5th International Symposium on Art and Design

in Memory of Ahmet Yakupoğlu

« A Gateway to Africa: Tunisia » — « Afrika'ya Açılan Kapı: Tunus »

Kütahya Dumlupınar Üniversitesi — Güzel Sanatlar Fakültesi, Ahmet Yakupoğlu Konferans Salonu

5 – 9 November 2026

Scientific Programme — 5 and 6 November 2026

Opening Ceremony — Thursday 5 November 2026

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome of participants & welcome address

Prof. Süleyman KIZILTOPRAK, Rector of Kütahya Dumlupınar University (Kütahya Dumlupınar Üniversitesi)

09:45 – 10:15 Inaugural lecture (30 min)

H.E. Ahmet Misbah DEMİRCAN, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Tunisia — « Tarlabaşı (Taksim 360): renovating a historic neighbourhood without erasing its memory — legal framework, governance and attachment to place »

Next, presentation of symbolic gifts from Tunisia by the partners of the Symposium, Prof. Wissem Abdelmoula, President of ATAV, and Prof. Nour Elhouda Badis, President of LABRSDE, to the Rector of Kütahya University, to His Excellency Ambassador Ahmet Misbah Demircan, and to Professors Eren and Adem, heads of the organizing committee.

10:15 – 10:45 Coffee break & exhibition opening

Art, Design, Architecture and Audiovisual Exhibition

Scientific Sessions — Thursday 5 November 2026

Thursday 5 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 1

10:45 – 12:15 — Shared Ottoman Heritages: mapping, restoration and architectural know-how

Session chair: *Prof. Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ (Art historian)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Prof. Dr. Fakher Kharrat *Inhabiting heritage: research-creation in architecture and restoration*	ENAU, LARPA, University of Carthage	fakher.kharrat@enau.ucar.tn
Dr. Sofien Dhif *« The medina of Tunis, a palimpsest of memory. From architectural hybridisation to the reinvention of place »*	ENAU, LARPA, University of Carthage	sofien.bey@gmail.com
Dr. Olcay AYDEMİR *Zeytinburnu Mozaikleri koruma çalışmaları ve müze yapım süreci (The Zeytinburnu mosaics: conservation work and the museum construction process)*	Chief architect & restoration expert	ogokal74@yahoo.com
Dr. Zeineb Gandouz هندسة المعنى وأثر الذاكرة *(The architecture of meaning and the imprint of memory)*	ISBAN, University of Carthage	gandouzzeineb@yahoo.fr

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Thursday 5 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 2

10:45 – 12:20 — The Wall and the Trace: urban palimpsests and visual memory

Session chair: *Prof. Dr. Sinan GENİM (Culture and Arts Policies Board, Presidency of the Republic)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Dr. Houssem Eddin Ben Salem الجدار كمطرس في الفن الحضري بتونس *(The wall as palimpsest in urban art in Tunisia: memory and redistribution of the visible after 2011)*	ISBAN, University of Carthage	houssem041979@gmail.com
Prof. Dr. Kadir PEKTAŞ *Tunus'ta osmanlı devri tarihi eserlerinin kimliği (The identity of Ottoman-era historical monuments in Tunisia)*	İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi Güney Yerleşkesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi Sanat Tarihi	kpektas69@gmail.com , kadir.pektas@medeniyet.edu.tr
Ms. Eya Harzi *« The Moulid of Kairouan as a sensitive palimpsest: ritual memory and temporary reconfiguration of urban space »*	ISBAN, University of Carthage, LABRSDE	harzieyaharzi@gmail.com
Ms. Rihem Labidi « الملصق الممزق كأثر حضري » *(The torn poster as an urban trace: from the layers of the city to the transformations of the personal archive)*	ISBAT, LABRSDE, University of Tunis	rihemabidi69@gmail.com
Mimar Pınar GÜNSEVEN *Hannibal Barca: Stratejik Dehanın ve İradenin Mimarisi (Hannibal Barca: the architecture of strategic genius and will)*	PINAR GÜNSEVEN Mimarlık Mühendislik Müşavirlik (Ankara); Union of Engineers and Architects of the Turkic World, Architecture Coordination	info@pinargunseven.com

