

# BALKON SERIES

lectures, screenings & music, organized by STATIONS

## BALKON #5

Sunday, 3. April 2022, 3 pm

### **Zehra Music & Dağyeli Verlag on Nâzım Hikmet and Tülay German**

Poetry reading (TR, DE) with saz improvisation by Emrah Gökmen,  
and record release

Following the reissue of the self-titled debut by Tülay German & François Rabbath in 2021, ZEHRA presents the 2nd and final part of their Tülay German reissues: *Homage to Nâzım Hikmet* (1982). Once again in a duo setting with François Rabbath, Tülay German pays tribute to one of Turkey's greatest poets of the 20th century—Nâzım Hikmet (1902–1963).

Recorded in the early 80s these two albums refer heavily on Turkish poets and the tradition of aşiks (singer-poets and wandering bards) and consists of unique and modern interpretations of Turkish folk songs unmatched to this day.

Back in the 60s Tülay German (\*1935 in Istanbul, Turkey) shook the Turkish music landscape with several 7" records. Most notably her first 7" record *Burçak Tarlası* (1964) is now considered the cornerstone of what was to become the Anadolu Rock/Pop movement and underlines her rebellious nature and sense of justice. But due to increasing repression Tülay German and her lifelong partner and intellectual impetus Erdem Buri decided to leave Turkey a few years later.

In France Tülay German signs a major contract with Philips resulting in many 7" releases sung in French under her French moniker Toulai. In the long run Tülay German doesn't feel quite comfortable with this major deal, and thus, despite the success and recognition she had gained, she decides to quit the contract. Later on she signs to independent world-music label Arion to pursue her actual artistic goals more in line with her origin and temperament. Back to her mother tongue, Tülay German records above mentioned albums for Arion under full artistic freedom, the only full-lengths in her 20+ years career.

Alongside with double-bass virtuoso and turkophil François Rabbath (\*1931 in Aleppo, Syria) the albums consist of aşık traditionals and intonated poems

mainly by Nâzım Hikmet. Her passionate voice and the restrained arrangements of François Rabbath turn these centuries old melodies and poems into glowing manifestos for love and justice. The fruitful collaboration of these artists-in-exile adds significantly to the rich heritage of Turkish folk music. Tülay German ended her musical career in 1987. In 2021 Tülay German was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, Turkey.

Nâzım Hikmet is considered as one of Turkey's greatest poets of the 20th century, though during his lifetime his works were banned in Turkey for decades, and he spent most of his life in prison or in exile. Up to this day he is a huge reference for Turkish writers, musicians and intellectuals.

ZEHRA is a Berlin based record label, dedicated to sounds from North Africa, Middle East and Asia. It is founded and run by Serkan Şanlı and Thomas Herbst.

DAĞYELI is a publishing house in Berlin whose publishing programme mainly includes poetry and prose from Turkey, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

EMRAH GÖKMEN (\*1988, Dersim, Turkey) is a musician and visual artist. He shapes his works by adding his own individual interpretations to Anatolian folk music. Gökmen's first single, *O Yar Gelir*, will be released on Gloss Music in April 2022.

Tülay German & François Rabbath: Homage to Nâzım Hikmet

Tülay German: voice

François Rabbath: saz & double bass

Recorded in Paris, 1981 by Gilles Roussel

Arrangements by François Rabbath

Remastered for vinyl by Helmut Erler at D&M

Lacquer cut by Ruy Mariné at D&M

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