

# DIRIMART

## PRESS RELEASE

### **SARKIS'S EXHIBITION TITLED *FIVE ICONS FRAMED IN EDİRNE-STYLE WOODEN ORNAMENTATION* AT DİRİMART DOLAPDERE**

#### ***Five Icons Framed in Edirne- style Wooden Ornamentation***

**Opening:** 3 September 2025

**Venue:** Dirimart Dolapdere

**The exhibition will be open to visitors from 3 September to 12 October (except Mondays).**

***Five Icons Framed in Edirne-style Wooden Ornamentation* brings together traces of the past and reflections of the present, opening up a space for contemplation within the layers of memory and time.**

Dirimart is pleased to announce ***Five Icons Framed in Edirne-style Wooden Ornamentation***, a new solo exhibition by **Sarkis**, on view at Dirimart Dolapdere from **3 September to 12 October 2025**.

A continuation of Sarkis's long-standing research on memory, time, and space, this exhibition refers to *Angel of War*, a solo exhibition consisting of a single artwork that presented in 1989 at Maçka Art Gallery, Istanbul, as well as to the icons he created during that period using watercolour and the act of touch as a formative gesture. During this period, Sarkis began using his fingerprint as a painting tool – an idiosyncratic technique that converges, in this exhibition, with his deep interest in the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence, Italy.

The exhibition takes its starting point from *Edirnekâri* (Edirne-style wooden ornamentation) frames dating back to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sarkis transforms the surfaces of mirrors placed within these original wooden frames by directly touching them with specially produced paints applied with his fingertips. Through this intervention, the mirrors become vessels of memory, bridging the historical legacy of the frames with the present.

In these new artworks, Sarkis also draws on the restorative method employed for Cimabue's *Crucifix* after the 1966 Santa Croce flood, when the missing colours were completed with pointillist brushstrokes and pigment particles recovered from the waters. Following a similar approach, he renews the faded paint on the Edirne-style frames with contemporary materials, preserving period-specific qualities while rendering them part of a contemporary rebirth.

The Edirne-style frames, bearing traces of two centuries of history, arrived at the gallery in 2024 with faded paint surfaces and altered textures. Sarkis collaborated with the Nanotechnology Research and Application Centre (SUNUM) of Sabancı University to conduct chemical analyses of the pigments originally used. These revealed the differences between nineteenth- and twenty-first-



info@dirimart.com  
dirimart.com

DİRİMART DOLAPDERE  
Irmak Caddesi 1-9  
34440 Dolapdere İstanbul  
+90 212 232 66 66

DİRİMART PERA  
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 99  
34430 Beyoğlu İstanbul

DİRİMART LONDON  
23 Princes Street  
Mayfair London  
W1B 2LY

century materials, particularly the shift from materials such as lead – which are no longer in use – to new formulations. Based on these findings, Sarkis partnered with Cadence Art & Hobby Paints to produce custom-made paints for this exhibition. These specially developed paints harmonised seamlessly with the mirror surfaces, restoring the original vibrancy and freshness of the frames' colours.

The frames from Edirne and Damascus are not only architectural artefacts, but also witnesses to time itself. The mirrors in the exhibition invite viewers to reflect on the act of seeing. Inspired by women's names from eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Edirne, these icons become carriers of a multi-layered cultural heritage, tactile images, and reconstructed memory.

***Five Icons Framed in Edirne-style Wooden Ornamentation*** becomes a memory stage, where Sarkis materialises time through fingerprints – his own and those of his team – along with paints, frames, and reflections – layering temporalities one atop another.

The exhibition will be on view at Dirimart Dolapdere from **3 September to 12 October 2025**.

**Sarkis** (b. 1938, Istanbul) graduated from the State Academy of Fine Arts. He held his first solo exhibition at Istanbul Art Gallery in 1960. He moved to Paris in 1964. Sarkis' works have been exhibited at prestigious institutions, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; Guggenheim, New York; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Kunst-und Ausstellungshalle, Bonn; Louvre Museum, Paris; Bode Museum, Berlin; Fondazione MAXXI and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf. In 2015, he represented Turkey at the Turkey Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale. His recent solo exhibitions include *Future Lies Ahead 1993–2023*, Daejeon Museum of Art, Daejeon (2023); *85 Screams: After Munch*, Dirimart, Istanbul (2023); *7 Tage 7 Nächte*, Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Baden-Baden (2023); *ENDLESS*, Arter, Istanbul (2023); *Çaylak Sokak*, Arter, Istanbul (2019); *Mirror*, Dirimart, Istanbul (2017) and *L'ouverture*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2009). Among the significant exhibitions and biennials he participated in are the 6th Mardin Biennial, Mardin (2024); the 2nd, 4th, and the 14th Istanbul Biennials, Istanbul (1989, 1995, 2015); the 10th Lyon Biennial, Lyon (2010); the 2nd Moscow Biennial, Moscow (2007); the 3rd Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai (2000); the 4th and 8th Sydney Biennials, Sydney (1982, 1990); *documenta VI* and *VII*, Kassel (1977, 1982) and *When Attitudes Become Form*, Kunsthalle Bern (1969). Additionally, in 2015, he participated in the group exhibition at the Armenian Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale. Sarkis' works are part of major collections, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; MAMCO, Switzerland; and Istanbul Modern, as well as various private collections. Sarkis lives and works in Paris.