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**Press Release, 11 August 2017**

**PERFORMANCE**

**“ONE”: A 9000-Year-Old Ritual, Presented by Nazlı Gürlek**

**In collaboration with Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) and Performistanbul, Nazlı Gürlek’s performance entitled “ONE” will be presented on Saturday, September 23, between 5.00-8.00 pm, at ANAMED in Istanbul. The performance is inspired by a wall painting dated around 6500 BC, discovered in Building 80 at Çatalhöyük.**

The performance is organised parallel to ANAMED’s exhibition entitled “The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük” that celebrates the 25th excavation season of the Çatalhöyük Research Project.

“ONE” by Nazlı Gürlek is a performance project, inspired by a wall painting dated around 6500 BC, discovered in Building 80 at Çatalhöyük. The wall painting is considered to have been created as a part of a ritual. Gürlek brings the 9000-year-old Çatalhöyük archaeological find back to life and presents it to the audience from an artistic point of view.

The project is also an attempt at an artistic adaptation of the archaeological methodology of the Çatalhöyük project based on "reflexivity, interactivity, multivocality, and contextuality".

Gürlek re-creates the ritual by bringing three different ways of expression including painting, documentation and movement together: two 9-metre rolls of paper with drawings inspired by the Çatalhöyük painting; visual documentation of the excavation process showing the unveiling of the painting and a live performance based on bodily movements of a performist. The performance will take place at the terrace on the 3rd floor of ANAMED for 3 hours, saluting the sunset and will be open to the public for free.

Nazlı Gürlek comments on the performance: *“Archaeological finds show that in Çatalhöyük, all the buildings were being used for residential purposes and that the society was organised by routine rituals including a rich production of wall paintings that were also conducted in these buildings. Çatalhöyük paintings feature abstract patterns composed of repetitive geometrical forms drawn with almost mathematical sharpness. However, the painting that I am referring to in this performance is different from the others. In this one the repetitive geometrical forms are replaced by untidy, flowing patterns and gaps. This painting reminds me of continuously flowing rivers, the energy of life seen in nature and in the human body, the power of creation and the limitless power of life. In this sense, “ONE” investigates the meaning of this painting and what it tells us today, and it invites the audience to explore the meaning of the painting in their own terms.”*

**Photo Credits: IMAGE 1:** Çatalhöyük wall painting, circa 6500 BC, Jason Quinlan and Çatalhöyük research project; **IMAGE 2: Nazlı Gürlek, ONE, mixed media on paper, 2017, courtesy of the artist**

**Nazlı Gürlek**

***BİR***

**Performance**

Istanbul Biennial Parallel Event

In Collaboration with ANAMED and Performistanbul

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Curator:** Simge Burhanoğlu

**Date:** 23.09.2017

**Time:** 17:00 – 20:00

**Venue:** ANAMED Terrace, 3rd Floor

**Notes to the editors:**

**“The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük”**

Çatalhöyük is a Neolithic settlement, located in the Konya plain, in central Turkey. It has been excavated under the directorship **of Ian Hodder** since 1993 and has resulted in universally significant research. The exhibition project was developed under the supervision of **Ian Hodder** and curated by **Duygu Tarkan** with the contributions of researchers from the Çatalhöyük Research Project. Known for its fascinating cutting-edge archaeological research methods, and laboratory collaborations, Çatalhöyük is presented through experiment-based display methods including 3D prints of finds, laser-scanned overviews of excavation areas, and immersive Virtual Reality (VR) opportunities that bring the 9000-year-old Çatalhöyük settlement back to life. The exhibition is designed by PATTU Architecture and made possible by the support of Yapı Kredi Bank that is one of the main sponsors of Çatalhöyük excavations since 1997 and the technological sponsorship of Arçelik. The exhibition will remain open at the ANAMED Gallery in Istanbul until 25 October 2017.

**About Koç University ANAMED:**

Koç University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) was founded in 2005. The center grants fellowships to approximately 30 researchers each year, supporting the work of doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars from Turkey and other countries. Since 2005, over 300 scholars have been granted fellowships to conduct their research at ANAMED. The primary activities of the center include granting fellowships to researchers specializing in Turkey’s cultural heritage, providing library services, organizing public meetings such as symposia, conferences, and workshops, hosting exhibitions, and publishing scholarly works related to Anatolian civilizations.

For further information: **anamed.ku.edu.tr/en**

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**#Catalhöyük**

**#CuriousCaseofCatalhoyuk**

For hi-res images of the exhibition: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_DH77dNMuiGUktzbnBQalBBeUk?usp=sharing>

For videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4IyXD_2Yec8pWGRSIc34fw>

**Nazlı Gürlek**

Nazlı Gürlek is an artist, curator and writer based in Istanbul. She is the founder of UMA, an interdisciplinary platform for creative research and production rooted in ancient pagan traditions of Anatolia. Most recent curatorial positions include Curator of the Collection at Borusan Contemporary (2014–15) and curator of programmes at Maçka Sanat Galerisi (2011–12), both in Istanbul. She holds an MFA in Curating from Goldsmiths College, London, and a BA in Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence. Gürlek has also worked as a curator-in-residence at the CCA Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw, and took part in Independent Curators International's curatorial intensive programs 'From Official History to Underrepresented Narratives' at CCA Derry-Londonderry, and 'Curatorial Seminar in Istanbul' where she presented her curatorial research papers at CCA Derry-Londonderry and SALT Galata (2013). She is the author of a few publications including “Nature is Our Body,” *ArteEast Quarterly: The Global Platform for Middle East Arts* (Spring 2016), “Sarkis and When Attitudes Become Form” (SALT Istanbul, 2013) and İnci Eviner monograph (Revolver, 2011). Her writings appear in *Frieze, Camera Austria, Art Asia Pacific, Flash Art International, The Exhibitionist*. She holds an MFA in Curating from Goldsmiths College, London, and a BA in Painting from the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence. www.nazligurlek.com/ [www.uma-platform.org](http://www.uma-platform.org/)

**Performistanbul**

The first international platform in Turkey to bring performance artists together,Performistanbul aims to unite performance artists under one roof, and promote their participation in new projects. Performistanbul introduced a number of national and international artists to premiere new works in collaboration with Istanbul’s leading arts institutions including Pera Museum, The Pill, Alan İstanbul, Zilberman Projects-Istanbul, Art On İstanbul, Sanatorium and Razzmatazz (London). Following its successful launch in 2016, the platform has organised 30 performances with 17 artists in 18 different venues and has been the pioneering organisation to support performance artists, marking a new chapter for performance art scene in Turkey. The platform and its artists will continue the season with new performances and projects in Istanbul and abroad.

**Website:** [www.performistanbul.org](http://www.performistanbul.org/) **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/Performistanbul](https://www.facebook.com/Performistanbul)
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