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Not Every Day is Spring

Haig Aivazian

2016, color, 46 min., Turkish, Arabic, Armenian. **Production companies** Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (Beirut, Lebanon), Montreal Biennial 2016 (Montréal, Canada). **Written and directed by** Haig Aivazian. **Director of photography** Aytek Erdem. **Sound** Mert Aksuna. **Sound design** Victor Bresse. **Editor** Katrin Ebersohn. **Production manager** Elif Temizkan. **With** Cengiz Sarikus, Sedat Oytun, Khaled Alseka, Jamal Shaber, Khaled Halabi, Firas Jawish, Erol Can, Nisan Calgiciyan, Murat Iclinalca, Jerry Hirimyan.

Haig Aivazian was born in 1980 in Beirut, Lebanon, where he lives as an artist and curator. He has written for art magazines and taught at the American University of Beirut and the Ashkal Alwan HomeWorks Program. His work has been shown internationally in museums, biennials, and festivals.

Films

2011: *Into Thin Air into the Ground* (31 min.). 2013: *How Great You Are O Son of the Desert!* (26 min.). 2015: *This Lightness I Have Lost it Forever* (35 min.). 2016: *Not Every Day is Spring*.

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Oud master Udi Hrant Kenkulian (1901-1978) lived most of his life performing and selling instruments in Istanbul. He traveled repeatedly to try to cure his blindness, and though he would never regain his eyesight, he would transmit his music to followers in places like Athens, Beirut, and New York. This success abroad would eventually land him on an Istanbul Radio segment dedicated to Turkish Art Music – a salon style music derived from Ottoman classics, but standardized to modern republican values.

As part of the state run Turkish Radio and Television Corporation, Istanbul Radio was established in 1927 as a tool to shape a cultured Turkish citizenry around a collective act of listening. In the process of building the radio station, the vast Pangaltı Armenian cemetery was destroyed, its marble tombstones dispersed and integrated into the city's architecture. The destruction also made room for the Hilton Hotel, Taksim Square, and Gezi Park, turning the area into the iconic center of the new metropolis. In 2013, when bulldozers began to demolish Gezi Park to build a shopping complex in its place, they exposed remnants of the Pangaltı tombstones, before being blocked by mass protests.