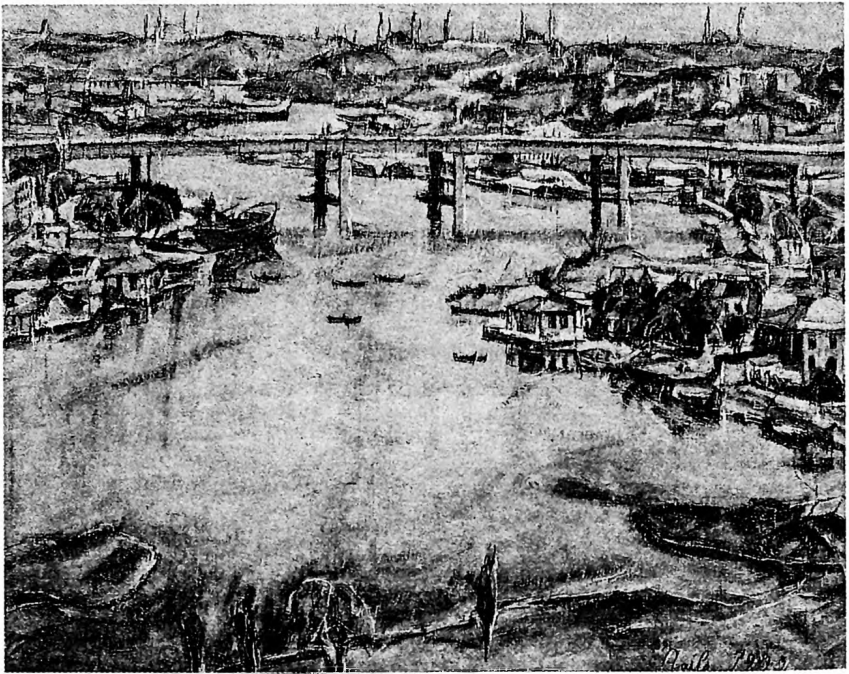

THE TRAMWAY STOP

Fatih was in those days the most exclusive part of Istanbul. Neither the religious fanatics nor the scoundrels and hustlers had yet ruined that lovely place. Fatih was one of the areas where the real Istanbulers lived, named after the conqueror of the city. After Fatih took Istanbul he even built the mosque that would carry his name in that district. There used to be a magnificent boulevard in Fatih which we would call Centre Street. For postal purposes it was Fevzipasha Boulevard - a wonderful boulevard with tram lines running up both sides and trees stretching skywards along the centre lane. And then there came the day when the population of Istanbul grew and the road no longer sufficed and the trees running up the center were chopped down. Construction began in order to widen the road. Of course, the tramway stops were removed. The tramway authority put up portable temporary stops. We the youth of Hirkaişerif would remove the portable stops in the middle of the night and place them near where we lived and the trams would stop close to our homes. When all of this came to light some time later, an article appeared in "Akşam" newspaper: "The tram stops in Fatih have been moved by certain unknown persons" We were those unknown persons. A few friends and myself... And now I'm confessing all of this. Because the stop moved closer to our house and we didn't have to walk all the way down to the regular tram stop.

I chuckle when I think about this...

Müjdat Gezen, one of the prominent actors and comedians of the Turkish theatre.



View from Haliç, 1977, 57x73 cm., oil on canvas, Cengiz Akıncı Collection.