

It is a tremendous honor to receive your first International prize for the Ibero-American Awards of Patronage together with great philanthropists Felipe Jove and Darlene & Jorge Perez from her majesty in front of such distinguished guests.

While I am truly honored to receive this award today, I must do so on behalf of the SAHA community, formed by over a hundred patrons' individual and corporate support.

Although we owe our existence to our patrons, SAHA exists for artists and art.

Eduardo Galeano's quote "*I don't believe in charity, I believe in solidarity*" perfectly describes the model we wanted to create: one that avoids top-down patronage and instead focuses on egalitarian cooperation with respect and solidarity.

It is in this spirit of cooperation that we wanted to create an independent "field" (Saha) that helps integrate art from Turkey into an international artistic dialogue. We wanted to form a big family that collectively provides emotional and financial support for all eligible artists, rather than just financial support based on personal preferences.

Living in a country with a rich artistic tradition stretching back millennia, very much like yours, we believe that art that connects the roots of the past to the present and future is essential. We were not at ease with our artists' absence of means to participate in the cross-cultural dialogue of today's increasingly globalized art world. They were seldom invited to international exhibitions, not because they lacked merit but because they did not receive the necessary production support.

Furthermore, we believe that communicating through art is essential more than ever in today's world.

Through their lens, artists enable us to imagine other lives, narratives, and perspectives, nurturing and furthering our empathy and understanding. They help bridge the distance between people, ideologies, beliefs, and cultures with their imagination.



And most importantly, they become the voice of the silent and the silenced.

On a personal level, art has enriched my life and understanding of the world beyond measure, helping me situate myself in a broader human context. I firmly believe that it's my responsibility to give back, and today I'm delighted to be together with like-minded philanthropists like yourselves. We are privileged by having "La Suerte de Dar" (The Luck of Giving) Thank you for having us here today. It truly is an honor.