



## NEWSLETTER OF ASSOCIATION SUISE TURQUIE

No 17

JUNE 2018

Flowers were a major theme across the world during the past two months. In Japan, we had the famous cherry blossoms; in Turkey and Holland, the much celebrated tulip season; and in Turkey, along the shores of the Bosphorus, the flowering of the beloved *Erguvan* trees.

Although the word *Erguvan* is of Persian origin, this beautiful flower has become inextricably intertwined with the image of the Bosphorus in May. Not surprisingly, allusions to the *Erguvan* are numerous throughout Turkish poetry. One poet proclaims wistfully "I loved you when *Erguvans* were blossoming in Istanbul". Another writes, "I won't believe it's spring if I don't see you"

In Turkey, the *Erguvan* trees also serve as the symbol for the city of Bursa, where in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (during the reign of Yıldırım Beyazıt), a famous sufi scholar named Emir Sultan used to gather with his followers during the *Erguvan* blooming season. This led to an annual celebration and an *Erguvan* festival which continues even today. Hence, the *Erguvan* appears to be the only flower in the world which has its own dedicated festival for over six centuries. For more stories, you can follow the link <https://listelist.com/erguvan-agaci/>. (This is in Turkish, but there is always Google Translate!)

In other countries, we see very different imagery and symbolism concerning the *Erguvan* tree and flower. In the English speaking world, for example, the *Erguvan* is called the Judas Tree. According to this tradition, the *Erguvan* tree used to only bear white flowers, but after Judas Iscariot hung himself on an *Erguvan* tree (out of guilt after he betrayed the Christ to the Romans), the tree's flower suddenly turned dark pink in shame. (This colourful story is, unfortunately, an apocryphal myth. It does not appear in any of the Gospel accounts of Judas' death, and its association is most likely due to a mistranslation of the tree's French name *l'Arbre de Judée*, which actually refers to the geographical area of Judea and not to Judas himself.)

In any case, we highly recommend timing your next trip to Turkey to coincide with the *Erguvan* blooming season. Or, if you fancy a flower trip nearer to Geneva, we stonglly recommend "La Rambertia" Alpine Garden in Rochers de Naye which is at an altitude of 2000 metres. Named after the 19<sup>th</sup> century poet and writer from Montreux, Eugène Rambert, this delightful botanical garden has more than 1000 species of indigenous alpine plants and flowers ... but unfortunately not the *Erguvan*!

We wish you a lovely summer!

Editors

Please keep us posted on events and news that you would like to share at [editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com](mailto:editorsassosuisseturquie@gmail.com)

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## **JUNE AND JULY EVENTS**

### **Association Events**

Heads up for the Annual Association Ball – November 3  
Geneva

Please mark your calendars for our annual gathering to celebrate the foundation of the Republic of Turkey.

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

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Civil Society: Hope in the Syrian Disaster? – June 19 at 12pm  
Auditorium A2, Maison de la Paix, Geneva

The Syrian humanitarian crisis largely touched Turkey and partly Europe. This panel debate will focus on how the civil societies in the country can be instrumental in stabilizing the country, restoring basic services and engaging in peacebuilding. For more information and registration : [http://graduateinstitute.ch/events/\\_events/corporate/2018/civil-society-hope-in-the-syrian](http://graduateinstitute.ch/events/_events/corporate/2018/civil-society-hope-in-the-syrian)

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Fête de la Musique – June 22-24  
Geneva

As always, Geneva music festival will welcome hundreds of musicians in the fields of jazz, rock, soul and classical music. For the full program follow the link:  
<https://www.ville-ge.ch/fetedelamusique/>

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Musique en été: July 6 to August 22  
Geneva

If you thought Fête de la Musique was too short, don't! There will be more music in Geneva for the entire summer. For details and the full program follow the link:  
<https://www.ville-ge.ch/culture/musiques/>

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Bellerive Festival for Classical Music Lovers Only – July 9-16

Ferme de St-Maurice, Bellerive (7km from Geneva)

Founded in 1985, the festival has become regular since 1999. In the program there will be the grand composers as well as some folkloric and Argentinian tango themes.

For program and tickets: <http://www.bellerive-festival.ch/>

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Our member Murat Alder was elected to Grand Conseil following the elections of April 15  
He received 20'918 votes !! Congratulations!!

Turkish Presidential Elections Important Dates – June 15-19

If the first round doesn't result with a clear candidate, there will be a second round between June 30 and July 4.

Lausanne Bizim Lozan on Sale

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

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!

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## **RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Yıldız Moran's Photographic Exhibition was at Heritage

One of the pioneers of photography in Turkey, she was the first Turkish woman photographer to have had a formal education in the field. Born in 1932, her first exhibition was in Cambridge, UK in 1953. She presented her work on April 10-14 at Heritage in Geneva.

