

Biografie Biography

Zusammengestellt von / Compiled by
Emily Finkelstein

Anmerkung der Autorin:

Semiha Berksoy war eine Künstlerin in jeglicher Hinsicht. Von ihren frühen Jahren im Istanbul Stadtteil Çengelköy bis zu ihrem späteren Leben auf der Weltbühne machte sie mit ihrer beeindruckenden Singstimme, ihrem Talent als Zeichnerin und Malerin sowie ihrem Können als Schauspielerin und Geschichtenerzählerin auf sich aufmerksam. Ihr Leben – so facettenreich und lebhaft wie die Opernheldinnen, die sie auf der Bühne verkörperte – war selbst ein Kunstwerk: ein komplexes Geflecht aus Drama, Farbe und Emotionen. Ob durch ihre eigenen Worte und Gesten vermittelt, wie in Kutluğ Atamans bahnbrechendem Film *semiha b. unplugged* (1997), oder durch Archivmaterial und Familieninterviews rekonstruiert, wie in Dikmen Gürüns akribisch recherchierter Biografie *Ateş Kuşu* [Firebird] (2009) – Berksoys Lebensgeschichte verwischte oft die Grenzen zwischen Schauspielerin und Figur, Malerin und Motiv, Realität und Fiktion.

Diese Chronik von Semiha Berksoys künstlerischer Reise bietet die größten Konturen eines Lebens, das im größten Maßstab gelebt wurde. Aber selbst die Skizzierung dieser blanken Fakten verweist auf ein Leben in Farbe.

Author's note:

Semiha Berksoy was an artist in the fullest, most expansive sense of the word. From her early years spent in the Çengelköy neighborhood of Istanbul until her later life on the global stage, she drew attention for her commanding singing voice, talent as a drawer and painter, and prowess as an actress and storyteller. Her life, as richly textured and vivid as the operatic heroines she embodied on stage, was itself a work of art—an intricate tapestry of drama, color, and emotion. Whether conveyed through her own words and gestures, as in Kutluğ Ataman's seminal film *semiha b. unplugged* (1997), or reconstructed through archival materials and family interviews, as in Dikmen Gürün's meticulously researched biography *Ateş Kuşu* [Firebird] (2009), Berksoy's life story often blurred the lines between actress and character, painter and subject, reality and fiction.

This chronicle of Semiha Berksoy's artistic journey offers the barest contours of a life lived on the grandest scale. But these facts alone trace an outline—they begin to hint at the life lived in technicolor.

Semiha Berksoy

Geboren / Born in Istanbul, TR, 1910
Gestorben / Died in Istanbul, TR, 2004

Ausbildung / Education

1936 – 1939
Gesang und Oper / Singing and opera, Hochschule für Musik, Berlin, DE

1929
Malerei / Painting, İstanbul Devlet Güzel Sanatlar Akademisi (heute / today Mimar Sinan Üniversitesi), Istanbul, TR

1928
Gesang / Singing, İstanbul Üniversitesi Devlet Konservatuvarı, Istanbul, TR

Auszeichnungen / Awards

1998
Devlet Sanatçısı (Staatskünstlerin / State Artist), Ehrentitel verliehen durch die türkische Regierung / honorary title awarded by the Turkish government

1984
Atatürk Opernpreis / Opera Award, verliehen von der Großen Nationalversammlung der Türkei als erste Opernsängerin im öffentlichen Sektor / awarded by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye as the First Female Opera Singer in the public sector

Ausgewählte Einzelausstellungen / Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024
Semiha Berksoy. Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Berlin, DE; Katalog / catalog

2019
Portraits. Galerist, Istanbul, TR

2017
Semiha Berksoy, with Love. O'Art, Istanbul, TR

2014
Wall of Hallucination. Galerist, Istanbul, TR

2010
I Lived on Art, I Lived on Love. Yapı Kredi Kazım Taşkent Gallery, Istanbul, TR; Katalog / catalog

2003
Semiha Berksoy – Retrospective. İş Sanat Kibele Sanat Gallery, Istanbul, TR
Viyana. Tanzquartier, Wien / Vienna, AT

1992
Semiha Berksoy. Cemal Reşit Rey Konser Salonu, Istanbul, TR

1982
Semiha Berksoy. Atatürk Kültür Merkezi, Istanbul, TR

1974
Semiha Berksoy. Resim ve Heykel Müzesi, Ankara, TR

268	Biografie
1972	Semiha Berksoy. Türkische Botschaft / Turkish Embassy, Paris, FR
1969	Semiha Berksoy. Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, DE

