

## Art♦Eco Platform Cappadocia 2008

Theme: WATER! = BRIGHT? ♦ SU! = PIRILTI?



### Introduction

Cappadocia is a cultural and historical area, still peaceful and away from a hectic modern world and a World Heritage site of Unesco since 1986.

The presence of open air museums, beautiful landscapes filled with painted cave churches, pigeon houses and historical sites makes it well to study and to connect to. Breathtaking hand-carved architecture and 40.000 km<sup>2</sup> of sculpturally shaped volcanic nature astonish the eye of everyone that enters. The local population is traditionally dependent upon agriculture, pottery and weaving of rugs and carpets. In the 1980's tourism has become one of the dominant economies of the region.

Cappadocia slowly starts to get open to the world with all kind of consequences for environmental infrastructure.

- Problems like open canalizations, very polluted valleys by free garbage dumping and the lack of drinking water are all over the area. As it became a tourist area, the modern use and the supply in this volcanic infrastructure became clearly out of balance.
- The river Kızılırmak is the main water stream coming from the Black Sea going all the way South, passing through Cappadocia and following its way up again towards the North. The river is therefore of huge importance for the Anatolian Heights. But there is little water streaming now, because several storage lakes are constructed. Wastewater is led into it at many locations and soon this river will provide the drinking water supply of Ankara...



### Adding value

The Art♦Eco platform Cappadocia will add value to a big scale water management project in Cappadocia. Technical research and exchange projects by Universities, Companies and Local Authorities will attend infra-structural assets.



The Art♦Eco platform helps raising environmental awareness of the people in cities and villages, by using all sort of artistic, audio-visual, dramatic methods and means, also in using international exchange of students and professionals.

The local citizens will fully participate.

**Art♦Eco Platform Initiators:**

- *'HAYAL', creative workshops* – Theatre and film projects performed on locations in Cappadocia in spring/summer/fall. The projects are developed for amateurs, students and local inhabitants to participate. Film project documentaries by Dutch and Turkish students, from universities and academies will get workshops: script, camera & interview techniques and editing, which will lead to documentaries on the water theme in Cappadocia. Theatre projects by Dutch and local amateurs accompanied by schoolchildren attend theatre workshops by professional Dutch director. The play is based on a Turkish local legend, concerning water in Cappadocia. Performances in cinemas with VIP-discussions: Mustafapaşa, Ürgüp, Nevşehir, Avanos and Göreme theatre. Pilot wetland project in Ibrahimpasa. Organization by Hayal. [www.hayal.nl](http://www.hayal.nl)



- *'Culture House Babayan'* - Artist residency and Art Project development. They invite professional artists and university fine arts-faculty students of all disciplines from Turkey and abroad, to work on long-stay art projects (based on the water theme) and the exchange of ideas on location in Cappadocia. Throughout 2008, exhibitions, lectures and workshops are organized in Culture and Art Centers (Nevşehir and Ankara), NIHAnkara and METÜ University, Contemporary Art Festivals and Art Galleries in Turkey. The art projects accompany the Water Management Project Cappadocia of the NIHAnkara when needed. Documentaries of outstanding 'awareness' art projects will be made by KozaVisual and broadcasted in Turkey and the Netherlands.

Organization by the Foundation Culture House Babayan. [www.wbouman.com](http://www.wbouman.com)

- Annual Summer Festivals – Local art and culture initiatives in Cappadocia.
  - *'Modern Art open-air festival Mustafapaşa'*. Open for artists of all disciplines, to follow workshops and exhibit their works in the Old Greek University, the Eleni Church (Netherlands Pavilion) and valleys. Organization by members of the FabrikArtGroup. [www.fabrikartgroup.org](http://www.fabrikartgroup.org)
  - *'Göreme traditional music/theatre & local cultures Festival'*. Organization by Göreme Municipality & Tourist Cooperative.
  - *'International Avanos Applied Ceramics Symposium'*. Organization by the cooperation of Avanos Municipality & Avanos Art and Culture Association & Erciyes University: Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Ceramics. <http://ask-der.org/dernek-tuzugu>



Documentaries of the water awareness project in total will be made by KozaVisual/NIHAnkara and broadcasted in Turkey and the Netherlands.

