



*Highlighting Turkish Arts and Culture*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MayFest 2006: Celebration of Turkish Arts in New York**

**MayFest 2006, Moon and Stars Project's eighth annual Turkish arts and culture festival, opens on April 14 with a performance by internationally renowned pianist Fazil Say. This year's program boasts a potpourri of music and visual art shows as well as events that highlight Turkish-Greek friendship.**

**(New York)** Moon and Stars Project, a New York-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to highlighting Turkish arts and culture, is proud to present MayFest 2006. The festival, which will be held from April 14 to June 10, features several prominent artists from Turkey such as Fazil Say, Timur Selçuk and Sunay Akin as well as a number of locally based Turkish and Turkish-American artists. The MayFest 2006 program comprises eleven events presenting a diverse variety of artistic forms including classical music, sculpture, photography, literature and jazz.

Moon and Stars Project is pleased to present a remarkably strong music program through MayFest 2006, with which it hopes to emphasize the multiculturalism and diversity that characterize the musical traditions of modern Turkey. The festival opens with the **Fazil Say Piano Recital**, the esteemed pianist's only New York performance scheduled for 2006, presented by The Metropolitan Museum of Art. **Timur Selçuk in Concert** promises to carry the audience through a captivating musical journey from the classical pieces of Münir Nureddin Selçuk to Timur Selçuk's landmark songs. **Letter from Istanbul by Derya Türkan and Sokratis Sinopoulos**, presented by the World Music Institute, and **A Mediterranean Journey: Cem Duruöz, Demetra George and Richard Weiss** will demonstrate the fruits of the musical collaboration between Turkish and Greek artists. Combining improvisational elements of acoustic, electric, and electronic music with the musicians' individual experiences in jazz and classical genre, **Alper Yilmaz Project** will perform a unique fusion at Brooklyn's Galapagos Art Space. The festival also includes a debut performance by the **Cercis Project featuring Ozan Aksoy Trio**, an impressive feat aimed at enriching New York City's music scene with diverse musical traditions of Anatolia, Eurasia and the Middle East.

This year's festival marks a notable accomplishment in the Moon and Stars Project's efforts to proliferate the exposure of up-and-coming members of New York City's visual arts community. Through two respective solo exhibitions titled **Exodus** and **Synthetic Lands**, extraordinary wire sculptures by **Mehmet Ayanoglu**, and an impressive combination of paintings and drawings by **Yasemin Kaçkar-Demirel** will be exhibited at The Gallery at The Marmara-Manhattan. Moon and Stars Project is also proud to support the World Monuments Fund's presentation of **Vaults of Heaven: Sanctuaries of Byzantium**, an exhibition of 30 large-format color photographs of some

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of the greatest examples of Byzantine architecture captured by the renowned Turkish photographer and architect **Ahmet Ertug**.

As a result of its endeavor to promote new literary works, the festival co-presents with the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center (MEMEAC) at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, a reading of **Tales from the Expat Harem: Foreign Women in Modern Turkey**. The critically-acclaimed anthology showcases the fascinating Turkish lives of 29 foreign nationals from four continents, with real life stories spanning the past four decades and the entire country. Finally, **Sunay Akin** will return to New York to present a lecture in memory of **Attila Ilhan**, Turkey's master poet, novelist and intellectual, who passed away in 2005.

Founded in 2002, the **Moon and Stars Project** aims to highlight the changing face of Turkish arts and culture and to establish a two-way cultural interaction between the US and Turkey.

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For additional information regarding MayFest 2006, please visit [www.moonandstarsproject.org](http://www.moonandstarsproject.org). For press inquiries, please contact Festival Coordinator Kaan Nazli at +1 (917) 723-8001 or [kaan@moonandstarsproject.org](mailto:kaan@moonandstarsproject.org). For visuals: [www.moonandstarsproject.org/press](http://www.moonandstarsproject.org/press)