Ausgewählte Gruppenausstellungen / Selected Group Exhibitions

2024	Foreigners Everywhere. La Biennale di Venezia, Venedig / Venice, IT; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2023	In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination Rises. Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, AE (weitere Station / traveled to: Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg, DE) <p>Floating Islands. İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i></p>
2022	Manifesto of Fragility. Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, FR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2021	I – You – They: A Century of Artist Women. Meşher, İstanbul, TR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i> <p>Haunted by Faces, Portraits from Evliyagil Museum Collection. Müze Evliyagil, Ankara, TR</p> <p>Unsettled Objects. Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, AE</p> <p>Show Me Color. Kasa Gallery, İstanbul, TR</p> <p>Carnavalesca. Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg, DE</p>
2020	Artists Search for a Precedent. Akbank Art Centre, İstanbul, TR <p>Crystal Chateau. Müze Evliyagil, Ankara, TR</p>
2019	Cybele's Memory. İş Sanat Kibele Art Gallery, İstanbul, TR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i> <p>La Lune du Voyage Réel aux Voyages Imaginaires. Grand Palais, Paris, FR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i></p> <p>Leaving the Echo Chamber. Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, AE; <i>Handbuch / guidebook</i></p> <p>Fugue. Müze Evliyagil, Ankara, TR</p>
2017	Pulsanti Aperature: A Selection from Ömer Koç Collection. Abdülmecid Efendi Mansion, İstanbul, TR
2015	Artists in Their Time. İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2014	Plurivocality. İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>

2013	Past and Future. İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2012	Shangai Biennale, Shangai, CN; <i>Katalog / catalog</i> <p>Dream and Reality. İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR</p>
2009	İstanbul Next Wave. Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, DE; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2007	Gender Battle. Contemporary Art Center of Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, ES
2006	Venice – İstanbul. İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR
2005	Always a Little Further. La Biennale di Venezia, Venedig / Venice, IT; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2003	Blut und Honig. Sammlung Essl, Wien / Vienna, AT; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
2000	Zeitwenden – Rückblick und Ausblick. Kunstmuseum Bonn & Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, DE (weitere Station / traveled to: Künstlerhaus, Wien / Vienna, AT); <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
1998	Manifesta II. European Biennial of Contemporary Art, Luxemburg / Luxembourg, LU; <i>Katalog / catalog</i>
1997	İstanbul Biennial, İstanbul, TR <p>İskorpit: aktuelle Kunst aus İstanbul. Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, DE; <i>Ausstellungsbroschüre / exhibition brochure</i></p>
1995	Die Kunst. Hann. Münden, DE & New York City, NY, US
1961	Ankara Language History Geography. Resim ve Heykel Müzesi, Ankara, TR

Ausgewählte Opernrollen / Selected Operatic Roles

1961	Die Knusperhexe / The Gingerbread Witch in: Hänsel und Gretel, Engelbert Humperdinck. Opera Sahnesi, Ankara, TR
1954	Anne in: Hänsel und Gretel, Engelbert Humperdinck. Opera Sahnesi, Ankara, TR

1952	Leonore in: Fidelio, Ludwig van Beethoven. Opera Sahnesi, Ankara, TR
1951	Marta in: Tiefland, Eugen d'Albert. Opera Sahnesi, Ankara, TR
1950	Samtuzza in: Cavalleria rusticana, Pietro Mascagni. Opera Sahnesi, Ankara, TR
1941	Tosca in: Tosca, Giacomo Puccini. Hacettepe Üniversitesi Ankara Devlet Konservatuvarı, Ankara, TR <p>Butterfly in: Madama Butterfly, Giacomo Puccini. Hacettepe Üniversitesi Ankara Devlet Konservatuvarı, Ankara, TR</p>
1939	Ariadne (Singstimme / singing voice) in: Ariadne auf Naxos, Richard Strauss. Hochschule für Musik, Berlin, DE
1934	Ayşim in: Özsoy, Ahmet Adnan Saygun. Ankara Halkevi, Ankara, TR

