

### EXHIBITION

2 JULY > 13 NOVEMBER 2016

## ICÔNES TRÉSORS DE RÉFUGIÉS

On July 24th 1923, the Treaty of Lausanne was signed, ending the war between Greece and Turkey that began in 1919. It is considered to be the last peace treaty of WWI and has been judged by some to be the only guarantee of lasting peace between Greece and Turkey. For others, it was a violation of Human Rights.

The treaty imposed the exchange of civil populations and defined the terms of forced migration on both sides of the Aegean Sea. 1.3 million Ottoman Greeks and 400,000 Muslims living in Greece, of whatever nationality they are, were forced to leave their homes, leaving their belongings behind.

At the moment of their exile, many of the Greek men and women of Asia Minor left with their religious icons, or those from their churches. These precious, sacred, or protective objects established a link between an old and a new country, between an old and a new life.

Today, some icons in France act as a testament of a migration extending far beyond Greece's borders.

Each one tells a story.

The exhibition on display at the Musée d'histoire de Nantes, in partnership with the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens, offers a chance to discover the exceptional objects from the *Refugee Treasures* exhibition presented in 2009 in Athens, and a selection of items conserved in France that will be presented for the first time.

Tours for adults, events in the museum rooms, activities for children, and the programme for related events is available on: [www.chateaunantes.fr](http://www.chateaunantes.fr)



Réfugiés dans les rues d'Athènes photographiés par la Croix-Rouge américaine.1923 ©Library of Congress

## INSTALLATION

2 JULY > 13 NOVEMBER 2016

### **KALLIOPI LEMOS « PLEDGES » (PROMESSES)**

IN THE CASTLE COURTYARD

Echoing the  *Icônes*  exhibition, and as part of  *Le Voyage à Nantes* , the artist Kalliopi Lemos is presenting her work,  *Pledges* , which can be described as an allegory for a journey filled with hope and the memories of exiled populations.

For the past decade, the artist's installations have revolved around human dignity and suffering. Her anthropocentric projects explore human, psychological, and physical passage, migration, and forced resettlement, implying abuse, pain, hypocrisy and cruelty, as well as the quest for personal identity.

*Pledges*  features an authentic Turkish boat that was abandoned after transporting migrants to the Greek islands. It is covered in 10,000 "tamata," or handmade votive offerings that are left in Orthodox churches by migrants to overcome the challenges of an uncertain journey awaiting them.



[www.chateaunantes.fr](http://www.chateaunantes.fr)

Press contact: Jennifer Lambert

+33 2 72 65 30 13 / [jennifer.lambert@lvan.fr](mailto:jennifer.lambert@lvan.fr)