

Amsterdam, May 19th 2017

Intensive Workshop 12 Dutch Designers and Artists at Iznik Foundation Ateliers

Together with Dutch design curator Gijs Stork, Iznik Foundation has invited a group of highly creative Dutch designers and artists to visit its ateliers in Iznik, Turkey. From May 21st to May 27th 2017, the group of designers will work at the Foundation's production and design facilities.

Participants are Juliaan Andeweg, Erik Boogerd, Chris Kabel, Klaas Kuiken, OS & OOS, Wouter Paijmans, Mike Pratt, Studio rENs, Juliette Warmerhoven and Frank Bruggeman. Of these 10 studios, 12 designers and artists will participate in the project. The results from their efforts will be showcased at exhibition venues in Turkey and the Netherlands in the summer and fall of 2017. The project is generously supported by Iznik Foundation and The Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Istanbul.

Inspiration

The main inspiration for the project was the 2005 *Çiniçiğin Exhibition* held at the Hagia Sophia Museum (Ayasofya) in Istanbul. For this event, 16 Turkish and international designers were asked to design their modern interpretation of the traditional Iznik tile. This collaboration resulted in 16 versatile designs, both traditional and modern produced as complete tile panels. Similar to this exhibition, the designs created by the Dutch designers and artists will be produced by the Iznik Foundation as limited editions.

Objectives

In addition to keeping alive the craftsmanship of Iznik tile and ceramic art, Iznik Foundation is aiming at further developing Iznik art through research and innovation, both in the field of production and design. One of the main ways to do so is by collaborating with designers from all over the world. The collaboration with the Dutch designers can also be seen in this light.

Traditional craftsmanship and production methods are the backbone of the Iznik art developed by Iznik Foundation. Furthermore, there is a significant added value in the exchange of thoughts between these external designers with their backgrounds, knowledge and skills with the craftsmen of Iznik Foundation. By enriching the Iznik ceramic art with external knowledge and inspiration, this centuries old art can be deepened and broadened to secure it for generations to come.

Exhibitions

Supported by the *Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts* (İstanbul Kültür Sanat Vakfı, IKSVA), the group of designers and artists will showcase their first results of their workshop in Istanbul on Saturday May 27th 2017. Together with a selection of partners, the participants will discuss the results of their time spent in Iznik.



Additional exhibitions and showcases will be held in Amsterdam, during the Dutch Design Week 2017 in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) and at the Salone del Mobile 2018 in Milan (Italy).

About Iznik Foundation

The Iznik Training and Education Foundation (İznik Vakfı Çinileri, *Iznik Foundation*) was established in 1993 under the leadership of Prof. dr Işıl Akbaygil. The main purpose of the Foundation was to re-launch the Iznik Quartz Ceramic art, which disappeared around 300 years ago. Following the publication in 1989 of *Iznik: The Pottery of Ottoman Turkey*, an extensive overview of Iznik art, a research centre was formed. After several years of R&D, the Foundation's Research Centre together with various Turkish and international partners managed to successfully re-produce the Iznik quartz based tile. The result of all of this efforts has been the revival of the Iznik art and technology of ceramic manufacture as this was practised in the classical period.



About Gijs Stork

The group of participants was curated by Mr. Gijs Stork. Based in Amsterdam, Stork (Curaçao, 1964) works as an entrepreneur in the cultural sector and is involved in various projects and initiatives. In 2010, together with Manon Schaap, Gijs founded SALON, platform for talents in the fields of fashion, design, art and culture. In addition, Gijs is curator at X Bank in W Amsterdam, that was founded by him in 2014 and opened in February 2016. Since 2014, he also works as Project Manager at the New Institute for Contemporary Dutch Design in Amsterdam. Previously, Stork worked as publisher of books and magazines in the field of art, architecture, design and fashion books and magazines at Artimo Publishers (1992-2005) and Veenman Publishers (2005-2009). Stork has held and currently holds seats in committees and boards at various funds and other cultural organizations and advises and manages private art collections.



Contact Information:

- www.iznik.com (Iznik Foundation)
- www.salon1.org (Gijs Stork)
- www.iznik.nl (European Representative Office)
 - Press inquiries: Mr. Floris Meijer (floris.meijer@iznik.nl) | +31 (0)6 1914 4704

Generously supported by:

