

## INTRODUCTION

Even the briefest of visits to the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts or to one of the private galleries of Istanbul or Ankara will readily attest to the cosmopolitan nature of contemporary Turkish art. Occasionally in these paintings and drawings one will encounter the use of a specific subject matter drawn from the rich visual background and environment of Turkey. However Turkish painting today, like that of Scandinavia, of England or of Japan, is part and parcel of a single world-wide aesthetic. That which is obviously real, alive and momentous for the contemporary Turkish painter is the tradition of the "modern movement" in art. The individualism which is impressively apparent in so much Turkish painting, sculpture and printmaking (and also in architecture) is the individualism of the artist, not the individualism of the region. The internationalism of Turkish art is perfectly understandable when one notes that the dominant figures in the art world of Istanbul and Ankara are men and women who have worked, have taught and in their earlier years have studied in Paris, in London, in New York and elsewhere. Therefore what one must search for in contemporary Turkish art is not any nostalgic and romantic regionalism, but those same formal qualities which are experienced in our own art, or that are being produced in Europe, South America and elsewhere.

Regrettably, it is not at all easy to really sense the range and the quality of Turkish art. Ironically one can generally obtain as good an idea of what is going on in Turkish painting by visiting the galleries of Paris or New York, as by trying to search out these painters in Istanbul or Ankara. This present exhibition which has been organized by the Ben and Abby Grey Foundation provides then a rare and unusual opportunity for us to experience and to appraise what is presently happening in Turkish art. The gathering together of these paintings, drawings and prints has been an arduous, but at the same time, a fascinating experience for the Director of the Foundation, Mrs. Benjamin Grey. Her approach to the task of collecting this exhibition has been as close to that of the ideal organizers of an exhibition as one could ever ask. Her aesthetic criteria has been broad and catholic, and once having selected the works, she has then proceeded to the next ideal step of purchasing them for the Foundation; and finally she has seen to it that the works will be experienced by as broad an audience as possible — both in Turkey itself, and here in the United States. We in America have an intense and vital need to establish a meaningful dialogue with Turkey and with other countries of the Near East. The Ben and Abby Grey Foundation has provided us one such important link through an exhibition such as this.

DAVID GERHARD, *Director*  
The Art Gallery  
University of California, Santa Barbara

## TURKISH ART TODAY



21 EYLÜL, 1966  
"TURKISH ART TODAY"  
"GÜNÜMÜZ TÜRK SANATI"  
'YURTDIŞI ULUSAL SERGİ'

Mrs. Benjamin Edwards Grey  
with  
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
requests the pleasure of your company  
at

a reception to open the exhibition  
Turkish Art Today  
sponsored by the Ben and Abby Grey Foundation  
on Wednesday afternoon, October fifth  
between four and six o'clock  
201 East Twenty-fourth Street

R.s.v.p. 339-7661 x-243

East entrance