**Aim:**

- Create awareness for the value of Cappadocia through art and art education.
- Respond to signals of misbalance between nature and careless human use.
- Nurturing creativity by the Art ♦ Eco Platform, through communication among various fields of art and through the cultural and artistic backgrounds of the participators in relation to the cultural and ecological surrounding of Cappadocia.
- Be a show-window for the out come of the Water Management Project Cappadocia 2008 and the implementation and realization of the field projects.

**Mission:**

- Awareness: continually be aware and give shape to this awareness by annual manifestations based upon existing or developing ecological projects.
- Show art of various disciplines in Cappadocia and - if initiated - to other regions of Turkey; in 2008 based upon the *water! = bright?* theme.
- Inform inhabitants of Cappadocia and stimulate them by involving them in the Art/Eco Platform according to the standards of today.
- Involvement and exchange of students.
- Develop positive effects by showing and sharing art impressions to and with the public (population) of Cappadocia.

**Strategy:**

- To present the Art ♦ Eco Platform in cooperation with NIHAnkara/KozaVisual at the Water Management Congress Cappadocia, January 2008.
- To cooperate with all organizations/companies, which are involved in the future Water Management project realization.
- Use the out comes of that cooperation for new art projects to be initiated by the Art ♦ Eco Platform in the following years.
- To cooperate and exchange ideas with existing ecological and environmental initiatives.
- To approach village and town schools, local authorities, tourist cooperatives, universities, companies and merchants by keeping them informed and invite them to be involved with the At ♦ Eco Platform.
- To stimulate cooperation between Locals and Professional Artists from Turkey and abroad.
- To present a constant, supportive and strong art network, by bringing the Art ♦ Eco Platform broad under attention.
- Raise funds and sponsorship in close cooperation with NIHAnkara/KozaVisual and other participants in the Water Management project.
- Transparency & open communication.

**Objectives**

## Main objectives:

- Providing contemporary art as an awareness contribution to open the minds of the population of Cappadocia (agricultural) region in an accessible & positive way. Proceeding & developing awareness activities -by contemporary art- on a yearly basis to continue the progression of consciousness in the area.
- Providing quality art in line with the Eco theme: visual art, theatre, music.
- Cultural exchange (Turkish & foreign artists, handicraftsmen & amateurs).
- Education and reflection (holding a mirror).
- Cooperation with municipalities, local organizations and population of Cappadocia.
- Stimulating the local inhabitants to actively participate in several art projects (theatre, film, music).

## Additional objectives:

- Exchanging ideas / possibilities through participation & discussions via Art ♦ Eco Platform.
- Broadening the point of view of the regional population in relation to knowledge, solutions & attitudes.
- Assisting to prevent Cappadocia region to be spoiled due to entering the modern world (environmental pollution, lack of drinking water & good infrastructure, spoiling of landscape/nature, protection of the national park).
- Stimulate the region to develop in a cultural way (not only in a touristy way).
- Example function / be a window-view to the world.

## Non-objectives (sponsors):

- Art ♦ Eco Platform will contribute ecological themes on a yearly basis special: water, soil, volcanic ground and air quality. To achieve -over the years- a full awareness of the vulnerability and exclusiveness of the Cappadocia region.
- Providing information about progression and (new) developments in the area by newsletters, meetings, and congresses.
- Opportunities for existing & new enterprises to support & implement activities by sponsoring the Art ♦ Eco Platform.
- Extension of the Art ♦ Eco Platform network.
- Gaining worldwide publicity by press & media in relation to the activities of the Art ♦ Eco Platform.



