

Journey to Istanbul at the Aga Khan Museum's World Premiere Exhibition

A City Transformed: Images of Istanbul Then and Now Opens February 6

Toronto, January 20, 2016 – The storied city of Istanbul comes alive in a stunning exhibition of historic and contemporary images on display at the Aga Khan Museum from February 6 to June 26, 2016.

A City Transformed: Images of Istanbul Then and Now gives North American audiences unprecedented access to the private collection of Turkish art philanthropist Ömer M. Koç. Nearly 70 photographs, albums, and panoramas from Koç's collection present the architecture, monuments, and people of this historic city from the 1850s to early 1900s. New photographs and digital animations by acclaimed Turkish artist Murat Germen offer startling contrasts in era, scale, and scope. Germen's dazzling cityscapes convey the heady pace — and price — of urban development in a city long revered for its historic character. Bahattin Öztuncay, one of today's leading scholars in the field of Ottoman photography, co-curates the exhibition with the Aga Khan Museum's Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip. *A City Transformed* will be a Primary Exhibition in this year's Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.

"Visitors to *A City Transformed* will understand why Istanbul has captured the imaginations of artists for centuries," says Director and CEO Henry Kim. "And by seeing these historic images alongside Murat Germen's works, they will experience Istanbul as a living, growing city facing some of the urban challenges that Toronto does."

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- Captivating **panoramas of Istanbul and Toronto** by Murat Germen;
- Scottish photographer **James Robertson's scenes of mid-19th-century Istanbul**, affirming the West's fascination with this historic city; and
- **Beautifully-preserved albums of 19th-century photographs** bearing the Sultan's calligraphic monogram which were offered as diplomatic gifts.

In anticipation of *A City Transformed*, the Aga Khan Museum launches its 2016 Performing Arts Season with a spotlight on Turkish musical traditions: Montreal-based ensemble **Constantinople joins the Albayrak Brothers onstage January 23 at 8 pm**. Two illustrated talks by **Dr. Filiz Çakır Phillip (February 18, 1 pm)** and York University's **Irene Markoff (March 24, 1 pm)** invite visitors to experience Istanbul's rich visual and musical culture. Please visit agakhanmuseum.org for details.

A City Transformed: Images of Istanbul Then and Now was organized by the Aga Khan Museum in partnership with Ömer M. Koç, Private Collection, Istanbul. Turquaz TV is the exhibition's media partner.

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum's mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage.

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