**Press Release February 16th, 2017**

**IN PURSUIT OF THE ARTISANS OF GRAND BAZAAR**

The story of the traditional artisanship of Grandbazaar will take place at Rezan Has Museum, between February 16th-April 30th 2017. The stories and the handiworks of these artisans, who constitute the living part of a tradition of 550 years and who meet the UNESCO’s “Living Human Treasures” inventory criteria, will meet the audience at the museum’s unique setting.

The backstage of Grandbazaar artisanship, being one of the most important financial centers in İstanbul, meets the audience at Rezan Has Museum. Opening on February 16th, this exhibition traces the sociological, economical and cultural conditions of an era by a narrative, comprising the unique stories of the artisans. Through “Gem and Craft: In Pursuit of the Artisans of Grand Bazaar” , the viewer will follow the story of the gem, finding life in the hands of the artisans, and finally becoming a piece of dazzling jewellry.

Rezan Has Museum, located at a major cultural heritage site in Istanbul, also highlights the importance of the traditional craftmanship techniques, such as sadekârlık, stone setting, polishing, engraving, enamelling, based on the academic findings of a TÜBİTAK SOBAG sponsored project.

The priceless and precious characteristics of each piece, as a result of the masterful and experienced touches of the artisans, find their narrative base through the relationship between a master and an apprentice, or between the experienced and the novice.

“Gem and Craft: In Pursuit of the Artisans of Grand Bazaar” makes it possible to observe and experience at first hand the journey of the artisans of Grand Bazaar, who are possibly the last generation of craftsmans, following a tradition taking its roots from Byzantium.

The precious pieces of jewellery of Hraç Arslanyan, Hagop Erol Bahadıroğlu - Aret Çakıcı, Sevan Bıçakçı, Kürşat Bilmiş, , Partam Derderyan, Manuk Durmazgüler, Marujan Gevik, Berç Melikyan, Berç Kazancı, Haçadur Kelleci, Avedis Kendir, Agop Kuyumcuoğlu, Arman Suciyan, Surmak Susmak, Rafi – Levon Şadiyan, Nerses Yağar, Kader Yıldız, Sebuh Yılmaz, Hrant – Şant Zorbaş are on view February 16th-April 30th.

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

**Visiting Hours: Everyday 9:00-18:00 (Except for January 1st and the first days of religious and national holidays)**

[www.rhm.org.tr](http://www.rhm.org.tr)

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