NIHA/KozaVisual at work in Ibrahimpasha / Babayan



**Intended impact***Awareness:*

Showing and sharing village life as it is/was in Cappadocia by a documentation of several areas in the Cappadocia region.

Keyword for the documentation is the vulnerability & exclusiveness of the eco system for the inhabitants of Cappadocia. The documentation points out the differences between balanced and unbalanced areas (due to the 'new world features': temptations). The documentation will be used as a starting point for artists and teachers of the workshops. Their interpretation (artistic work) will be the opening for bringing the minds of people together: by exchanging and sharing impressions & ideas.

*Art:*

Maintaining a Platform for art in the Cappadocian region and offer all possibilities for artists to work with local inhabitants, both artists and or regional professions (handicrafts, farmers etc).

Create high quality art on one hand and also organize a structure for experimenting with new ideas, so the process is of greater importance & impact.

*Cultural Exchange:*

Curiosity will be stimulated while working together in a creative project. During the creative process ideas, possibilities and solutions will be shared in a natural, respectful & authentic manner.

The impact will be a growing interest in each other culture.

*Education:*

In three ways:

- School children: attending creative programs and workshops at several levels. Opportunity for the children of today to stimulate & support them to enter the new world with full responsibility by showing them the advantages to develop themselves as world citizens.
- Local handicraft men: will teach their traditional & special skills and handicrafts to everybody inside/outside of Cappadocia region and if possible working together.
- Involvement and exchange of university theatre, fine arts and film faculty students and graduates.

*Local inhabitants:*

Networking is an essential part of the Turkish culture and therefore an important instrument to achieve awareness and a conscience behavior towards the Cappadocia region.

Therefore (full) co-operation with the local inhabitants and established organizations (Göreme Action Group) on a respectful basis is a necessity for success.

### Outputs general:

Initiators Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia:

- The initiators performed their plans and projects individually with success. The *FabrikArtGroup* organized the festivals of 2006 and 2007 having artists working from Turkey and abroad. *Hayal* has organized several two-weeks - workshops in Kalkan (south coast) performed with the participation of locals, amateurs and professionals from Turkey and abroad. *Babayan Culture House* has welcomed, long-term-stay (three months) Professional artists of different disciplines and provided them with a good infrastructure for working/practicing and showing art on location in Turkey.
- There is a active and well maintained contact between the initiators and the following organizations:
  - *NIHAnkara* – Netherlands Institute for higher Education. This Institute presents actively the Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia to their annual congress January 2008, dedicated to Higher Education exchange and Water Management Project. The Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia represents the awareness issue within the Congress and will be introduced as such. The home base of the Babayan Culture House is the small village of Ibrahimpassa, and this –for tourism- yet unspoiled village will be the pilot for the Water Management Project.
  - *KozaVisual* – independent audio-visual group of NIHA, that works on international base and concept exchange. The Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia works closely with KozaVisual due to their mutual items as art, education and documentation related to the human social interests. KozaVisual closely follows by documenting on video the progressions of the Water Management Project and will show these documentaries at the NIHA Congress in January 2008 and following years.
  - *KMYO* – Higher Vocational School Cappadocia (Mustafapaşa). This newly erected private school aims to be a high quality school with a mission. The mission relates to the Art/Eco Platform Cappadocia mission, which is to develop and further open the region of Cappadocian to the world in a positive way based on its values noted by Unesco World Heritage for ‘Göreme National park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia’ categorized as a protected landscape, open for international tourism... Therefore the KMYO sponsors the Contemporary Art Festival Mustafapasa.
  - *Cappadocia Eco Community Center* - An associate group on which the Water Management Project further is developed. This basic document will be the hard disc of the combination Art and Eco. Everybody dedicated to the Water Management Project and the Art ♦ Eco Platform Awareness part of the Water project has to undersign the Eco Community and can take part in it as an associate: both from Turkey and abroad.
  - *Göreme action group* (Mayor, Tourist Cooperative Director, Primary School Director, Merchants) - This Action group is formed out being conscious of the decrease of the region if nor actively intervening in mentality and behavior. Therefore this group has expressed an open welcome to the Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia and will be the field level support for the art to be shown/performed.

