

Istanbul Cool!

What's Happening in Contemporary Turkish Art Now

Exhibition Highlights

Taner Ceylan, who was born in Germany, and currently lives and works in Istanbul, has been called one of the most impressive hyperrealist artists in Turkey and one of the foremost artists on the contemporary Istanbul circuit. The artist's series of works on paper, *Ephemere*, 1994, a grid of images including self-portraits, illustrates his technical mastery.

Several vibrant canvases by Haluk Akakçe, who was born in Turkey, and lives and works in New York City, will be a highlight of *Istanbul Cool!* "Shapes grow organically," the artist says of his paintings "creating a poetic world of their own." A new book on Turkish art, "Unleashed: Contemporary Art from Turkey," notes that the artist has "in relatively little time forged a considerable reputation...on the international art scene." In New York, his work has been seen at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and The New Museum.

Ramazan Bayrakoğlu, who lives and works in Turkey, is creating new work specifically for Istanbul Cool! Most recently, his collages, which often combine hundreds of pieces of shiny satin fabric to create the illusion of a painting or photograph, were shown in New York at the Armory Show 2010, Art Dubai 2010, and in the 10th International Istanbul Biennial in 2007.

Peter Hristoff, an artist living and working in New York City who was born in Istanbul, is inspired by prayer rugs. "They embody a physical object turning into a holy place....a piece of fabric, becomes loaded with a different kind of meaning the moment that someone uses it," Hristoff explains. A number of his works will be included in the exhibition, including two unique wool rugs hand woven in Usak, Turkey.