

Dear artists friends,

This project “under construction” concerns the circulation of artworks within a country or internationally. After years of experience and problems lived at many different levels, we are developing a “legal document” that might ease very many issues.

It’s about setting an international document prototype that we are spreading to all our NC’s, all their artists and corresponding galleries, after we check and comment every point developed in this document.

We have called it here **EPİVERON** starting from Turkey, as I explain it here below.

The World Executive Committee has also studied this document that now, we have sent to all our NCs in the world. We are also waiting for their responses and comments before the very final touch.

## **EPİVERON: ART WORK’S CIRCULATION PASS**

**Epiveron** is the first letters in Turkish of the line “**Approval for the Exhibition/Market Offer of the Artwork**” (Eser Piyasaya **Veriliş Onayı**)

“**Epiveron**” is the **working title** of this document project. The final name can remain as such, because it sounds international and can be pronounced in different languages easily without belonging to any nationality.

**Epiveron** is a sort of **passport**, as **circulation pass** of the artwork. It is the document that will certify its security, whenever a work of art is changing its location within a country or internationally, for good or for a limited time only.

It is an enterprise that aims to give certainty, transparency and trustworthiness to the artwork with its clear defining since its first release to the market, avoiding doubts on whether the art work in question is a fake or has been stolen, making it clear about who is responsible of the artwork when it’s traveling and when will it be returned, making it also known whether the sales rights and the copyright of the work belong to different people or not.

**Thus we can also say that Epiveron is the full complementary to the Certificate of Authenticity, before and after the sale.**

**Epiveron** is not a binding legal obligation (yet) but, it’s a must. With this document which will make it possible to establish a control mechanism and a specific application over artworks that change hands without being traced and without any inspection, not just the artists and galleries, but also collectors and auction houses will have their share of responsibility.

**It aims to bring a common standard for all of us, in every country, every continent. Same format with the right adequate information, making everybody’s responsibilities clear. Since there are more and more international shows, it can only help the legal status of the artworks and artist’s rights. Legal CONSIGNMENT papers of all sorts will carry the same prototype everywhere where we can introduce this document to all artists, galleries and museums that can accept, one by one until hopefully it becomes widespread and later common practice.**

**With Epiveron, references to informations regarding an artwork will be same and will be ready to detect, to follow, any information that is lacking will be easily noticeable. Such a document launched by the AIAP/IAA will be taken seriously.**

As you know, many artists complain that many galleries do not return their artwork in due time, and thus some works even get lost in time, with galleries that change secretaries or directors. **So our goal is infiltrating all artsy agents (artists-galleries-art dealers-curators-museums-auction houses) so that documents will speak the same language all over the world.**

**Also, we aim to get the most possibly important point for that originality authentication: Which is the signature in the Epiveron of the undersigning artist of the artwork HIM/HERSELF, or a signature and authentication coming from his/her legal heir or representant, may the artist be dead or alive; which is of course better than just the simple declaration of the art dealer or “Mr. Anybody”. We cannot go further than that.**

On the other hand if most of the artists, galleries, collectors, dealers, auction houses, chose to use **Epiveron** continuously and refuse to buy, show or even borrow, artworks that do not have their **Epiveron**, signed by the responsables, then we will end up having a much more healthy and better functioning art world.

Of course, not every country has the same problems. Issues, difficulties and procedures are different in every state. But it can be a very good start to have the same type of document that exists between artists and galleries-art dealers-museums from all over the world.

With the introduction of this document in the art world:

-The number of people who fear having bought a fake artwork will decrease considerably.

- The number of people, who do try to sell stolen or fake artworks, will finally see in front of them, a much more seriously dissuasive prevention.

-The risk of having bought an artwork that might become a litigious subject of dispute, from the artist or another source will disappear.

- When the artwork will leave its "home" and travel for a show or an auction, its first offer price to the market as well as its insurance value, will be settled by the artist or the one responsible of the work meanwhile, and it will be known. Thus, the damage given to artists and galleries by some auction houses in some countries will stop. (The case of Turkey is a disaster in this regard, auction houses run by totally uneducated people are pushing down to shameful prices all contemporary works)

**ATTENTION:** Here is a very important responsibility for the collectors: "Please from now on always ask for the **Epiveron** of the artwork you are interested in, and in the near future, after the document is well spread never buy any artworks that do not have their **Epiveron** duly signed by the artist of the artwork or his legal representant.

An artwork offered to the market as a fake or stolen artwork, or at a price that has nothing to do with the real value of the work never deserves to be among the respectful artworks of a respectful collection.

It is only depending on you, whether **Epiveron** will be applied soon all over and become seen as the passport of the artwork. You must never buy an artwork that doesn't have this circulation pass. This is what we will first try to establish everywhere possible.

There is no difference between buying an artwork that doesn't have its **Epiveron** and buying works from the black market and or using workforce without social security.

**Epiveron** can only progress with your full participation by enforcing all your entourage and active existing art world agents to use this document with full belief and determination. As a first step, please spread all over to our artist friends, your galleries, curators or museum officials, this document by e-mail. Kindly ask them to use it. Thus world art will have a healthier and brighter future.

You can inform us, as soon as you can about potential problem that might be seen by you eyes only or in your country specifically!

Please keep us informed on all your ideas, share them with us.

We are aware of course that there is room for improvement in this project, and we remain open to your suggestions, your warnings and also every important detail you can remember to tell us.

Sincere regards,

**Bedri Baykam**

World President

IAA -Official partner of UNESCO