



NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISE TURQUIE.

No 20

DECEMBER 2018

In this last edition of 2018, we wanted to touch on year-end traditions and particularly on that of decorating the trees. It was only after mid- 19th century that Christmas trees - known in Germany since the 1500s - slowly began to appear in Swiss households together in British and American households. Indeed, in Christianity, Germany is credited with starting the tradition of decorating the trees. The decorations of the time would mostly be apples, nuts and marzipan cookies. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther was the first to add lighted candles to a tree. In the US, for instance, it was the German settlers who introduced the tree tradition for Christmas, but it remained within their community and not spread until 1840s. Americans being very puritan until Queen Victoria made decorating a Christmas tree a popular event, had even enacted a law in 1649 prohibiting Christmas as well as trees and decorations. This was because trees were considered pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

Trees were pagan symbols indeed. Egyptians and Northern Europe would celebrate the solstice with evergreens or palm rushes. Turks, before accepting Islam and when they were still based in Central Asia, celebrated Nardugan (reborn of the sun). According to the belief of Turks, a big pine tree stood in the centre of the earth and was considered the tree of life. Even today, the image of this tree is often present in Turkic carpets and kilims. Its top reaches the palace of God Ulgen, god of the sky.

The night of December 22 is when the day is once again longer than the night and was considered by Turks as the victory of the day over the night. To thank God Ulgen for helping the day win against the night, Turks were bringing home a pine tree. At its bottom, they would put gifts for the god and on its branches, they would hang ribbons to represent their wishes for the New Year. Nardugan was a full day celebration, starting with the preparation of food, getting carefully dressed, visiting the elderly and at night getting together to eat, sing and play.

We wish you all a joyful festive season and a Happy 2019!

Editors

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com

DECEMBER AND JANUARY EVENTS

Association Events

Happy Hour – December 5 from 6pm

Carouge, Geneva

For the last Happy Hour of 2018, we expect many of you!

Fondue Night – January 16 at 7pm

Geneva

We heard that this year's fondue night will be in one of the top ten fondue restaurants of Switzerland! The menu will include dried meat, wine, dessert, tea and of course a very delicious fondue!

For all events kindly register at assosuisseturquie@gmail.com.

For future Association events : <http://www.chtr.ch/fr/prochaines-activit%C3%A9s.html>

Geneva Christmas Market – December 6-31

Parc des Bastions, Geneva

The organisers of the Zurich Christmas market took over to set-up Geneva's first market. In the magical atmosphere of the Parc des Bastions, there will be ice skating, a fondue chalet, all the gifts you need and many activities for children. For more details: <https://www.noelauxbastions.ch/>

The revealing of a commemorative plaque for Isaac Rousseau – December 7 at 11am

Nyon

Isaac Rousseau was Jean-Jacques Rousseau's father and originally from Geneva. He was the son of a clockmaker and he himself became one as well. He became one of the Genevan clockmakers who settled in the Ottoman Empire, where he was put in charge of regulating the pendulums in the Topkapı Palace; an important role, since these clocks regulated the exact time for prayers. He later settled in Nyon where he died. The plaque will be placed on the house where he lived jointly with the Consul General of Turkey in Geneva.

5th International Istanbul Silent Cinema Days – Until December 9

Akbank Sanat Merkezi, French Institute, Bomontiada and Kadıköy Cinema

Curated around the main theme of "technology", Cinema Days focuses on the birth of cinema as a technological innovation. There will be talks and panels on film restoration, preservation and digitisation.

Mariann Lewinsky from Switzerland, famous on her work with silent films, will be present on different panels.

Globalisation, Robotics and the Future of Work – February 20 at 12:30pm

Maison de la Paix, Geneva

Richard Baldwin, professor of international economics, will present and discuss the main points of his book to be published in January with the same title. He sees that the world will have to go through a disruptive upheaval before eventually benefiting from globalisation and robotics:

http://graduateinstitute.ch/events/_events/corporate/2018/globalisation-robotics-and-the-f

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lausanne Bizim Lozan on Sale

The much-praised book recently published by our Association is available for purchase at:

- Bookstore Letu in Geneva
- Shop Hotel Beau-Rivage Palace, Ouchy Lausanne
- Gallery Heritage in Geneva
- And also

on <https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=22298731039&searchurl=sortBy%3D0%26vci%3D601833>

We believe it will be a much-appreciated gift by your friends and family!

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Akil Konca's exhibition closed on 1st December at Heritage in Geneva

Konca is an architect from Istanbul Technical University but since 1963 he's been living in Lausanne and contributed to the major projects such as CHUV in Lausanne and WHO in Geneva. However, since 1980s he focused more on painting and particularly on watercolours.

Sophie Hunger's Concert Was On November 16 in Istanbul

Sophie Hunger is best known for the original score of the Oscar-nominated Swiss movie "My Life as a Zucchini". Presenting a variety of music, she uses a mix of English, French, German and her native Swiss German in her songwriting.

Doğu Demirkol was in Eaux-Vives

The famous Turkish stand-up comedian took the stage at Théâtre de l'Espérance for a night of laughter.

ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine

ISTANBUL

22nd Istanbul Theatre Festival

Various locations

November 17–December 4

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/22nd-istanbul-theatre-festival/>

Kundura Cinema: masterpiece film programme

Beykoz Kundura

November 17–December 30

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/kundura-cinema/>

Exhibitions:

Chaosmos: Emin Altan, photography

artSumer, Karakoy

Until December 15

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/chaosmos/>

Wall Paper Scissors

Group exhibition curated by Burcu Pek

Space Debris Art, Orjin Maslak

Until December 15

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/wall-paper-scissors/>

Resource Utopia

Photo and video installations

Elgiz Museum

Until December 22

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/resource-utopia/>

Picturing a Lost Empire

ANAMED Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Beyoğlu

Until December 31

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/picturing-a-lost-empire/>

Ottoman Arcadia: early photography

ANAMED, Beyoglu
Until January 6, 2019
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/ottoman-arcadia/>

Happy At Nowhere / Another World / States of Being
Three solo shows by Ekin Su Koç, Tuğçe Diri, and Tülay İçöz
Anna Laudel Contemporary, Karakoy
Until January 6, 2019
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/happy-at-nowhere-another-world-states-of-being/>

Human Nature: Anthony Cragg, sculpture
Istanbul Modern Temporary Space, Beyoğlu
Until January 20
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/human-nature/>

The Russian Avant-garde: Dreaming the Future Through Art and Design
Sakip Sabanci Museum, Emirgan
Until April 1, 2019
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-russian-avant-garde/>

Retrospective: Can Göknil
Bozlu Art Space, Sisli
Until April 23, 2019
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/retrospective1/>

Yıldız Moran: A Mountain Tale
Istanbul Modern
Until May 12, 2019
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/yldz-moran-a-mountain-tale/>

AROUND THE WORLD

The Curious Case of Çatalhöyük
The Brunei Gallery, London
Until December 15
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-curious-case-of-catalhoeyuek/>

A Nomad's Art: Kilims of Anatolia
GW George Washington Museum and Textile Museum, Washington DC
Until December 23
<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/a-nomads-art-kilims-of-anatolia/>

I am Ashurbanipal, King of the World, King of Assyria

British Museum, London

Until February 24, 2019

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/i-am-ashurbanipal/>

****CORNUCOPIA NEWS****

Stamboul Ghosts: A Stroll Through Bohemian Istanbul, by John Freely with photographs by Ara Güler

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