

Platform of Anatolian Religions and Beliefs Platform / Those who are backing our cultural heritage Vanguards of Our Cultural Heritage / Part 20

European Museum of the Year Awards with Nükhet Everi

TOPICS: Museology, European Museum of the Year Awards, Achievements of the Troy Museum, Eskişehir Odunpazarı Modern Museum, Kenan Yavuz Ethnography Museum, General Information on the European Museum of the Year Awards

In this part of our interviews "Those who back our cultural heritageVanguards of Our Cultural Heritage," which we have prepared for the Anatolian Religions and Beliefs Platform, I would like to talk about the European Museum of the Year award. I do not have a guest in this part, in fact I have many guests. All the museums of the world are my guests. Especially tThree museums from TurkeyTürkiye in particular will be my guests of honour: Troy Museum, Eskişehir Odunpazarı Modern Museum, and Kenan Yavuz Ethnography Museum in Bayburt Beşbınar Village. These three museums have honoured and made us proud with very special awards.

May is a very special month in museology, and I think that our museums are the most important ones that supporting our cultural heritage. Declared as the International Museum Day by a decision taken by UNESCO decision, the 18th of May is a day when activities are held in museums all over the world. Since 2011, the 18th of May to the 24th of May is celebrated as World Museum Week. During this week, museums try to raise awareness for people who have difficult access to museums, both financially and physically, through various activities.

The importance of the European Museum of the Year Awards

The European Museum of the Year Award is a long-standing prize that has been awarded since 1977 and was initiated by Kenneth Hudson. Under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the prize is awarded to new museums or museums that have developed over the last two years. The award is given to recognise and encourage excellence in museology.

Achievements of the Troy Museum

The Troy Museum is very important as it is not only a great archaeological museum, but also a museum that includes ethnography. The Troy Museum was a candidate for the European Museum of the Year award in 2020 and received thea special appreciation award in 2021. It was also included in the list of "100 places to see in the world" by Time magazine. The Troy Museum has an architectural work in harmony with nature, located among olive trees. Visitors can visit different exhibition areas and discover historical artefacts by moving on ramps inside the museum.

Eskişehir Odunpazarı Modern Museum

Eskişehir Odunpazarı Modern Museum (OMM) is a museum built by Erol Tabanca and houses his private collection. In 2019, it was awarded a special prize by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and was selected as the international project of the year at the Museum and Heritage Awards in the UK. In 2021, it was awarded the European Museum of the Year special award. Everyone who travels to Eskişehir should definitely see this museum.

Kenan Yavuz Ethnography Museum

Kenan Yavuz Ethnographic Museum was established in Bayburt's Beşbınar Village and was awarded the Silletto award in 2021. This award is given to museums that best support museums' initiatives to improve social quality and volunteerism. Kenan Yavuz, as a businessman devoted to his village and

cultural heritage, established this museum to keep the customs and traditions of the village where he was born alive. This museum has made a new contribution to tourism routes in Bayburt and offers accommodation to its visitors.

The European Museum of the Year award is given to recognise excellence in museology, to encourage innovation, and to change the standard of quality. The prize is awarded in four categories: European Museum of the Year Award, European Parliament Award, Kenneth Hudson Award, and Silletto Award. All types of museums can be nominated for these awards if they have been opened or renovated in the last two years. These awards provide a great incentive for museums to improve and innovate.