print *Restaurant-Villa Harris Fig 3* (price on request) from Pace

Gallery.

Many pieces could also work practically as well as decoratively in contemporary interiors. El Anatsui's *Introvert* (\$1,150,000) from Luxembourg's Gallerie Zidoun is an intriguing wall piece created from found aluminium and copper wire, while Nevin Aladag's *Paravent, Social Fabric #2* (third picture, price on request) from Rampa, Istanbul and Galerie Wentrup, Berlin is a colourfully patterned collage of carpet within a wood and metal frame that would act as a spectacular room divider.

Passport, tickets, money...?

First picture: Bertrand Lavier, Walt Disney Productions 1947-1995 No 1. Paint on polyester resin, 163cm x 86cm x 50cm. Second picture: Susan Hefuna, Untitled, 2013. Silver bronze, 48cm x 48cm x 38.5cm, €40,000. Third picture: Nevin Aladag, Paravent, Social Fabric #2, 2012. Collage with carpet on wood and metal frame, 190cm x 280cm x 4cm.

ArtInternational Istanbul (www.istanbulartinternational.com) runs from 16 to 18 September 2013 at Halic Congress Center, Sutluce Mah, Karaagac Cad, 34445 Beyoglu, Istanbul (www.haliccc.com).