

Press release

Today ISTANBUL, by Serge MENDJISKY

*This new variation on urban modernity will be unveiled in the two countries
whose dialogue is being honored this year :*

In **PARIS**, on the occasion of the **ART ELYSEES 2010** event

Galerie **PALMYRE** Stand 101 B

Opening night October 20th, 2010, from 6 to 10 p.m.

<http://www.galeriepalmyre.com>

In **ISTANBUL**, December 16th, 2010, to January 9th, 2011, in the **BALI ART** gallery
Suleyman Seba Cad. Cicek Apartmani No: 93/A Macka. Tel : + 90 212 258 6162

<http://www.balimuzayede.com>

After presenting his analytical Cubist visions of essential cities such as Paris, New York, Venice and Moscow, the artist invites us to rediscover the old Constantinople on the occasion of the event **ISTANBUL Capital of Europe 2010**. Through this new artistic approach, the modern town and the eternal City come together in a kaleidoscope which emphasizes the co-existence of different eras and influences : codes of traditional monuments rub shoulders with ultra-modern architecture of glass and steel, high-rise buildings are juxtaposed with mosques, in the hectic atmosphere of everyday life.

In some works, Serge MENDJISKY is something of a modern-day BRUEGEL, inviting us to immerse ourselves in the city's typical local color and bustling life. Elsewhere, a traditional dance reveals the spinning movements that echo the earth and sky : the Whirling Dervishes who, in a cascade of blues highlighted by the immaculate white of their skirts, transport us far beyond these domes spangled with mystic gold. The curves of the mosques also dance, interspersed with the verticality of the technique, which itself enhances and further enlivens the elegant hierarchy of the many minarets which stand out against the blues of the sky.

The motley crowd of Istanbulites is cosmopolitan and active. All over town, it is on the move : around the mosques, on and under the Galata Bridge, at Taksim, a multi-cultural nerve-center which lives around the clock. With this multiplicity of perspectives, these springboards for flight which we are bound to discover simply through our powers of observation, we penetrate the intimacy of this city of multiple origins, the intimacy of the artist's vision and the intimacy of a city with many different facets.

The life of the artist Serge MENDJISKY can be seen as constant re-invention of the codes of painting, stepping beyond the schools to which he could belong. Born in Paris in 1929, the son of post-Impressionist painter Maurice MENDJISKY, he retained from Fauvism the character of an exceptional colorist. Influenced early on by Cézanne and the Impressionists, he found his own mode of expression in Divisionism, of which he became an emblematic figure, and which he transcended by crossing it with Pop Art in canvasses with a macro-photographic viewpoint, in the 1990's.

In the year 2000, he swapped his paint-brushes for a camera lens. His photo-collages did not, however, abandon the pictorial dimension : using hundreds of photographs that are reworked, cut into different scales in vertical strips, replacing the various elements on a palette, the artist recreates reality, giving it a pluri-dimensional structure. Within a single subject, many different viewpoints are intertwined, in a prism which encompasses instants and impressions, allowing us to enter the depth of field of reality renewed, obliging us to revise the way we see things. Color sings, light vibrates, and perspective is broken down to re-invent the dimensions of things. With this totally original technique, Serge MENDJISKY thus achieves the visionary intuition of Picasso : *"Real Cubism will be attained through photography"*.

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