

## **GaleriDeniz is Welcoming Art Lovers for the Benefit of Street Animals**

**With the collaboration of Nil Education and Mutual Aid Society, GaleriDeniz is hosting the Exhibition "Ecrin" by the sculpture artist Özge Günaydın who aims to raise awareness about nature love and animal rights.**

**The income of the exhibition will be donated to the Ecrin Life Centre for the shelter, feed and care needs of the street animals; and Yaşam Hospital, which is part of the project as well, will also provide healthcare services to thousands of animals.**

Since its foundation, **DenizBank** has always supported projects with potential to improve the development level of Turkey and its people, and has always said "Yes" to art. This time it is supporting an outstanding project aiming at raising awareness about the protection of the street animals.

The Bank is hosting the Exhibition "Ecrin" by the sculpture artist Özge Günaydın in cooperation with the Nil Education and Mutual Aid Society. The exhibition is on display at GaleriDeniz, which is inside the DenizBank building, and its main theme is the "rhinoceros", an animal in danger of extinction. The exhibition aims at raising awareness about animal rights and eco-awareness.

The income from the exhibition will be donated to Nil Education and Mutual Aid Society (NEYAD) for the feed, shelter and care needs of the street animals and also for establishing the Ecrin Life Centre which is designed as a platform where people from all ages can bond with the animals through various facilities such as museums, botanic gardens and picnic areas.

In the opening cocktail of Ecrin on December 12, 2018, Wednesday with the participation of many faces from the business, culture & art, sports and media world, the rhinoceros sculptures made by the artist using different materials were presented to the guests for the first time.

**"We are initiating an outstanding social responsibility project together"**

The artist Özge Günaydın noted that: "The reason why the main theme of the exhibition is rhinoceros is that the species is in danger of extinction and this has a symbolic meaning. Having a similar life background in the world as with the humankind, the rhinoceros only has 5 sub-species today. The black rhinos used to be around 70 thousand in 1960's, and in 20 years, 96% of them became extinct. These figures explicitly demonstrate to us the iconic meaning of the rhinoceros in the destruction of the nature. With this exhibition, we are stressing out one more time that all the living beings have a habitat in the world. We are also very glad to be the initiators of a social responsibility project which will serve thousands of animals".

## **“It is our human duty to provide a safe living space to the street animals”**

DenizBank CEO Hakan Ateş also made a speech at the opening and he said: “In this era when we witness rapid increase of the human population, the number of the other living beings with which we are sharing this world is unfortunately going down. On one hand, the existence of their species and the balance of the natural life are in danger; and on the other hand, the spaces where the street animals, our voiceless friends, can get shelter and protection are gradually becoming narrower and narrower. The number of pets today is actually an index for development, because if we do not have cultural development and if we lose our humane values, we cannot really talk about an economic development. In this sense, especially when the winter is at our door, it is our human duty to provide a safe living space to the street animals that need care; this is a fundamental need for every living creature. And we, as a company which takes a society and environment sensitive approach in every action we do, see it as our duty to protect the animal rights, just like we support the agriculture, sports, art and education. In line with this perspective, we are proud to be hosting the Exhibition Ecrin whose profit will be utilized for building a life centre where the shelter, feed and care needs of the street animals will be met.”

## **“We are excited to be on the verge of building the biggest life centre of the world”**

Speaking on behalf of Ecrin Sarper Life Centre, Chairman of the Board of NEYAD, Nilgün Diptaş, has noted the followings about the formation of this social responsibility project: “On this special day which we are launching as Nil Education and Mutual Aid Society, we have focused on the universality of the art, and decided to establish the biggest life centre of the world to protect and shelter the street animals. In the Ecrin Life Centre which will have the aim of providing a new life to the street animals and to trigger animal love among society, we will have many different facilities such as veterinary school, museum, picnic areas and botanic gardens which can be visited by schools and which will function as a common platform where people from all ages can come together and embrace the animals. This centre will meet the shelter, feed and care needs of thousands of street animals that are in need. This project will also introduce two new cartoon characters to the world: Ecrin and Sarper. These characters will impose animal love in children, transfer our traditions to the next generations, and also raise awareness about the animal rights via the narrative books to be written based on these characters”.

## **About the Artist, Özge Günaydın**

Having a 20-year background in the communications sector, Özge Günaydın is the Head of Brothers&Sisters and Board member at NEYAD (Nil Education and Mutual Aid Society). Günaydın was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015, and that was the time when she started to focus on art. She has produced works in painting, ceramics and sculpture. She has also 6 published books. In 2016, she had a sculpture exhibition titled “Kansere Göğüs Ger” (Breasting the Cancer) which aimed at raising awareness about early diagnosis in breast cancer and featuring the healing power of art. In 2017, she exhibited a mixed painting exhibition within the scope of the Art in Hospital project. She also publishes articles on the website [www.ozgegunaydin.com](http://www.ozgegunaydin.com).

**2012/ Tales of Lidya - 2015/ Current Account - 2016 / No Current Account-Notes to Myself**

**2016/ Breasting the Cancer - 2017 / No Panic, I Have Cancer / Sculpture Exhibition - 2017/ Painting Exhibition - 2018 / My Colourful Box of Ideas - 2018 / Zeynep Hanım**



### **About DenizBank**

*DenizBank was established in 1938 as a state economic enterprise aimed at funding the developing Turkish maritime sector. Early in 1997, DenizBank was acquired by Zorlu Holding in the form of banking license from the Privatization Administration and in October 2006, a leading European financial group, Dexia incorporated it to its structure. For 6 years, DenizBank operated in Dexia's main shareholding and since 28 September 2012, has continued to provide services under the umbrella of Russia's largest and well-rooted bank, Sberbank. DenizBank has become one of the remarkable banks of Turkey in a short period of time. DenizBank Financial Services Group was established in 2003 in order to create a "financial supermarket" accumulating various financial services under one roof. Including subsidiaries, there are totally 761 branches within DenizBank Financial Services Group operating in 81 provinces of Turkey and abroad, employing around 14 thousand people. DenizBank Financial Services Group consists of DenizBank, five domestic, three international financial subsidiaries, six domestic non-financial subsidiaries and a branch in Bahrain. DenizYatırım, Deniz Real Estate Investment Trust, DenizPortfolio Management, DenizLeasing, DenizFactoring, Intertech, DenizKültür, Ekspres Bilgi İşlem ve Ticaret, Deniz Card Payment Systems, Açık Deniz Radio – TV and Bantaş are the group's domestic subsidiaries while Eurodeniz, DenizBank AG and DenizBank Moscow are its international subsidiaries.*

[www.denizbank.com](http://www.denizbank.com), [www.facebook.com/DenizBank](https://www.facebook.com/DenizBank), [twitter.com/DenizBank](https://twitter.com/DenizBank)

### **Please Contact:**

**Bersay İletişim Danışmanlığı / 0212 337 51 00**

**Anıl Erbayrak / Tel: 0212 337 51 17 / GSM: 0553 317 46 06 / [anil.erbayrak@bersay.com.tr](mailto:anil.erbayrak@bersay.com.tr)**