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Thursday 5 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 1

13:30 – 15:00 — Ottoman and Maghrebi Cities: imaginaries, scenographies and symbolic readings

Session chair: *Prof. Nour Elhouda Badis (FLSHT, University of Tunis, President of LABRSDE)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Prof. Dr. Wissem Abdelmoula *« Open Cities: Tunis and Istanbul, Mediterranean thresholds — between Ottoman memory and the plastic regime of openness »*	ISBAT, University of Tunis, LABRSDE	wissem.abdelmoula@gmail.com
Prof. Dr. Hédia Habaieb *« Sfax in the mirror of texts and images: memory and urban modernity of a Mediterranean city »*	University of Tunis El Manar	abdelkefi.hedia@gmail.com
Dr. Imen Ben Ayed الفضاء الداخلي للمنزل التقليدي في المدينة العتيقة بتونس *(The interior space of the traditional house in the medina of Tunis: embodiment of function, aesthetics and cultural identity)*	ISBAT, University of Tunis, LABRSDE	amouna2405@live.fr
Prof. Dr. Nour Elhouda Badis « عن المعمار ومآثره: الكونية والخصوصية، قراءة بلاغية لسانية » *(On architecture and its monuments: universality and specificity, a rhetorical and linguistic reading)*	FLSHT, University of Tunis, LABRSDE	badisnourelhouda2000@yahoo.fr

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Thursday 5 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 2

13:30 – 15:05 — Research-creation and project pedagogy: epistemologies of art and design

Session chair: *Prof. Fakher Kharrat (ENAU, LARPA, University of Carthage)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Ms. Yosr Ben Rabia *« Inhabiting space, creating knowledge: research-creation as a laboratory of the lived and the sensitive »*	ISBAT, LABRSDE	yosser@gmail.com
Ms. Donia Amri *« At the Threshold of the Two Shores: Echoes of Strata and Intersecting Memories between Türkiye and Tunisia »*	ISBAT, LABRSDE	amri.donia2000@gmail.com
Ms. Salma Balagi *Transformative Continuity Between Artistic Material Practice and Architectural Restoration*	ISBAT, LABRSDE	sbalegi@gmail.com
Doç. Dr. Pınar YAZKAÇ *Ahmet Yakupoğlu'nun Portre Resimleri Üzerine Plastik Bir Değerlendirme (A Plastic Evaluation on Ahmet Yakupoğlu's Portrait Paintings)*	Kütahya Dumlupınar Üniversitesi, Güzel Sanatlar Fakültesi, Resim Bölümü	pinar.yazkac@dpu.edu.tr

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Thursday 5 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 1

15:20 – 16:50 — Industrial and Beylical Heritage: conservation, reconversion and transmission

Session chair: *Prof. Lotfi Debiche (FLSHT, University of Tunis, LABRSDE)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Dr. Mohamed Idoudi *to be confirmed (close to his thesis: beylical palaces around Tunis)*	ENAU, LARPA, University of Carthage	medidoudi@gmail.com
Dr. Sihem Kallel *« أبراج صفاقس: قراءة في بناء ذاكرة المكان »* *(The Borjs of Sfax: towards a reading of the construction of the memory of place)*	National Heritage Institute (Sfax)	sihem.kallel.benamar@gmail.com
Prof. Dr. Lotfi Debiche *« الترميم المعماري بين التقني والثقافي »* *(Architectural restoration between technique and culture)*	FLSHT, University of Tunis, LABRSDE	debbiche_lotfi@hotmail.fr
Dr. Sinan GENİM *« The city, architecture and the future »*	Culture and Arts Policies Board, Presidency of the Republic	sinan@sinangenim.com
Ms. Najoua Hidri *Heritagisation of the mining town of Jerissa*	ENAU, University of Carthage	najoua.hydri@gmail.com
Mrs. Wiem Alimi *« HBIMemory: how HBIM makes it possible to describe and assess the Roman Capitolium of Uthina »*	ENAU (Tunisia) & Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy), LARPA	wiemalimiarchitecte@gmail.com

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Thursday 5 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 2

15:20 – 16:50 — Photography and Cinema: writings of Mediterranean memory

Session chair: *Dr. Olcay AYDEMİR (Chief architect & restoration expert)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Ms. Hadil Saidaoui *« What Remains of Place: Photography and Urban Memory between Istanbul and Tunis »*	University of Carthage	hadilsaidaoui89@gmail.com
Ms. Mariem Saidi *من التجوال إلى الكتابة البصرية للمدينة* *(From strolling to the visual writing of the city: travel notebooks and the reorganisation of urban space)*	ISBAN, University of Carthage, LABRSDE	saidimariem588@gmail.com
Ms. Kaouther Belouedhnine *Stained glass as palimpsest: monumental art and colonial heritage in Tunisia*	ISBAN, University of Carthage, LABRSDE	kbellouedhnine@gmail.com

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Lunch: 12:20 – 13:30 • Gala dinner: 20:00

Scientific Sessions — Friday 6 November 2026

Friday 6 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 1

09:30 – 10:15 — Design, Crafts and Museology: textile heritage and transmission of living heritage

Session chairs: *Prof. Dr. Eren Evin KILIÇKAYA (Kütahya Dumlupınar Üniversitesi) & Prof. Hédia Habaieb (University of Tunis El Manar)*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Dr. Karima Azouz « جيوبارك الظاهر تونس: جسرٌ نحو العالمية، قراءةٌ محايثة في ديناميات الانفتاح وآفاق التثمين » *(Al-Dhaher Geopark: a bridge towards globalisation — an immanent reading of the dynamics of opening and the prospects for valorisation)*	ISAM Gabès, University of Gabès	Kazzouz36@gmail.com
Dr. Abderrahman Said « تراث النسيج: من الفضاء المنزلي إلى الفضاء العمومي » *(Weaving heritage: from domestic space to public space)*	ISAM Gabès, University of Gabès	regmadecor@gmail.com
Dr. Houda Fekili *The body in situ and the experience of place: the shoe and the shoeing of space* (الجسد في موضعه وتجربة المكان: الحذاء وانتعال الفضاء)	ISAM Gabès, University of Gabès	fekilihouda@gmail.com
İlknur BEKTAŞ *Kartaca'dan Anadolu'ya Hannibal: Tunus'un Tarihsel Hafızasından Dünya Strateji Tarihine (Hannibal from Carthage to Anatolia: from Tunisia's historical memory to the world history of strategy)*	Historian and author (Tarihçi–Yazar)	ilknurbektas@yahoo.com
Arş. Gör. Dilara Merve Kaçmaz & Doç. Eren Evin Kılıçkaya The collapse of creative conflict, intimacy and catharsis in the age of artificial intelligence Creativity in the age of AI: generative artificial intelligence platforms	Kütahya Dumlupınar Üniversitesi	erenevin.kilickaya@dpu.edu.tr

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

Friday 6 November 2026 — Amphitheatre 2 (online)

09:30 – 11:45 — Videoconference session

Session chair: *Prof. Dr. Wissem Abdelmoula, ISBAT, University of Tunis, LABRSDE*

Speaker & Title of paper	Affiliation	Email
Prof. M'hamed Ali Halouani *Elements for a relativistic conception of the notion of space-time in the metamorphoses of the urban fabric*	Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of Sfax, University of Sfax	medalihalouani@yahoo.fr
Dr. Sahar Bakbrahem *« Urban palimpsests in motion: cinema and Mediterranean memory »*	Gammarth Higher School of Audiovisual and Cinema	bakbrahemsahar@gmail.com
Prof. Dr. Ferdaws Belcadhi & Hédi Derbel *« From formal determination to productive uncertainty: spaciology (espaciologie), effectual logic and architectural project pedagogy »*	ENAU, University of Carthage	ferdaws.belcadhi@yahoo.fr
Mr. Badii Melki *« Film creation put to the test of artificial intelligence: challenges and perspectives » (to be confirmed for Kütahya)*	ESSTED, University of Manouba	badi.melki@essted.uma.tn
Dr. Ines Harrathi *« From painting to the cinematic frame: psychogeographic dérive and visual memory of territories (Tunisia – Türkiye) »*	ISAMS, University of Sfax	harrathi_ines@hotmail.fr
Dr. Sofiene Hmaoui *« Urban photography as an act of memory: between document, trace and rewriting » — selecting, preserving, transforming, representing and reactivating traces*	ISBAN, University of Carthage	sofhmaoui@gmail.com
Ms. Maroua Baatout *Inhabiting time, inhabiting the desert: Memory, Genius loci and architectural timelessness*	ISBAN Nabeul	baatout_maroua_archi@hotmail.fr
Dr. Soumaya Gharsallah *« Preserving a living urban heritage: the medina of Tunis between memory, territory and resilience »*	Architect, Ph.D. Museology, mediation and heritage	soumaya.gharsallah.awar@gmail.com
Dr. Dalia Daoud *The monument as performative image: semiotic reading of the memory of places in Tunisia*	ISBAN, University of Carthage	daliadaoued@gmail.com

Duration: 15 minutes per speaker, followed by a 20-minute discussion at the end of the session.

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee break

Practical Workshops (parallel) — 12:00 – 13:30

Workshop 1 — Mapping the Moulid — sensitive mapping of ritual heritage
Facilitator: Eya Harzi (ISBAN, University of Carthage, LABRSDE)

Workshop 2 — Architecture in Images — practical workshop in architectural photography

Closing of the Symposium

13:30 – 14:30 Closing session
Summary of proceedings, words of thanks, presentation of certificates of participation

14:30 Closing lunch

Scientific Rationale (Summary)

5th International Symposium on Art and Design in Memory of Ahmet Yakupoğlu — « A Gateway to Africa: Tunisia » (Afrika'ya Açılan Kapı: Tunus)

Kütahya Dumlupınar University, Faculty of Fine Arts, Ahmet Yakupoğlu Conference Hall — 5–9 November 2026, Kütahya, Türkiye

Organizing Committee: Kütahya Dumlupınar University · Research Laboratory on Structures, Design and Aesthetics (LABRSDE) · Tunisian Association of Visual Arts (ATAV)

General Framework

Jointly organised by Kütahya Dumlupınar University, LABRSDE (FSHST, University of Tunis) and ATAV, this fifth symposium is held under the high patronage of the memory of Ahmet Yakupoğlu, tutelary figure of Turkish painting and art education. It continues an already long scientific trajectory: several study days held in Tunisia (notably in Djerba, within ATAV's "Research-Creation" axis) and the work of the Doctoral Agora of Tunis, which welcomed Professor Sinan Genim in 2026.

The title "A Gateway to Africa: Tunisia" displays an ambition that is both diplomatic and scientific: to show how Tunisia constitutes, for Türkiye, a historical threshold towards Africa, where Ottoman, Arab-Berber and Mediterranean strata have settled from the Hafsid period to the Beylical period, and which urban architecture makes visible today. This commemorative dimension, embodied by the honorary presence of H.E. Ahmet Misbah Demircan, Ambassador of Türkiye to Tunis, is combined with a scientific rigour structured around four complementary axes. The symposium pursues a threefold objective: to consolidate Turkish–Tunisian institutional cooperation, to produce transdisciplinary reflection on the Mediterranean city, and to train a new generation of researchers able to think heritage conservation and contemporary reinvention together.

General Problematic: The City as Palimpsest

The question that must irrigate every contribution, whatever the chosen axis, is the following: how do urban territories write themselves, read themselves, degrade, restore and reinvent themselves through contact with sensitive practices, heritage approaches and contemporary methodological frameworks? The city is not a stable object but a perpetual work in progress — hence the metaphor of the palimpsest, borrowed from Paul Ricœur (La Mémoire, l'histoire, l'oubli, 2000): collective memory covers, without ever erasing it, an earlier stratum. Pierre Nora (Les Lieux de mémoire, 1984–1992) extends this idea: place is never a mere geographical support but a point of crystallisation of social meaning. The medina of Tunis, Istanbul's Süleymaniye or the Tarlabaşı neighbourhood in Beyoğlu are thus active places of memory, constantly reworked.

Jan Assmann (La Mémoire culturelle, 1992) distinguishes communicative memory (short-lived, living) from cultural memory (fixed in durable forms and transmitted by specialists). Maurice Halbwachs (La Mémoire collective, 1950) adds the ordinary social frameworks through which inhabitants invest their neighbourhood emotionally, independently of any official heritage listing — a fragile dimension that documentary artistic practices are best placed to capture. This approach is not backward-looking: all living memory presupposes active work of forgetting; hence the association, in the problematic, of memory with mutation, restoration and reinvention. Georges Didi-Huberman (Devant le temps, 2000) adds that architectural form proceeds by anachronistic montages, in which ancient motifs resurface in contemporary configurations — like the Turkish technique of içten tevhid, readable as an updated survival of a gesture that Mimar Sinan already practised at Hagia Sophia.

Transversal Theoretical Framework

Two tensions structure the treatment of this problematic. The first, borrowed from Michel de Certeau (L'Invention du quotidien, 1980), opposes strategy (the doing of established powers that plan space) to tactic (the gesture of the ordinary user who diverts that space). It sheds light on the Tarlabaşı case, where institutional strategy (Law no. 5366 of 2005, decree of 2006) interlocks with informal appropriation practices documented by Professor Mehmet Alper. Ahmet Misbah Demircan and Sinan Genim offer an exemplary case study of it in the volume Penser l'art ensemble: legal framework, public–private partnership and the architectural paradigm of içten tevhid, linked to the Mimar Sinan lineage.

The second tension, formulated by Françoise Choay (L'Allégorie du patrimoine, 1992) and Aldo Rossi (L'Architecture de la ville, 1966), opposes the intentional monument to the involuntary permanence of the ordinary urban fabric. The Foucauldian concept of heterotopia ("Des espaces autres", 1967) makes it possible to reread this dialectic: some places function as counter-sites where social relations are represented, contested and inverted. As Edgar Morin (Introduction à la pensée complexe, 1990) reminds us, the city resists any disciplinary reductionism — hence the structure of the symposium in four deliberately porous axes.

The Four Axes

Axis 1 — Architecture, urban planning and territorial change. Draws on Kevin Lynch's urban legibility (L'Image de la cité, 1960) and Christian Norberg-Schulz's genius loci (1979) to question Mediterranean territorial change and its contemporary climate stakes.

Axis 2 — Restoration, heritage and the memory of places. Anchored in the Ruskin/Viollet-le-Duc controversy, resolved by the Venice Charter (1964) and then refined by Cesare Brandi (Théorie de la restauration, 1963), who distinguishes the historical instance from the aesthetic instance of the work. Welcomes studies on medinas as complex systems, intangible heritage and new survey technologies (photogrammetry, laser scanning, heritage BIM).

Axis 3 — Visual arts, scenographies and urban writings. Calls on Guy Debord (dérive, psychogeography) and Nicolas Bourriaud (Esthétique relationnelle, 1998) to think contemporary urban art and sensitive cartographies. Ahmet Yakupoğlu's pictorial legacy invites the integration of the pictorial representation of territory and landscape.

Axis 4 — Epistemology, research methodologies and art pedagogy. Concerns the conditions of production of the first three axes. Gaston Bachelard (La Poétique de l'espace, 1957) shows there that inhabited space is lived space, invested with images and reveries — a central question for research-creation, the paradigm of ATAV's scientific axis. Umberto Eco (L'Œuvre ouverte, 1962) provides the semiotic framework for an organised opening of the work to a plurality of readings. This axis also examines Turkish–Tunisian doctoral cooperation mechanisms, in continuity with the Doctoral Agora of Tunis.

Kütahya and the Turkish–Tunisian Bridge

Former beylical capital of the Germiyanids, integrated into the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 14th century, Kütahya established itself from the 16th century as a major centre of Ottoman ceramics alongside Iznik — a tradition in dialogue with Nabeul earthenware and the zellij of the medina of Tunis. The türbe (including the Tourbet el-Bey), the Hammouda Pasha mosque and the Bardo palace attest three centuries of Ottoman-Hanafi architectural vocabulary on the Hafsid and Andalusian foundation of the medina. The phrase "gateway to Africa" must be taken in its real geographical sense: Tunis was, from the medieval period, an outlet of the trans-Saharan caravan routes — a dimension that contributions on Sufi zawiyas or urban forms of sub-Saharan origin could explore, notably in axes 1 and 2.

Three urban scenes particularly condense the stakes of the symposium: Tarlabaşı (institutional intervention that is legally documented), the medina of Tunis (continuous heritage management over successive civilisational strata) and Kütahya itself (a medium-sized city with a craft tradition). Nothing prevents mobilising other fields (Sfax, Sousse, Kairouan, Konya, Bursa) provided the analysis is tied to the problematic of the urban palimpsest and to one of the four axes.

Methodology, Critical Vigilance and Calendar

Each contribution must meet a requirement of prior documentation (comparative historical analysis, survey of the existing state, consultation of the relevant archival collections) before any proposal of analysis or restoration. Contributions linking several axes will be particularly valued. Each paper (20 minutes, 13-slide presentation) must include a bilingual abstract of about 200 words and 5 to 7 keywords, with a bibliography in the author–date system.

The scientific committee invites participants neither to yield to a rhetoric of Mediterranean brotherhood that would mask the real relations of domination of the Ottoman presence, nor to transpose Turkish legal mechanisms (içten tevhid) too quickly to a Tunisian context without rigorous comparative analysis.

Calendar: theoretical contributions of the scientific committee received until 15 August 2026; titles and abstracts of Tunisian participants not attached to LABRSDE/ATAV expected before 20 September 2026; full papers and presentation materials submitted before 1–2 October 2026; symposium from 5 to 9 November 2026, with a field visit in Kütahya (ceramic workshops, Germiyanid and Ottoman mosques and madrasas). The proceedings will be published collectively, in continuity with Bassar'Arts and the journal Massar'Arts.

Scientific Committee and Organizing Committee

Coordination

- **Prof. Adam Dömnez** — Kütahya Dumlupınar University
- **Prof. Eren Evin Kılıçkaya** — Kütahya Dumlupınar University
- **Prof. Wissem Abdelmoula** — ISBAT, LABRSDE, University of Tunis

Tunisian Members

- **Nour Elhouda Badis** — FLSHT, University of Tunis — literature and research methodology, President of LABRSDE
- **Lotfi Debiche** — FLSHT, University of Tunis — literature
- **Mohamed Nejib Nouiri** — FLSHT, University of Tunis — literature
- **Fethi Jarray** — FLSHT, University of Tunis — history and restoration
- **Imen Ben Ayed** — ISBAT — design and architecture
- **M'hamed Ali Halouani** — FLSHS, University of Sfax — philosophy
- **Fakher Kharrat, Hind Karoui & Ferdaws Belcadhi** — ENAU, University of Carthage — architecture

Turkish Members

- **Dr. Sinan Genim** — architect and historian of Istanbul architecture
- **Prof. Kadir Pektaş** — historian
- **Dr. Olcay Aydemir** — architect
- **İlknur Bektaş** — author
- **Pınar Günseven** — architect, PINAR GÜNSEVEN Mimarlık (Ankara); Union of Engineers and Architects of the Turkic World, Architecture Coordination
- **Dr. Heykel Kchouk** — musician
- **Haitage Murat** — committee member
- **Cihan Aissa** — chef

Guest of Honour

- **H.E. Ahmet Misbah Demircan** — Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Tunisia