

CONTEMPORARY ISTANBUL ON DISPLAY

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Contemporary Istanbul on display

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The Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair, which aims to make Istanbul a center of contemporary and modern art, opened on Tuesday with the participation of artists, art critics, curators, art lovers and press members.

Sponsored by Deutsche Bank, the fair is being held at the Lütüfi Kırdar Congress and Exhibition Hall.

The fair is hosting exhibitions from 10 overseas art galleries as well as galleries in Turkey. Among these are Art Estate AG of Hamburg, Dam Stuhltrager and Artsindia from New York, and representatives from Paris, Vienna and Frankfurt.

Ikon Fair Management executive board chairman Ali Güreli told daily Radikal that they had paid particular attention to the fair's infrastructure and had renewed all equipment from lighting to floor coverings in the fair area. "This is just the beginning. Our major goal is 2007. Next year we will organize the fair simultaneously with the Istanbul Biennial, Sept. 4-9. We will take advantage of the biennial's popularity. Last year nearly 6,000 people from abroad visited the biennial in the first week. If they visit both the biennial and the contemporary art fair, this will enliven the Turkish world of art. Our goal is to make this fair one of the world's top 10 fairs over the next 10 years."

The Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair will continue through Sunday. Ticket prices are YTL 5 and YTL 15. Tickets are available at Biletix (0216 556 98 00).



"Untitled" by Mustafa Ayaz, Teku Art Gallery