

Faces & Places from Turkey, II

Photographs by A. Cemal Ekin
July 1-31, 2008

Mathewson Street United Methodist Church
Providence, RI



Istanbul Beneath My Wings 2003

Taken from the roof of a restaurant in Eminonu district in Istanbul, the photograph conveys the texture of Istanbul. The feeling is one of melancholy.



Magnets on the door of the Spice Market, Istanbul 1996

Tiny refrigerator magnets stuck on the massive door of the old Spice Bazaar in Istanbul.



Wisteria on Old House, Istanbul 1996

Taken in the Kuzguncuk district of Istanbul. This three-storey house was covered from head to toe with a massive wisteria.



Blue Door, Ayvalik c 1996

Taken in Ayvalik, a small town on the Aegean coast of Turkey.



Vendor's Children, Ayvalik 2005

Every Thursday the regional market opens in Ayvalik. These children had to come to the market with their parents were catching up on missing sleep. Their mother came and covered them moments after I took this photograph, totally unaware of my picture taking.



Minimalist Vendor, Ayvalik 2003

In the market place in Ayvalik all the stands are piled with vegetables and other merchandise. This old woman was selling a few bunches of scallions and other “weeds” as they are locally called.



Elusive Smile, Adana c 1981

This apprentice of an ironsmith stood there while I took his photographs. If you look carefully, you will see in a fleeting moment his underlying smile which will disappear as soon as you see it.



Old Olive Tree, 2 Ayvalik 2005

This olive tree was in the olive grove owned by Laleli Oil company. They conservatively estimated its age to be 800 years old. A magnificent olive tree.



Olive Tree By The Sea, Ayvalik 2007

Olive trees grow abundantly in and around Ayvalik, a small town on the Aegean coast of Turkey. This one was among the many growing right on the water's edge. This is the same tree in another photograph shown in full. Here, its column-like shape is emphasized.



Olive Tree By The Sea,2 , Ayvalik 2007

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Kozak Plateau, 6 2003

This is one of the photographs included in the limited edition folio with the same name in 2007. Stone Pine, aka Umbrella Pine grows in this rocky, stony environment which is almost hostile to other crops. The graceful shapes of the pine trees were beautiful. The image was processed to convey a feeling of an old engraving.



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Streets Of Safranbolu 2005

Safranbolu, a small town in the northern part of Turkey, is a time capsule, kept the way it was 300 years ago. It provides fine examples of Ottoman residential architecture and town planning. The streets are narrow and paved with cobblestones.



Man & His Horse, Adana 2003

As I photographed the house, this man and his horse went by my finder. The lock-step walk and the man carrying the sack make the photograph for me.



Old Man, Adana c 1981

This man was sitting outside Ulu Cami (Grand Mosque) in Adana when I photographed him. He looked at me and turned his head to the other side, not really understanding why I was photographing him.



Bench Sitters, Adana c 1981

These men were sitting on the bench as I walked by with my camera. They insisted that I took their photograph and took this pose, which remind me of the musical notes on staff.



Waiting, Aksehir 2003

Sometimes luck is on your side, or luck favors the prepared mind as Einstein said. As our train was pulling out of the station, I saw this couple sitting on the platform presumably waiting for their train. I turned around, grabbed my camera, looked out, and took this photograph. Moments later, they were in the distance.



Yes It's for Sale, Tire 2003

In the Tire (pronounce as Tee-reh) weekly market you can buy many different items. This woman was selling her rooster while holding it like a pet. I asked if it was for sale, she nodded; I asked "how much" she showed me "two" with her fingers. I asked a man standing next to her "can she talk?" He replied "oh, yes, if she wants to!"



Happy Girl of Ayvalik 2005

This little girl was playing with her father on the side of the narrow street. As she started to talk to another passer by, I took her photograph showing her happy face and attitude.



Merchants in Tire 2003

Tire (pronounce as Tee-reh) weekly market brings people from hundreds of nearby villages. These men were chatting around sacks of corns for sale to plant for the next season.



Rejects, Avanos 2003

Avanos is a small town in Cappadocia, on the banks of Kizil Irmak (Red River). The clay from the river is used to make many different kinds of clay and ceramic items. These were piled as rejects, junk yard urns.



Cappadocia, 1 2003

Cappadocia is like a fairyland. In fact, the hoodoos formed by erosion are called "fairy chimneys". This location is near Goreme.



Cappadocia, 2 2003

Cappadocia is like a fairyland. In fact, the hoodoos formed by erosion are called "fairy chimneys". The cave-like entrances you see are parts of dwellings that were in use until mid 1950s, naturally airconditioned. This location is Zelve.



Storm Over Cappadocia 2003

I took this photograph from the balcony of a house overlooking the valley. A storm was just lifting after a rainy day. This location is Ortahisar.



Chickens For Sale, Tire 2003

Tire (pronounce as Tee-reh) weekly market brings people from hundreds of nearby villages. The red coat that belonged to the seller carries multiple meanings in this context for me.



Our Daily Bread, Kinik 2003

Kinik is a town on the mountains between Ayvalik and Pergamon on the Aegean coast of Turkey. These brothers were helping their father and quite proud of that. The loaves of bread hanging over their head struck me as their daily bread is hanging over their head.



Sunrise Over Safranbolu 2005

Safranbolu is a time capsule, kept the way it was about 300 years ago. It provides fine examples of Ottoman architecture and town planning. Rising sun illuminated the side of the small building on the right and turned it to saffron color. A very fitting color as the town is named after what it grows, "saffron".



Dusk, Şirince 2003

Şirince is a small town, almost a village, near Ephesus. The houses are settled on the hillside forming a huge bowl. I took this photograph from the B&B where we were staying, overlooking the entire town. Its name roughly translates "cute-ish", and it is a charming place.



Side Street, Ayvalik 2005

Like many old small towns, Ayvalik has rather narrow side streets. Some, like this one, are accessible only on foot. The chair belonged to one of the residents who come out in the afternoon and sit around and socialize.



Cinci Han, Safranbolu 2005

Safranbolu is a time capsule, kept the way it was about 300 years ago. It provides fine examples of Ottoman architecture and town planning. This building is an old caravansarai, restored to very good condition. It is another fine example of early Ottoman architecture. It is now a hotel with a very nice courtyard in the middle.



Door To Nowhere, Tire 2003

I took this photograph where we had parked our car. The owner parked this donkey in a similar fashion next to a huge door that has practically nothing behind it.

All photographs in the exhibit are priced at \$300 framed and \$250 unframed, signed and numbered. Each framed photograph has the photo information that appears on these pages pasted on the back of it. If there is a photograph you would like to purchase and the copy on display has been sold (indicated by a red dot sticker on the frame), I will take orders at these prices during the exhibit. Please contact A. Cemal Ekin at cemal.ekin@cox.net to place an order.