

FOREWORD

Turkey speaks to us through her contemporary artists.

The present exhibition was organized by Michael Milkovich, Director of the University Art Gallery, State University of New York at Binghamton. It was selected by Mr. Milkovich and myself in Istanbul and Ankara late in 1969. For me this exhibition is a speaking engagement between Turkey and the United States and is an extension of my efforts made on previous trips to bring together the art of our two countries.

In 1965 the Ben and Abby Grey Foundation's cultural exchange program, "Communication Through Art," which was inaugurated in Istanbul, organized an exhibition of Contemporary American Art in Istanbul. The exhibit was then circulated by the United States Information Service throughout Turkey and other countries in Europe, East Africa and Asia. An exhibition of fifty graphics by Turkish artists which I selected between 1961 and 1967 for the Ben and Abby Grey Foundation is traveling at the present time in America under the sponsorship of the Western Association of Art Museums.

The generous loan of paintings by Turkish artists specifically for this exhibition is indeed an important international art event. I am most happy and proud to have the privilege of taking part in the expanding communication between Turkish artists and the American public.

Abby W. Grey, President
Ben and Abby Grey Foundation

The South West Asia North Africa Program at the State University of New York at Binghamton is pleased to join with the University Art Gallery and the Ben and Abby Grey Foundation in co-sponsorship of a second exhibition of contemporary Middle Eastern artists (the first was an exhibition of Contemporary South West Asian-North African Graphics in 1969) as a way of introducing American students and the public to a little known but important and revealing insight into the life of modern Turkey. This exhibition of paintings by contemporary Turkish artists is the first of its kind in the United States and therefore an event in two fields—modern Middle Eastern studies, and contemporary art.

The paintings were collected after visits to Turkey and personal contacts with artists by sponsors of the exhibit and with assistance of cultural representatives of the United States in Istanbul, and Ankara, and the Turkish authorities here and in Turkey.

The work of these disparate artists, while showing strong contemporary influences is often unique and closely related to both traditional and modern Turkish themes. We see, for example, traditional village themes including peasant occupations and life; but also modern urban life and ironic critique of some aspects of recent developments in Turkish society. While in some instances knowledge of modern Turkey may be necessary to correctly interpret the artist's intent, no special insight is needed to appreciate the fact that Turkey's artists are skilled, independent minded and represent a diversity of trends and outlooks—both political and aesthetic.

Don Peretz
Director, SWANA Program

AMERİKADA AÇILAN 'ÇAĞDAŞ TÜRK RESMİ'
SERGİSİ KATALOGUNDA..
BAŞKAN ABBY W. GREY ve
Yönetici, DON PERETZ'in
SUNUŞ YAZILARI