



Advanced – Curatorial Education Programme

April 19 – 23, 2017
Izmir // Turkey



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www.aejm.org

Location

Izmir // Turkey

Contact

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Programme

Wednesday 19 April

11:45 – 12:00	Registration Welcome and registration in the lobby of the Izmir Palas Hotel
12:00 – 14:00	Synagogue Tour <i>Alfred Pontremoli and Tilda Koenka</i> Izmir has an unusual cluster of synagogues bearing a unique architectural style. Following the expulsion from Spain and Portugal in 1492, some came to Izmir and brought with them Ladino language, Sephardic religious and architectural traditions. Of 34 synagogues built in previous centuries in Izmir in an architectural style loyal to the praying style common in medieval Spain, only 8 remain today around the market area of Izmir.
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee Break
14:30 – 16:30	Continuation Synagogue Tour
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break
17:45	Departure from the hotel lobby
18:00 – 20:00	Evening Programme Opening with Cocktail reception offered by the Izmir Chamber of Commerce. With an introduction by Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek and contributions by Samuel Azar, Head of the Jewish Community, Judith Kiriatty, Kiriatty Foundation and Ekrem Demirtas, Head of the Chamber of Commerce <i>Izmir Museum of Commercial History</i>

Thursday 20 April

8:30	Departure from the Izmir Palas Hotel
9:00 – 10:30	Collection Focus Presentations of case-studies on Sephardic objects by participants <i>Location: Señora Synagogue</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Continuation of Collection Focus
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	Workshop I – Ritual Textiles in the Señora Synagogue <i>Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek & Christina Meri</i> The Señora Synagogue is located within Izmir's historic bazaar and is part of the unique complex of synagogues. It houses a collection of ritual textiles from various synagogues in Izmir. Ottoman Jewish textiles differ significantly from European ones. Through the examination of several selected examples we will familiarize ourselves with the typical characteristics of Ottoman-Sephardic synagogue textiles, which concern e.g. their distinguished shape or common embroidery techniques. As precious domestic embroideries were often adapted for synagogue usage, we will also get valuable information on the diversity of textiles fashionable in 19 th century-Ottoman Empire. And as always, we will polish up our Hebrew and Hebrew hyphenated reading skills.
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 18:00	Continuation of Workshop I
19:00	Group Dinner at Restaurant La Cigale, on invitation by the Mayor of the Konak municipality

Programme

Friday 21 April

8:30 Departure from the Izmir Palas Hotel

9:00 – 10:30 **Workshop II – Metal Objects in the Bet Israel Synagogue**
Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek & Christina Meri

This workshop will take place in the Bet Israel Synagogue, which is the largest synagogue in Izmir. It was built between 1905 – 1907 in the new neighbourhood near the harbour, to serve the Jewish inhabitants who had left the historic quarter. In the woman's gallery of the synagogue there is a permanent display of Judaica artefacts, ritual textiles and historical documents, which gives a glimpse into the history of the Jewish Community of Izmir. We will analyse and discuss a variety of ritual metal objects that are in use by the community or are stored and safe-kept in the synagogue. They originate from different Izmir synagogues, some of which are nowadays laying in ruins. Using these examples, we will discover the characteristics of typical Izmir Judaica and Ottoman/Turkish silverware in general.
Location: Bet Israel Synagogue

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Continuation of Workshop II

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 **Museum Focus I: Istanbul**
Nisya Isman Allovi & Joanne Rosenthal

In January 2016, the Jewish Museum of Turkey in Istanbul reopened in a new location after a major redevelopment. In this session, Museum Director Nisya Allovi will speak with Joanne Rosenthal (Jewish

Museum London) about the concept behind the new core exhibition galleries, the considerations and challenges which this project involved - curatorially and practically - and the way the new museum has been received by the public. Time will be allocated for questions and discussions.

