**REZAN HAS MUSEUM URARTIAN JEWELRY COLLECTION WELCOMES ART LOVERS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

**Comprised of 1,100 unique pieces including jewelry and belts from the Urartian era, Rezan Has Museum’s special collection is brought to lovers of history and art through the *Urartian Jewelry Collection* exhibition. As the most comprehensive exhibition on the jewelry of its respective period, Rezan Has Museum Urartian Jewelry Collection exhibition will remain open for visitation at Rezan Has Museum until January 31, 2016.**

Rezan Has Museum brings to art lovers a very special exhibition of its Urartian Jewelry Collection, one of the most comprehensive collections in Turkey, comprised of jewelry and belts, which not only determined social status in the Urartian culture for centuries, but also reflected the most basic human instincts, such as vanity and the need for admiration.

Through the support of Bank of America Merrill Lynch’s global Art Conservation Program, the restoration and maintenance of more than 1,100 works was completed as part of the Rezan Has Museum Urartian Jewelry Collection project.

The exhibition, which encompasses ornaments of the Urartian Kingdom of Eastern Anatolia, includes pins, rings, earrings, bracelets, fibulae, belt pieces, votive plates, armlets, neck rings, necklaces, hair spirals, pectoral, as well as 74 belts from the 8th and 7th centuries B.C.

Kadir Has University Chairman of the Board of Trustees **Can Has**,Kadir Has University President **Prof. Mustafa Aydın,** Bank of America Merrill Lynch Developing (non-Asian) Markets Co-chair **Ebru Draman,** Rezan Has Museum Advisory Board Director **Ahu Has** and Assoc. Prof. **Rafet Çavuşoğlu** introduced the exhibition at the press conference they held.

Noting that Kadir Has University is a pioneer not only in the field of education but in the area of culture and arts as well, Kadir Has University Chairman of the Board of Trustees **Can Has** added**,** “With a large collection of archaeological artifacts extending from the Neolithic Era to the Seljukid period, Rezan Has Museum spent the last year completing the restoration and conservation of more that 1000 pieces of jewelry from the Urartian period with the contributions of Bank of America Merrill. Having been selected to be part of the same project as globally acclaimed museums including the Metropolitan, Louvre, Hermitage, and British Museum is a source of pride for all of us. We are thrilled to share with you the Urartian Jewelry Collection exhibition today.”

In his press conference address, Prof. Dr. **Mustafa Aydın** pointed that Kadir Has University and Rezan Has Museum both represent a legacy with their buildings and history. Stressing that the Museum hosted important exhibitions as part of the mission the University has undertaken, Aydın noted, “With the exhibitions it organized thus far, Rezan Has Museum has hosted works and cultural events of global renown. Today; however, we are presenting to art lovers a very special exhibition. The Urartian Jewelry Collection holds a unique place among all, as it presents the very own collection of Rezan Has Museum. Today, you will witness the opening of a critical door into the Urartian culture.”

Bank of America Merrill Lynch Developing (non-Asian) Markets Co-chair **Ebru Draman** stated, “Our company has been in operation in Turkey for seven years during which time it has been working resolutely to preserve the country’s heritage. We are proud to collaborate with Rezan Has Museum in the process of telling the tale of this ancient civilization, as part of the project of preserving historical remains. We believe that art is a powerful tool in educating, inspiring, and changing the lives of people. We hope that this extraordinarily Urartian jewelry collection will be visited with much enthusiasm today and in future years.”

Introducing the exhibition at the press conference **Ahu Has** said, “We are happy to share with you the Urartian Jewelry Collection that became part of the Rezan Has Museum Collection in 2009. The Museum has been actively organizing original exhibitions and cultural events since 2007. Our most important mission is to preserve the works from the Urartian civilization, which reigned over Anatolia for 250 years, and to pass them onto future generations in the best condition possible. Each new study on these treasures, which will be passed down from one generation to the next, will not only shed light to our past but into our future as well.”

**Urartian Jewelry from the Rezan Has Museum Collection**

As one of the largest Urartian-era collections in Turkey, the Rezan Has Museum Collection is comprised of nearly 1,100 works. An Anatolian civilization, The Urartian Kingdom was able to process, with exceptional artistry, bronze, gold, silver, and iron due to the plethora of rich mineral deposits within its borders. Urartians used objects such as belts, necklaces, bracelets, armbands, neck rings, pectorals, pins, fibulae, and rings as jewelry and attributed them sacred meaning.

The figurative, geometric, and floral decorations used on some of the belts on the collection present new elements with respect to Urartian art. This not only reflects the rich intellectual capacity of Urartian masters, but also indicates that they were incomparably superior to contemporaneous civilizations.

The ornate belts contain important data in terms of representing the rich scenes of Urartian art of depiction, the aesthetic values of the period, social life, class differences, and the religious function of the belts.

The powerful ruling system the Urartians established allowed the state to remain intact for nearly 250 years. The symbols used for determining the status of the employees working in various levels of the state remains unclear. However, it is known that along with attire and other accessories, belts play a significant role in this respect. The religious themes on the belts used commonly by Urartian society are quite possibly chosen to protect bearers against evil and give them courage and power.

**Corporate Social Responsibility from Bank of America Merrill Lynch**

As a company with employees serving clients in more than 100 countries, Bank of America is committed to a program of cultural support designed to engage communities in creative ways to build mutual respect and understanding; to strengthen institutions that contribute to local economies; to engage and provide benefits to our employees, and to fulfill our responsibilities as a major corporation with global reach that makes an impact on economies and societies throughout the world. Offering solutions to economic and social problems constitutes the basis of Bank of America Merrill Lynch’s social responsibility projects. Providing opportunities in local societies through responsible businesses, environmental sustainability, education and employment programs, as well as issues of global leadership constitute the focus of the project. We know that diversity makes us stronger and helps us serve our partners better. We are creating opportunities to pave the way for positive change by using our intellectual capital, sharing information, and developing creative solutions.

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**Exhibition:** Rezan Has Museum Urartian Jewelry Collection

**Location:** Rezan Has Museum, Kadir Has University Cibali

**Hours of visitation: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM** (except New Year’s day and the first day of public and religious holidays)

[www.rhm.org.tr](http://www.rhm.org.tr) -<https://www.facebook.com/RezanHasMuseum>

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