Dear members of the press,

We are pleased invite you to our exhibition opening on September 17, 2019 at 19:00 at the Khas Gallery of the Rezan Has Museum.

The occasion of the exhibition opening will be combined with the local ceremony for the EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS / EUROPA NOSTRA AWARDS 2019 of the Stewards of Cultural Heritage (SoCH) project as well. The Stewards of Cultural Heritage program (SoCH) has been awarded one of the **European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2019** by the European Commission and Europa Nostra in the category: **Education, Training and Awareness-Raising.**

T. C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ankara, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Istanbul, ​​Europa Nostra representative as well as several academics have been invited to our event.

The exhibition “Bir Mekân, Bir Hikâye/ مكان و حكاية” (a Place and a Story: in English) aims to raise curiosity and knowledge on Syria and Syrian cultural heritage. It is organized within the framework of the Stewards of Cultural Heritage Project (SoCH) of the Istanbul Department of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI). The exhibition uses archival photos from the collections of DAI, the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin and the Max Freiherr von Oppenheim Foundation as well as from private collections. It is intended to show the importance of archival materials, especially in times of conflict as they can play an essential role as a memory trigger and as a starting point for the implementation of various projects to protect cultural heritage.

For the purpose of this exhibition, people from different parts of Syria living in Turkey and elsewhere were interviewed. They were shown photographs and asked to talk about what they remember. In doing so, the archival photographs, mostly documenting monumental structures and cultural heritage sites, were matched with the testimonies of daily lives. By combining the monuments and sites with people’s stories, the exhibition aims to show the devastating impact of the conflicts in Syria on both human life and cultural heritage.

SoCH is a project by the Istanbul Department of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI), which aims to help safeguarding Syrian cultural heritage through capacity building of Syrian heritage specialists who are currently residing in Turkey. The project is a part of the "Stunde Null – A Future for the Time after the Crisis"-project under the umbrella of the Archaeological Heritage Network. It has started in 2016 and has been supported by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Gerda Henkel Foundation. Most of the photos used in the exhibition were digitized and archived within the Syrian Heritage Archives Project (SHAP), launched by the DAI and the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin in 2013.

For more information, please contact the project coordinator Diana Miznazi (diana.miznazi@dainst.de; 0212-3937616).  
Please send an e-mail confirming your participation to lectures.istanbul@dainst.de by September 10, 2019 at the latest.   
  
  
Sincerely,  
Dr.-Ing. Katja Piesker - Professor Dr. Felix Pirson