Location: Señora Synagogue

15:00 – 16:30 **Workshop III – Paper Manuscripts in the Señora Synagogue**
Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek & Christina Meri

The interior of the Señora Synagogue is decorated with several elaborated paper manuscripts, mainly Shiviti plaques that will be the focus of this workshop. These manuscripts are late examples of the wide spectrum of Oriental painted or printed Shiviti and Menorah plaques, as well as the old, strong and lasting artistic tradition of Turkish-Jewish papercuts and collages. Interestingly enough, they feature rich, multi-coloured compositions of a repertoire of symbols and motifs from Jewish and non-Jewish backgrounds, and various types of inscriptions, such as benedictions and names of angels the translation of which requires some in-depth knowledge of the biblical scriptures but also in the mystic tradition. The workshop will offer participants also a great opportunity to improve their skills in decoding Hebrew abbreviations.

Location: Señora Synagogue

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 – 18:00 Continuation of Workshop III

19:30 **Group Dinner**
on invitation by the Izmir Jewish Community

Programme

Saturday 22 April

OPTIONAL EXCURSION PROGRAMME

9:00 – 17:00

Excursion to Sardis

We shall leave Izmir for Sardis after a visit at the old Community House and the house of Shabbetai Tzvi, which are at the City center. The tour of Sardis will start after lunch in a nearby restaurant and will include the Synagogue, Roman Baths, Arasta and Gymnasium.

Sardis is located in Manisa province. It was under numerous foreign rulers until its incorporation into the Roman Empire in 133 BCE and then served as the administrative center of the Roman province of Lydia. Sardis was reconstructed after a catastrophic earthquake (17 AD) and it enjoyed a long period of prosperity under the Roman rule. It is believed to have gained its Jewish community in the 3rd century BCE, as that was when King Antiochus III (223–187 BCE) encouraged Jews from various countries, including Babylonia, to move to Sardis. With Alfred Pontremoli and Tilda Koenka.

Departure from the Izmir Palas Hotel at 9:00

Sunday 23 April

8:30

Departure from the Izmir Palas Hotel

9:00 – 10:30

Museum Focus II: The Izmir Project

The Izmir Project is an ambitious project that means planning a museum from scratch, a challenge which comprises questions of preserving cultural and built heritage. The project partners would like to discuss with participants conceptual and strategic questions.

Location: Señora Synagogue

10:30 – 12:30

Museum Focus III: Curatorial Challenges

Michaela Feurstein-Prasser & Eva Koppen

This session offers participants the possibility to get feedback on practical challenges that they encounter in their work as curators at Jewish museums or working with Jewish collections. We will work in smaller groups on selected curatorial topics. Afterwards the outcomes will be presented in a plenary session. This session aims at facilitating peer discussion with international colleagues who can draw on their own work experiences.

12:30 – 13:00

Coffee Break

13:00 – 14:00

Reflection & Discussion

Michaela Feurstein-Prasser & Eva Koppen

During this final session, we will look back at our experiences in Izmir and discuss our findings.

Information

General information

The Advanced Curatorial Education Programme is a joined programme initiative by the Association of European Jewish Museums and the Jewish Museum Berlin and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. The Izmir edition was created by programme director Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek, assisted by Dr Michaela Feurstein-Prasser, Eva Koppen and Christina Meri, in close collaboration with The Izmir Project.



Jewish Museum Berlin



THE IZMIR PROJECT
A Dialog And Cultural Journey

Addresses

Izmir Palas Hotel

Kültür Mahallesi
Vasıf Çınar Bulvarı no. 2
35210 Konak/İzmir

Señora Synagogue

927 Str. no. 77
Konak - İzmir

Bet Israel Synagogue

Turgut Reis Mahallesi
Mithatpaşa Cd no. 265
35280 Konak/İzmir

Izmir Museum of Commercial History

Atatürk Caddesi No. 126
Pasaport, İzmir

Restaurant La Cigale

Cumhuriyet Bulvarı (Avenue) 152
(across the Izmir Palas Hotel)