

DEPOSITUM

An Installation Project by Gülsün Karamustafa

Paper, Plastic

20 Pieces

Dimensions Variable

My father was a well-known journalist who worked for daily newspapers in Istanbul as a correspondent in his youth that covers the years from 1936-46.

When I was born the most precious birth present came from the founder of Hurriyet newspaper (the most established daily newspaper in Turkey) that was the full series of books in a beautiful trunk. The books were published by the Ministry of Culture that was established with the founding of the young Turkish Republic in 1923. By then there were many campaigns against illiteracy where the translation and publishing of the world classics and literature was a great contribution to this movement.

Within the list there were translations from Shakespeare, Greek Classics, Tolstoy, Gogol, Balzac, Goethe, Schiller Pirandello i.e. also Arab and Iranian classics like Omar Hayyam, Mevlana among others. They were in a way the selected highlights of the world classics specially prepared for the Turkish reader.

The other emphasis I should make about them is that they were mostly translated by the very prominent writers and poets of Turkish Literature as well as eminent translators. My first experience related to this generous present was reading and memorizing the Aesop Fables in rhyme through an excellent translation.

So the books given as a present to a newborn baby was such a precious thing.

In the 60s the state publishing house changed its policy. Those books never had a chance to be printed again.

Therefore I wish to wrap up those unique books from the shelves of my library as they have no longer a chance for survival in my country and show them on the shelves in the exhibition venue.

It would also be an homage to the founder of the once independent Hurriyet Newspaper that has been sold to a pro-government private company in March 2018.

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