



# REVISIBILITY

*Datça Aphrodite Project*

A culture and art project by Elbruz Denge

Septembre '22-April '26

# Revisibility:

## DATÇA APHRODITE PROJECT

### A culture and art project by Elbruz Denge

#### Introduction:

The sculptor Elbruz Denge created the sculptures Knidos Lion (2006) and Knidos Demeter (2009) for Datça, which represents some of the important values of Knidos. The artist began to think about Aphrodite of Knidos, raising many questions about the concept of 'woman', which the artist questioned and sought answers to.

This gave rise to the idea that the poetry of Aphrodite of Knidos, and what she represents, cannot be expressed in a single marble sculpture... As a result, the idea of writing a film scenario was born, and the more intensively he immersed himself in this work, the more intense and detailed the script became.

Aphrodite is considered the goddess of beauty, love and sexuality. The combination of these terms with the concept of 'woman' in all its complexity triggered the desire to make the invisible visible.

"Is life possible without love? The answer is no!", "It is the 'woman' who represents love in perfection", "The essence of everything that exists is love". "It is the 'problem of man', not the problem of woman", "Were the people who painted on the cave walls men or women?" Many statements and questions should come on the agenda. The artist says now is the time to 'give birth'.

Following an intensive preparation phase, Elbruz and his team began to implement the project in September 2023.

Due to its financial burden, the project is planned in two phases. In the first phase, the artist will realise an exhibition of sculptures consisting of the Aphrodite of Knidos and the values belonging to the cult of Aphrodite. In the second phase, he will update the Aphrodite of Knidos as the Aphrodite of Datça. At the same time, he hopes to hand over his film script "Stone Words" to a producer or director. During this period, sub-projects are planned that aim to spread the effects of Revisibility.

#### Objectives:

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the visibility of invisible values, especially 'women', in Datça and Knidos. In line with this objective,

- to update the 'Aphrodite of Knidos' as 'Aphrodite of Datça' with her cult, mythology and symbols,
- to reveal the ancient way of life in Knidos and its reflection in the present day,
- to present the art of Knidos and its contemporary reflections in the context of Aphrodite and her cult as the focus of sculpture,
- to provide a basis for discussion of the concept of woman

is intended.

## **Principles:**

- Women's rights are human rights. Discriminatory wording and, in particular, the portrayal of women as "objects of sex and violence" are not tolerated.
- The human is not the center of nature, but a part of it and all project activities are designed to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

## **Target group:**

The project does not have a specific target audience. It is planned to spread universal messages through art. It is expected to have a social impact. These impacts are likely to be political, economic and social. Therefore, the primary target audience can be seen as the intellectual segment with topics such as archaeology, Greek mythology, fine arts, history; the political and social segment with topics such as human rights and women's rights; and the economic segment with topics such as tourism, accommodation, travel, tourist trips, tourist goods, art products, craft products, cosmetics, boating, yachting, fishing, etc.

The project's advertising and digital marketing campaign aims to reach 300,000 people. It is expected that at least 3000 people will participate in the project activities.

Due to the comprehensive aspects, many interests are addressed, so it is difficult to estimate how many people this project will reach.

## **Expectations:**

The following results are expected at the end of the project:

- The unveiling of the sculpture - Aphrodite of Datça
- The opening of the exhibition of "Aphrodite and her cult" with the accompanying sculptures
- Writing a script on the themes of Aphrodite, 'woman', Datça, sculpture and love and presenting it to a film director.
- Providing the financial and non-financial resources for the realisation of this project.
- A growing interest in Datça, Knidos, and the concept of 'woman'.

