

Budapest galleries draw Turkish buyers

By Mina Ercel

Budapest (Dunya) - As the demand for art works increase and the contemporary art market expands in Turkey, collectors and buyers are looking outward to the international arena. Hungary has caught the eye of Turkish art enthusiasts, who are flocking to Budapest to see the works of contemporary Hungarian artists.

Top art galleries in the Hungarian capital include Knoll Galeria, Ani Molnar, Erika Deak Galeria, acb, Varfolk, Viltin and Vintage Gallery.

Under the Association of Hungarian Contemporary Art Galleries, these galleries are coming together to increase public awareness and to become more visible in the international art scene.

Annamaria Molnar is the President of the Association of Hungarian Contemporary Art Galleries, a non-profit organization, and owner of Ani Molnar Gallery in Budapest.

"Our primary mandate is to further develop the recognition and prosperity of the Hungarian contemporary art market," Mrs. Molnar said.

The association was reorganized in 2010 to launch the development of relations between international art-professionals and participants of the Hungarian art scene.

"For example, in the past few years many Hungarian artist have been represented in Contemporary Istanbul and the Istanbul Biennale," she said.

The main goal of the association, which has more than 20 members, is to develop relationships between international art-professionals and participants of the Hungarian art scene.

After the fall of the USSR, many artists left for abroad to Vienna, London and New York to study and work.

The charming city of Budapest offers viewers and collectors several varieties of contemporary art galleries. The Knoll Gallery, which is the first contemporary gallery to open after the political change, recently displayed the works of



Russian, Polish and artists from the east.

Located near Buda castle is one of the oldest privately owned contemporary art galleries in Hungary, Varfolk Galeria.

"We work with local artists. Varfolk is a traditional gallery contracting with artists for the extended long term," commented owner of Varfolk Galeria and art collector Karoly Szaloky

A favorite of the Turks and Turkish collectors is the Viltin Galeria, a few blocks from the parliament. The spacious and high ceilinged gallery provided space for traditional fine art like paintings, sculptures and photography yet pays attention to experimental tendencies, employing current technologies, video installations and progressive media.

Probably the biggest highlight of the city in terms of contemporary art is the world-renowned Ludwig Museum. The beautiful architecture of the museum displaying a permanent collection of Hungarian contemporary artists, like Istvan Csakany and Imre Bak, in addition to variety of international exhibitions. Currently the exhibition on display is called The Naked Men.

According to Annamaria Molnar of the Association, "Our goal is to have an active role in creating and developing communication with the contemporary art scene, representing Hungarian artists in the international arena and of course providing guide lines for collectors."