

Kütahya from the Perspective of Creative Industries

Kütahya takes pride in being the inaugural city in Türkiye officially recognized by the UNESCO Secretariat in 2017 for its excellence in Crafts and Folk Arts, and steadfastly continues its engagement within the UNESCO network. The city’s cultural tapestry is woven with the threads of traditional crafts and arts, forming an integral part of Kütahya’s rich cultural heritage.

City and Art Magazine: *Çivit*

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network has significantly enriched our city, elevating Kütahya’s profile on both national and international fronts. As a testament to city’s standing within this esteemed network, we proudly present the bilingual magazine *Çivit*. This publication serves as a crowning achievement, dedicated to showcasing our local arts and crafts as well as the talented craftsmen behind these artistic endeavors.



Manises Ceramics Festival 2023

Each July, Manises, renowned for its ceramics in Spain, becomes a global convergence point for artists, craftsmen, and organizational representatives. The invitation extended to Kütahya, the capital of Çini, was a significant acknowledgment leading to our municipality's active participation in the "Festa de la Ceramica" event this year. Following our virtual presence in 2021 due to the pandemic, a delegation from Kütahya physically attended this year's event.

As a UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art, Kütahya proudly showcased its tile and ceramic works, featuring the talents of local artists on the international stage. Our artists set up a stand, fostering meaningful intercultural exchanges within the vibrant atmosphere of the festival. Dr. Canan Güneş, representing our province from Dumlupınar University, secured the first prize in the wheel competition.

This active engagement allowed us to share knowledge and experiences with the artistic community in Manises, elevating the representation of our city to new heights on the international platform.





UNESCO Creative City Kütahya in Gabrovo

The 18th “International Fair of Traditional Crafts,” which is an annual event held at the Etar Regional Ethnographic Open Air Museum in Gabrovo, Bulgaria, extended an invitation to our city to participate in this year’s edition from August 31 to September 4. A delegation from our municipality actively participated in the fair, with the primary objectives of fostering sister city relations, showcasing the intricate artistry of Kütahya’s silver processing on the international stage, and promoting our city within the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

During the event, we introduced Kütahya’s local clothes, attracting great interest from the visitors. Sakin Yaman, a silver embroidery artist representing the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye, achieved notable success by securing the third prize in the artisan competition held during the fair. His specially designed work, “Art Talisman,” brought from Kütahya to Gabrovo, along with the piece crafted during the competition, is now permanently exhibited at the Etar Open Air Museum.

Furthermore, the exquisite silver jewelry set created by Ümmühan Oruç, the silver processing artist representing our city in Gabrovo, is also on permanent display at the Etar Open Air Museum. These artistic achievements not only enhance the global recognition of Kütahya's cultural heritage but also contribute to the lasting cultural exchange between our city and Gabrovo.



The Unifying Power of Art

Kütahya Creative Cultural Industries Summit

The “Creative Cultural Industries Summit,” meticulously hosted by Kütahya Municipality and expertly coordinated by the Directorate of Etude Project, unfolded in Kütahya from October 19 to 22, 2023. The grand opening ceremony featured the display of country flags representing participating cities and our sister cities, symbolizing the global collaboration embraced by the event. Following the ceremonious ribbon-cutting, an array of engaging activities, including closed meetings, panel sessions, a wheel-turning competition, Zeybek Art performances, Raku firing, gastronomy feasts, and a digital exhibition, enriched the event’s scope.

Our city played host to distinguished guests, including artists, artisans, and city representatives from over 40 cities spanning more than 20 countries worldwide. Additionally, esteemed artists, artisans, representatives, and mayors from 18 cities within Türkiye graced the event. Panel sessions featured seasoned speakers who shared insights and made presentations on the arts that form the bedrock of Kütahya’s creative cultural industries.

This summit served as a vibrant platform for international exchange, fostering collaboration and celebrating the diverse cultural expressions that constitute the foundation of Kütahya’s artistic heritage. As part of the event, art lovers were impressed by the unveiling of an exclusive collection of masterpieces by UNESCO Living Human Treasure tile artists Mehmet





Gürsoy and Hamza Üstünkaya along with exceptional contributions by tile artists İsmail Yiğit and İbrahim Kocaoğlu of Alopışalı.

The “Ceramic Walk,” a gift distribution procession generously sponsored by Keramika, Tulu Porcelain, Aydın Handicrafts, and Hermes Porcelain companies, commenced in front of the Kütahya Municipality building. The procession continued through Zafer Square, concluding at the municipality building. Leading the march was a dedicated team carrying the flags of participating countries and our sister cities, along with representatives of the protocol. The march unfolded as an extraordinary display with gifts distributed graciously to the citizens of Kütahya.



On the last day of the summit, participants entered the historical and artistic ambience of Germiyan Street, a haven where the cultural heritage of our city is meticulously preserved and where numerous artists and craftspeople live and work. The visit extended to the Tile Museum, providing an insightful journey through the narrative of tile art from its historical roots to the present day. A notable highlight was the visit to the Elhamra Tile Workshop, where the enduring wood furnaces, crafted by Ali Osman Kerkük and still in operation, offered a captivating glimpse into the city's rich history. This visit was seamlessly integrated into a curated cultural tour.

Cherished and handed down through generations, the traditional arts and crafts of Kütahya, including tiles, needlepoint, silver embroidery, carpet and rug weaving, embroidery, wood carving, cloth doll-making, and alaturka diamond processing, form the vibrant tapestry of the city's creative cultural industries.



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