## **Activities:**

The activities of this project are summarized in 3 main groups:

### *I. Culture and Art Activities*

- \* Creation of the sculpture "Aphrodite of Datça" and its unveiling.
- \* The opening of the exhibition: 'Aphrodite and her cult', with the accompanying sculptures.
- \* Script of the movie "Taştan Sözcükler" (Words of Stone)

### *II. Promotional Activities*

- \* Broadcast various programmes and news through print, audiovisual and virtual media,
- \* Carry out various promotional activities through digital tools and press
- \* Organisation of promotional events:

- Lectures

(In December 2024, lectures on fine arts, literature and language, with a focus on women have been realised)

- Sub-projects:

- a. Symposia Dadia: (Three symposia were organised on the topics of Knidos, Aphrodite of Knidos and the cult of Aphrodite. In addition, individual interviews were conducted with the people of the peninsula in order to create a basis for the organisation of a possible public festival).
- b. The sub-projects entitled Chests, Wiki Marathon on Aphrodite and Aphrodite's Shadow are still in progress.

- Event incentives

Within the framework of project studies, small studies on documentaries, videos, promotional films, music, local gastronomy, women's work, etc. are encouraged, especially in project design, informing, motivating, showing ways to find resources, etc. So far, 5 people have been supported in this way.

During the project implementation process, various ideas for activities are developed with the people and organisations contacted. Efforts are made to implement these activities as far as possible.

- Opening events

- a. The opening event of the Revisibility project took place: The ubiquity of Aphrodite sculpture by artist Elbruz Denge was sent to SpaceX with the request to be taken to Mars as a reminder that love is everywhere.
  - b. The sculpture exhibition and unveiling events will be organised according to the project schedule.
- Various publications
- a. A book with the same title as Symposia Dadia has been published in Turkish, English and German.
  - b. In line with the same sub-project, publications such as catering recipes etc. are on the agenda.
  - c. Publications will continue with other sub-projects planned within the project.

### *III. Activities to generate financial resources*

\* Applications to national and international cultural and arts funds

"Sculpture Exhibition" has been planned and grants have been applied for. At the opening of the exhibition, the sculptures will be sold and the proceeds will be used to finance the construction of the Aphrodite of Knidos sculpture.

Promotional activities will be planned and applications will be made to various cultural and art funds. (The project, whose application to Symposia Dadia is currently being finalised, has received a grant from CulturCIVIC).

\* Sponsorship

Preparations are underway for sponsorship agreements as part of the project.

\* Negotiations with angel investors are ongoing.

### **Scheduling:**

Phase 1: The sculpture exhibition by September 2025

Phase 2: The Datça Aphrodite sculpture by April 2026.

The script of the film "Words of Stone" by December 2025.

## **Project team:**

*Artist Elbruz Denge (see Facebook @elbruzdenge, Instagram @atolye\_de\_n)*

Elbruz has been living in Datça for 30 years and realizes his works. He says: "Art is poetry! I can't write poetry with a pen, so I write it with marble".

In the "Revisibility: Datça Aphrodite" project, Elbruz is responsible for the creation of the sculpture 'Aphrodite of Datça', the sculptures for the exhibition 'Aphrodite and her Cult' and the script of the film 'Taştan Sözlür' (Words from Stones).

*Co-project coordinator Deniz Kirimsoy Denge, 0 506 273 59 13; [deniz.kirimsoy@gmail.com](mailto:deniz.kirimsoy@gmail.com)*

Deniz speaks Turkish, German, English and French. She has lived permanently in Datça since 2016. She is the curator of the virtual and real exhibitions of the works of her father, Necdet Kirimsoy (sculptor known as the Pebble Poet). Since 2018, she introduced the works of Elbruz Denge, her husband, to social media. She has about 25 years of experience in project creation and implementation.

Deniz is responsible for the establishment, implementation and completion of the "Revisibility: Datça Aphrodite" project in general. Her special responsibility lies in the area of the necessary research, announcements and promotional activities of the project.

*Co-project coordinator Umut Kucur; [umutkucur@gmail.com](mailto:umutkucur@gmail.com)*

Umut was born in Ankara in 1996, speaks Turkish and English, German level A1. He graduated in international relations in 2020. He has professional experience in digital marketing, public and private sector tenders and non-governmental social projects. In 2022, he developed a project in which he and his team established a digital art museum under the name "Hitite Art".

In the "Revisibility: Datça Aphrodite" project, Umut is responsible for the financial and non-financial resources and promotional activities. He is also responsible for the project in general.