Filmografie / Filmography

1997	kutluğ ataman's semiha b. unplugged, Kutluğ Ataman
1994	Karanlık Sular, Kutluğ Ataman
1991	Ateş Üstünde Yürümek, Yavuz Özkan
1964	Das siebente Opfer, Franz Josef Gottlieb
1956	Büyük Sir, Talat Artemel
1933	Söz Bir Allah Bir, Muhsin Ertuğrul
1931	İstanbul Sokakları'nda, Muhsin Ertuğrul & İhsan İpekçi

Theaterstücke / Theater Plays

2001	Bu Bir Rüyadır, Nazım Hikmet. İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR
1999	The Days Before: death, destruction and detroit III, Robert Wilson. Lincoln Center, New York City, NY, US

1966	Keşanlı Ali Destanı, Haldun Taner. Gülriz Sururi-Engin Cezzar Tiyatrosu, İstanbul, TR
1965	İstanbul Efendisi, Musahipzade Celal. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Yatık Emine, Refik Halit Karay & Nazım Kurşunlu. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1964	Ett drömspel, August Strindberg. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Dumanlıda Telaki Var. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1962	Çalıkuşu, Reşat Nuri Güntekin. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR
1961	Göç, Cevat Fehmi Başkut. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Macun Hokkası, Musahipzade Celal. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p> <p>Lütfen Dokunmayın, Haldun Taner. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1960	Kanaviçe, Turgut Özakman. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Büyük Jüstinyen, Refik Erduran. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1959	Karayar Köprüsü, Refik Erduran. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Felsefe Doktoru, Branislav Nušić. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1958	Tablodaki Adam, Cevat Fehmi Başkut. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>The Crucible, Arthur Miller. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1957	Dişardakiler, Haldun Taner. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR
1956	Korku, Orhan Asena. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Bu Gece Başka Gece, Reşat Nuri Güntekin. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR</p>
1955	Dünkü Çocuk, Garson Kanin. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR

Theaterstücke / Theater Plays

1954	Yaşlı Aile, Branislav Nušić. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR <p>Lovely Ladies, Kind Gentlemen, John Parick. Devlet Tiyatrosu Ankara, TR</p>
1953	Lady Frederick, W. Somerset Maugham. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR
1952	Elektra, Sophocles. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR

1951

The Heiress, Ruth & Augustus Goetz. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR

Köşebaşı, Ahmet Kutsi Tecer. Devlet Tiyatrosu, Ankara, TR

1934

Vor Sonnenaufgang, Gerhart Hauptmann. İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR

Peer Gynt, Henrik Ibsen. İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR

Lüküs Hayat, Cemal & Ekrem Reşit Rey. İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR

1932

Kafatası, Nazım Hikmet. İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR

Kabale und Liebe, Friedrich Schiller. İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR

Yalova Türküsü, İsmail Galip (Arcan). İstanbul Şehir Tiyatroları, İstanbul, TR

Ausgewählte Bücher / Selected Books

Derya Yücel (Hg. / ed.), *Semiha Berksoy: Catalogue Raisonné*, Berlin: Revolver Publishing, 2017.

Semiha Berksoy, *Ben Yaşadım Aşk ve Sanatla*, İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları, 2010.

Dikmen Gürün, *Ateş Kuşu: Semiha Berksoy*, Ankara: T.C. Kültür ve Turizm Bakanlığı, 2009.

Semiha Berksoy & Nazım Hikmet, *Nazım Hikmet ve "Tosca" sı Semiha Berksoy*, İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları, 2008.

Semiha Berksoy & Fikret Mualla, *İki Aykırının Mektupları: Fikret Mualla – Semiha Berksoy*, Esenler: Boyut Yayınları, 2006.

Özel Dizi, *Semiha Berksoy*, İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası, 2003.

Sammlungen / Collections

İstanbul Modern, İstanbul, TR

Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, DE

Resim ve Heykel Müzesi, İstanbul, TR

Vehbi Koç Vakfı, İstanbul TR

