

Press Release

For Immediate Release

"Dove una volta c'era il mare": Contemporary Art of the Dolomites in Ankara

The Italian Embassy in Turkey invites the South Tyrolean Artists Association (Südtiroler Künstlerbund) to Ankara to present a captivating exhibition of South Tyrolean artists at CerModern, a museum of contemporary art. This remarkable collaboration was initiated by a previous exhibition featuring 14 members at Palais Metternich in Vienna in 2017.

For this special exhibition, ten artists have been invited: **Julia Bornefeld, Aron Demetz, Arnold Mario Dall'O, Wil-ma Kammerer, Hubert Kostner, Sissa Micheli, Robert Pan, Peter Senoner, Barbara Tavella, and Gustav Willeit.** Through various artistic mediums such as sculpture, painting, photography, and object art, they showcase the diverse art scene of South Tyrol in Turkey. Titled "Dove una volta c'era il mare," the exhibition narrates the formation of the Dolomites and explores the connections between the evolutionary history of the habitat and the creative process in art.

Around 20 million years ago, the mountainous landscape of the Italian Alps began to take shape. The former sea receded, rivers carved their paths, and valleys emerged. Mighty forces pushed, pressed, folded, and superimposed former coral reefs, resulting in steep rock formations rising in a rosy mist. Fossils and giant clams bear witness to bygone eras.

In their works, the artists reflect the power of resistance, the dynamics of shifts, and the tension of friction. The process of breaking and exposing frozen forms, the shaping of ideas in the continuous interplay of becoming and being, is palpable in the exhibits. A constant duel between the tangible and the unexpected shapes their creative work.

The exhibition encourages questioning the constant change critically and recognizing that metaphorically speaking, the disappearance of a sea opens up new horizons. "This exhibition also broadens the horizon for the South Tyrolean art scene. We are very pleased with this invitation and the opportunity to further connect South Tyrolean artists," emphasizes SKB President Alexander Zoeggeler, adding: "An SKB member was invited to Ankara before. From 1927 to 1963, SKB honorary member Clemens Holzmeister designed the current government quarter of the capital for the founder of the Turkish Republic, Atatürk."

The exhibition will open on September 4th in the presence of the Italian Ambassador in Ankara at CerModern, a transformed railway warehouse with an exhibition area of 400 square meters. The event is part of the annual Capital Culture Road Festival, attracting thousands of culture enthusiasts every year.