



Guest of Honour Turkey – from the Bosphorus to the Main River

The Guest of Honour Frankfurt Book Fair 2008 is featuring a multifaceted programme that will give you profound insight into the multifaceted culture and literature of the country on the Bosphorus. The Organisation Committee Guest of Honour Turkey will not only be showcasing 350 authors from Turkey. It will also be presenting art, music, theatre and films from Turkey in Frankfurt.

Turkey will be this year's Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair. In keeping with the motto *Turkey in all its colours*, Turkey will be showing itself to the German and international public on the trade fair grounds and in the City of Frankfurt from October 15-19. The motto alludes to Turkey's culture that was formed by a wide range of factors. But it also underscores the reasons for Turkey being in Frankfurt. The Frankfurt Book Fair wants to raise international awareness for Turkey's mostly undiscovered historical heritage and the great potential modern Turkey has. Ahmet Ari is the general co-ordinator of the guest of Honour presentation. He is of the opinion that "Considering the developments in the new millennium, every society has to open up to other countries to make sure that their potential and facets become a part of the universal cultural heritage".

In keeping with the motto, the colourful logo for Turkey – designed by the high-profile designer Bülent Erkmen – is an open, many-coloured and many-layered tapestry. The word Turkey is embedded in a labyrinth that at first glance appears to be closed. But, if the observer takes a closer look, the outward and inward openness becomes apparent. This is the image of the culture of their country that the persons in charge of the Guest of Honour would also like to share. It is a symbol for the centuries-old rich cultural heritage of the modern Republic of Turkey. You can make out influences in literature, music, architecture and art that the various ethnic groups in Turkey and from the Balkan countries, the Arab world and Persia have contributed to the culture of the country, weaving it into a very special many-coloured tapestry. Turkey is the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair to illustrate this variety and the historical intertwining of cultures. Even though it often seems to be closed and unreachable, the hope is this will draw the international public's attention to the fascinating, cosmopolitan and especially colourful inner view of this country at the intersection between Europe and Asia so that it can be re-discovered.

The main accent of Guest of Honour presentation will be on showcasing the literature and publishing system of the Republic of Turkey. 100 publishers from Turkey will be on hand in Frankfurt am Main on more than 4,000 square meters of the trade fair grounds.

The programme includes as many as 250 events in Germany. There will not only be readings, but also musical programmes, dance and theatre performances, art exhibitions and workshops while more than 40 Frankfurt-based institutions will be participating in the festive programme in the city. Approx. 300 literary personalities and translators will be participating in the literary programme, including internationally known persons such as Orhan Pamuk, Murathan Mungan, Celil Oker and a whole series of young voices in Turkish literature such as Aslı Erdoğan, Elif Şafak or Şebnem İşigüzel. There will also be 200 readings and discussions on current issues in the literary programme.

The heart of this general presentation on the trade fair grounds will be the central exhibition entitled Palimpsest Reclaimed in the Turkey Forum / level 1. It will be putting the written culture of various cultures within Turkey into a historical context and their literary diversity and their historical frame of reference at the top of the agenda. The Forum will not only have smaller exhibitions. It is also intended to be a place where the public can personally meet and talk with authors from Turkey at readings or discussions.

The second mainstay of the presentation will be Turkey's Collective Stand where 100 publishers from Turkey will be representing its book culture. A separate room will act as a podium for readings, discussions and events. Beyond this, this year's Guest of Honour will be manifest everywhere at the fair. Some examples are Turkish literary films and current film productions at the Film & TV Forum of the Frankfurt Book Fair, Turkish comic artists will show their work at the Comic Centre, there will be stories from children's authors from Turkey, discussions on children's and young people's literature in the Children's and Young People's Book Forum and AGORA Turkey at the trade fair grounds will transform itself into a market of cultures.