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Kreulingen Turkish Folcloric Music Concert Took Place on May 21 in Renens

Organized by Turquia 1912 and the Turkish Association of Lausanne, the concert was for the celebration of May 19 Turkish National Festival of Youth.

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The Movie "Toprak" Won The Golden FIFOG Prize in Short Film Category at Geneva Oriental Film Festival

Onur Yağız's short movie was about a boy who lives in France and whose immigrant parents don't speak any French. The movie won many awards in many festivals including the Crossroads International Short Film Festival.

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**ARTS UPDATE sponsored by Cornucopia Magazine**

EVENTS AROUND TURKEY

Weaving History: Mystery of a City

An exhibition of Ankara's historic 'sof' fabric

Ankara Rahmi M. Koç Müzesi

Until September 16

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/weaving-history-mystery-of-a-city/>

Ai Weiwei in Mardin

Sakıp Sabancı Mardin Kent Müzesi, Mardin

Until July 29

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/ai-weiwei-in-mardin/>

Cappadox

Cappadocia

June 14 –June 19

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/cappadox-2018/>

32nd International Izmir Festival

Izmir

Until July 1

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/32nd-international-izmir-festival/>

ISTANBUL

46th Istanbul Music Festival

Various locations

Until June 12

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/46th-istanbul-music-festival/>

Note especially:

The Music Route (lectures and performances at various venues, Galata), June 10

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-music-route/>

The English Chamber Orchestra and Güher and Süher Pekinel, June 12

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-english-chamber-orchestra-and-guher-suher-pekinel/>

Istanbul Recitals: Joseph Moog  
The Seed, Emirgan  
June 12, 8pm

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/istanbul-recitals-joseph-moog/>

25th Istanbul Jazz Festival  
Istanbul  
June 26 –July 17

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/25th-istanbul-jazz-festival/>

9th Istanbul Opera Festival  
Archaeological Museums and Zorlu PSM  
Istanbul  
June 28 –July 7

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/9th-istanbul-opera-festival/>

Shaken Image  
Pera Museum, Tepebaşı  
June 6–August 26

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/shaken-image>

Istanbul's Seaside Leisure: Nostalgia from Sea Baths to Beaches  
Pera Museum, Tepebaşı  
Until August 26

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/istanbuls-seaside-leisure-nostalgia-from-sea-baths-to-beaches/>

Kütahya: The Sadberk Hanım Museum Kütahya Ceramics Collection  
Sadberk Hanım Museum, Büyükdere  
Until November 25

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

Picturing a Lost Empire  
ANAMED Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations, Beyoğlu  
Until December 31

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

Exhibitions ending this month:

Dramatization  
Zilberman Gallery and Project Space  
Until June 13

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

Avant-Garde and Apocalypse: Film and Photography  
Dirimart Dolapdere and Dirimart Nişantaşı  
Until June 13

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/avant-garde-and-apocalypse-film-and-photography/>

Avant-Garde and Apocalypse: Film and Photography

Dirimart Dolapdere and Dirimart Nişantaşı

Until June 13

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/avant-garde-and-apocalypse-film-and-photography/>

MEAT II

Orjin Maslak

Until June 15

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/meat-ii/>

Attn: Block Residents

x-ist, Nişantaşı

Until June 16

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/attn-block-residents/>

Still Life With A Curtain

Galerist, Tepebaşı

Until June 23

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/still-life-with-a-curtain/>

We Do Not Know This To Be So

Galeri Nev, Karakoy

Until June 23

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/we-do-not-know-this-to-be-so/>

The Sun Is Still There

artSümer, Karakoy

Until June 30

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/the-sun-is-still-there/>

Untitled - Poetics of Inner Space

Pi Artworks, Karakoy

Until June 30

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/untitled-poetics-of-inner-space/>

AROUND THE WORLD

Gardens of Delight

Afridi Gallery, Chelsea, London

June 7–July 7

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/gardens-of-delight/>

Late Ottoman New Media lecture

Khalili Lecture Theatre, London

June 13, 7pm

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/late-ottoman-new-media/>

Charmed Lives in Greece

British Museum, London

Until July 15

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/charmed-lives-in-greece/>

Binding the Clouds

GW George Washington Museum and Textile Museum, DC

Until July 9

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/binding-the-clouds/>

Beyond Beyond: a solo exhibition by Ai Kijima

ASU Art Museum, Phoenix AZ

June 23 – September 29

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/beyond-beyond/>

Istanbul: Two Worlds, One City

International Cultural Centre Krakow

Until September 2

<http://www.cornucopia.net/events/istanbul-two-worlds-one-city/>

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