

Press Release – For immediate release

At the Jette Cultural Centre

MEETING EYES: TURKEY

From March 24th till April 1st 2007 (opening on March 24th, 11:00am)

As a footnote to the possible adhesion of Turkey to Europe, the "Association Photographique Brussels Miroir" invited artists residing in Turkey, as well as members or correspondants of the association and other belgian photographers to participate in a joint project: an international exhibition higlighting various aspects of this country and of the important turkish community in Belgium.

The turkish artists, who are well-known personnalities on the photographic scene in Turkey – professional photographers, photography teachers, publishers of photographic periodicals or members of the Association for Fine Art Photography in Turkey – will show us for example Istanbul "differently", the "Kirkpinar" wrestling contests or a Mevlevi Sema ceremony (Whirling Derviches - the Mevleviye are one of the most well-known Sufi orders, founded in 1273 in Konya. Today, they are present in several turkish communities around the world, with the most active and well-known still being those from Konya and Istanbul). As UNESCO declared 2007 "Mevlânâ Year", the choice of this ceremony—symbol of love, peace and toleration—appeared to be particularly opportune.

This part of the exhibition will be completed with photographs from belgian artists made during their stays in Turkey. Different visions, different sensitivities which we tought interesting to put side by side in order to complete the survey on this country ant its multiple facets.

Finally, a third part of the exhibition will be devoted to the turkish community in Belgium: simple relaxing moments from everyday's life, festive celebrations or scholar activities snapped up by the photographer.

The list of the photographers, as well as a detailed presentation of the turkish authors, is attached.

The exhibition is covering two floors at the "Centre Armillaire" in Jette, and will be completed by a slide show during the opening ceremony. The exhibition will also be presented during the autumn 2007 in the Konak Cultural Centre of the Nilüfer commune (which is part of the Bursa city). It is likely that the show will travel afterwards through various cities, in Turkey as well as in Belgium.

The "Association Photographique Brussels Miroir" evolved from the similarly named photoclub, that held a prominent position for 15 years within the Association of Photographic Circles in french speaking Belgium. Wishing to extend its scope beyond the traditional photoclub activities and to encourage its members to develop a personal and original vision, APBM multiplies its contacts with other organisations, in Belgium as well as abroad, and proposes joint projects such as this exhibition. In addition to its contacts in Turkey, links were established with the association "Beauté du Royaume" (Benin), with the "Verein zur Forderung Kunstlerischer Bildmedien" (Association for the Promotion of Fine Art Imaging) in Leverkusen, Germany, and "New-Camera e.V." from Offenbach am Main, also in Germany.

The exhibition is accessible all days from 2:00 pm till 6:00 pm

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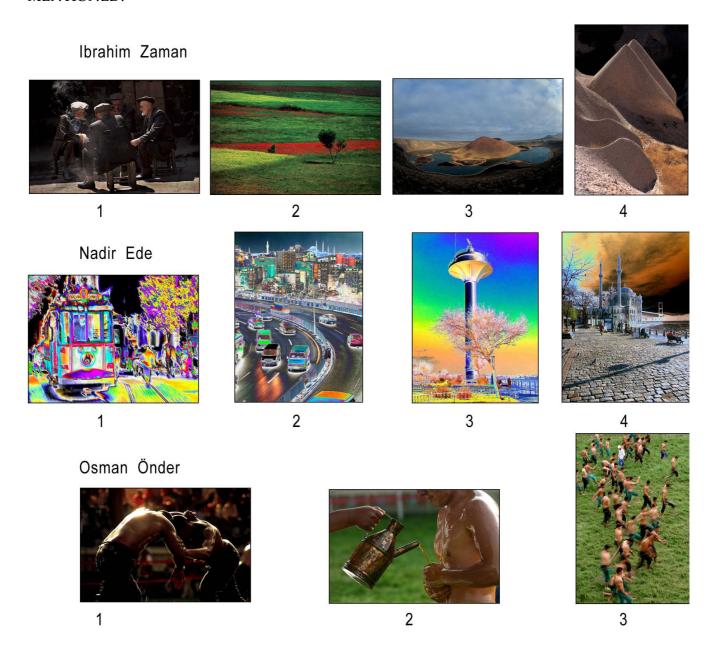
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Centre Culturel de Jette Bld de Smet de Naeyer 145, 1090 Jette from March 24th till April 1st 2007

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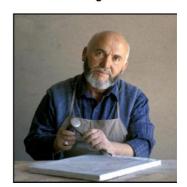
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Emile Gits



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F. Verheylewegen