**Review**

A dialogue of art, space and salt

**SALTWATER**, the Istanbul Biennial, launches its ambitious, far-flung program

By Jim Qulity

**SALTWATER** is a large, high-stakes, ground-breaking event that invites a group of international museums and artists to present their work in the context of a biennial held in Istanbul. The event is designed to reflect the city's unique cultural landscape, which is a blend of Eastern and Western influences. The Biennial seeks to challenge the traditional notion of a biennial as an exhibition of works of art, by placing it in the context of a broader cultural and social environment.

The Biennial's ambit is evidenced in the choice of venues, which range from historical structures to contemporary art spaces. The venues are chosen to reflect the city's rich cultural heritage and to provide a platform for artists from around the world to present their work. The Biennial also includes a series of workshops, lectures, and discussions, which aim to engage the public and encourage dialogue on issues of contemporary relevance.

The Biennial's focus on art, space, and salt is evident in the way the works are presented and the environment in which they are displayed. The use of salt in the exhibition space is a distinctive feature that adds a unique sensory dimension to the exhibition. The works on display are diverse, ranging from sculpture to installations, and they reflect the Biennial's commitment to presenting a broad spectrum of contemporary art.

The Biennial's ambition is also evident in the scale of the event, which includes a vast array of works from a diverse range of artists. The Biennial's scope is further extended by the participation of a large number of international museums and institutions, which come together to present their work in a single event. The Biennial's success lies in its ability to create a platform for the exchange of ideas and the promotion of cultural diversity.

**SALTWATER** is a significant event in the contemporary art world, and it is expected to have a lasting impact on the cultural landscape of Istanbul and beyond. The event is a testament to the city's commitment to cultural innovation and its ability to attract and engage a global audience.