

Passage Istanbul, Türkiye

As part of the 20th anniversary of Contemporary Istanbul, Peruvian-American artist Grimanese Amorós has presented two new light installations, specially designed for The Peninsula Istanbul – *Passage*, and *Maritime*.

Taking inspiration from the Bosphorus Strait, which flows through Istanbul, *Passage* weaves and wraps itself around the building's historic clock tower. The building was once home to Çinili Han – a former passenger hall where travellers awaited transit, and the installation reinterprets this building through light. The space was deeply embedded in the rhythms of migration, serving as a site that regulated human flow. By reactivating this location through light,

Amorós hopes to highlight how built environments retain collective histories, even as their functions evolve. The work extends from the uppermost point of the building, the first terrace, where travellers once stood to wave goodbye or hello to loved ones. Walking through the lobby of The Peninsula echoes the physical and trajectories of those who passed through; the work speaks to the dualities of passage: inside and outside, departure and arrival, memory and presence. The installation is illuminated in red light, drawing from Türkiye's cultural and historical past.

Speaking of *Passage*, Amorós says: "Red is the pulse of Istanbul, from the Turkish

flag to the tiled interiors of mosques and the vibrant markets that continue to welcome newcomers. It speaks to the city's imperial legacy, revolutionary fervour, and contemporary dynamism. "In *Passage*, red becomes a visual carrier of remembrance, transformation, and continuity. It is a beacon for those who have moved through this place, and for the cultural heritage they carry with them. "*Passage* is a meditation on migration, and the preservation of cultural heritage that illuminates how cities absorb and reflect the countless crossings that shape them." www.grimaneseamoros.com