**Outputs specific:**

## Awareness:

- Clean surroundings and conscientious use of water.
- Own initiatives by local authorities to maintain the environment.
- Open mind behavior in Cappadocia towards new developments.

## Art:

- Contemporary Visual Art: painting, drawing, ceramics, film/video, pottery & sculpture.  
Performing Art: theatre and dance.  
Music: experimental and folk.
- Theatre/art/film performances in local (open air) theatres and in culture and art centers.
- Exhibitions, installations, manifestations and film/video showings and lectures.
- Workshops for artists and interested.
- Lectures, debate, open discussions.

## Cultural exchange:

- Cultural exchange can be seen on different social & cultural levels:
  - Turkish people & foreigners.
  - Locals (Turkish & foreign residents) & Turkish people from other parts of the country.
  - Locals (Turkish & foreign residents) & foreigners.
  - Between students (Turkish & foreign) and all.

## Education:

- Lectures at schools, universities and culture and art centers.
- Workshops in visual art, performing arts and music on locations in Cappadocia.
- Wherever needed as an awareness escort to the Water Management Project in the initiation phase and during the execution.



**Sustainability**

The area of Cappadocia is worthy of preservation.

We speak: The cultural heritage of the landscape and the traces of historical layers to be found both in that landscape and in its inhabitants.

The area was established as a historical national park by Unesco in order to protect and develop the national and cultural elements of the area for scientific and aesthetic reasons.

Management of Göreme depends greatly on the indigenous population maintaining traditional agriculture and lifestyles. The Unesco master plan proposes only nominal disturbance of the traditional pattern of life of the present day park residents.

To achieve the preservation of the Cappadocian/Turkish old ways within opening an area to the new world, has to be placed in full conscience of the risk of fast changes (pollution, open internet, energy waste, distance between generations: breaking-up of old network systems).

Cappadocia is starting to open to modern art.

Every art project implemented from outside based on this consciousness has to be developed with good respect for the eco and social system and the people within.

If done so, the complexity of this issue is overruled by the simple fact of noticing the importance of awareness. In the Water Management project the awareness issue is fully carried by field level projects. And at the same time openly manifested by brutally bringing in Art Projects from the 'new world'. A sustainable future is started-up, when events like Contemporary Art are naturally accepted by the local population and not rejected as 'alien'.

The participation by artists and art projects developed under the wing of the Art ♦ Eco Platform will therefore be used as information-providing bodies.

The learning system in a way of open-minded look at the future is to be productive indefinitely, because learning is taken-in and adapted as part of the areas development. Locals who are not alphabetized are being informed in a total physical response way, while young people are made curious for the 'new world' achievements brought to their 'old and boring one'.

This can be passed-on to future generations by education, choosing for participation and self-learning: and an open eye to recent developments and its influences. The responsibility for future generations and their healthy look at new things-to-happen has priority.

Of course the Art ♦ Eco Platform main intention is to bring good quality art based on the Water Management Awareness issue. But also this goal can be reached if the Cappadocian region is not only used as a décor for the Platform projects, but also intensely used by the inhabitants in cooperation with the artists.



Waste water running in an Ibrahimpasha valley.



**Partners inside the Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia**

Culture House Babayan Foundation – artist residency, art projects

FabrikArtGroup – annual art festival

HAYAL - creative workshops

**Partners/associates outside the Art ♦ Eco Platform Cappadocia**

NIHAnkara – Netherlands Institute for higher Education

KozaVisual – independent audio-visual group of NIHA

KMYO – Higher Vocational School Cappadocia

Cappadocia Eco Community Center

Göreme Action Group

Ibrahimpasa, Cappadocia, Turkey, 7 January 2008.

With regards,

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Notes: