THE LIGHTS OF MĂRȚIȘOR"

PAINTING EXHIBITION TO WELCOME SPRING AND CELEBRATE WOMEN AT THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY

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Spring starts with a traditional celebration in all Romanian communities around the world. It is symbolically marked by a small token attached to the clothing with a red and white string, and is to be worn until the fruit trees are in bloom. The talisman known as Mărțișor is offered by men to women, who are associated with the renewal and rebirth of nature.

The Romanian community in Ankara marked the arrival of spring by celebrating the traditional Day of Mărțișor, an event organized by the officials at the Romanian Embassy on March 1. H.E. Mr. Radu Onofrei, the Ambassador of Romania, welcomed the distinguished ladies present at the celebration of Mărțișor, which was organized as a tribute to women. Among the special guests were Mrs. Askin Asan, deputy of the Minister of Family and Social Affairs, Mrs. Ambassador Birnur Fertekligil, deputy undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fikri Işık, president of the Commission for Education, Culture, Youth of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Ambassador Shahid Najam, Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative at United Nations Development Programme in Ankara and other representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of European Affairs, of Culture and Turism, of Education, the Yunus Emre Institute but also representatives of DMEDD (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses Solidarity Association) - and from ANGIKAD (the Business Women Entrepreneurs and Enhancement Association). Friends of Romania and distinguished ladies, such as members of the diplomatic corps in Ankara, wives of Ambassadors, artists and members of the Romanian community were celebrated

on this first day of spring and offered the traditional Mărțișor token. During his speech, the Ambassador emphasized on his happiness to celebrate this event in Turkey, with whom Romania has developed long, friendly and convergent relations throughout the years, reminding his country's support in all efforts of Turkey for its accession to the European Union and in those of promoting the empowerment of women in the country.

As the 1st of March and the month of March in general is focused on women, the theme of the celebration at the Romanian Embassy was consequently dedicated and centered on their beauty, grace and fertility, which bring the greatest contribution to the sense of life. The Painting Exhibition belonging to the renowned Turkish artist Mrs. Çiğdem Buçak Telli, was itself a Mărțișor gift for the distinguished guests. According to Mrs. Ambassador Birnur Fertekligil who was a guest of honor, art and in particular painting, is among the instruments to express the outstanding role of the woman in society and to glorify the woman in all her splendor.

Mrs. Çiğdem Buçak Telli, the author of the beautiful works of art exhibited in the halls of the Romanian Embassy for this special occasion with the support of KAV Art Gallery, is an exceptional artist who laid her emotions, feelings and experiences on her paintings. Her works are known in Romania as well, as some are exhibited in major museums and galleries across the country. Her paintings are inspired by real stories and models, women that she paints by adding a glimpse of fantasy to reality for a perfect illustration. Themes of vegetation and fabric present in all her works invoke the promise of heaven. The woman is the centre of her creations because she simply loves the woman with everything that belongs to her and what she represents but also because the author supports women's rights. This exhibition was also displayed in the KAV Gallery starting on February 7 and ended with the Romanian Celebration of Mărțișor.

"The Lights of Mărțișor" Painting Exhibition and celebration ended with a last gesture of the hosts by offering a "Mărțișor" token for all the guests present at the event as a souvenir specific for Romania.