

apexart/SALT

Apricots from Damascus

An exhibition and zine project about art in a state of mobility and exile, with a specific focus on Istanbul and current artist communities.

Organized by: **Atıf Akın** and **Dilek Winchester**

On view: **December 23, 2015 - February 21, 2016**
at **SALT Galata in Istanbul, Turkey**

Panel Discussion: January 6, 2016



Featuring work by:

Atıf Akın

Marwa Arsanios

Khaled Barakeh

Sezgin Boynik

Hera Büyüktaşçıyan

Ergin Çavuşoğlu

Nadia Christidi

Fehras Publishing Practices

Angela Harutyunyan

Minna Henriksson

Marianna Hovhannisyan

Armine Hovhannisyan

Güven İncirlioğlu (The Pope)

Banu Karaca

Pınar Öğrenci

Zeynep Öz

Aras Özgün

Dilek Winchester

Since the escalation of the Syrian Civil War, more than three million people have left their country. A majority of these people fled Syria to two neighboring countries: Turkey and Lebanon. The exhibition *Apricots from Damascus* intends to focus on a particular group of refugees who are struggling to start a new life - whether temporary or not - with their creative and intellectual labor such as artists, writers, musicians. The title translates, in Turkish, to “Şam’da Kayısı” which is part of an idiom meaning, “It doesn’t get any better than this.” In most Romance languages, the word for “apricot” is “damasco,” the sweet fruit associated with Damascus.

In the first stage of this project, Akın and Winchester commissioned artists to produce zines to be distributed in Istanbul with pushcarts that provide mobile services such as photocopy and lamination, alongside other alternative modes of distribution in public spaces. Issues will be published in three languages: Arabic, Turkish, and English. The project culminates with an exhibition in Istanbul hosted by SALT in December 2015, where the themes produced for the zine and documentation of the project will be displayed. The hope is that the exhibition space will work as a social space where - exiled or settled - Istanbul based artists will come together.

Apricots from Damascus is an apexart Franchise Exhibition in collaboration with SALT. *Apricots from Damascus* is a 2015-16 **apexart Franchise Program** winner, along with *In Vitro* in Copenhagen, Denmark (December 2015); *Rum Retort* in Bridgetown, Barbados (April 2016); and *How to Make Space* in Hong Kong, China (June 2016).

Atıf Akın is an artist and designer who is currently teaching at Mason Gross School of the Arts and runs his studio in New York City. Currently he is working on Mutant Space, a research-driven art and design project on radioactivity and nuclear mobility.

Dilek Winchester studied at Central Saint Martin’s College in London and is currently based in Istanbul. Translation, literature, language, drama, oral history, and emotional expressions are among the subject matters she deals with in her work.

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