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PRESS RELEASE

> NEW PUBLICATION

Boyan Obretenov

ICH WILL NICHT / HE MCKAM

With drawings by Alexander Obretenov
Bilingual Bulgarian / German, German first edition
Translated from Bulgarian by Beatrice Leclercq
36 folded pages, Swiss brochure with metallic cardboard, 13 x 24 cm
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Over two years, the Sofia author and newspaper editor Boyan Obretenov wrote down what he does not want in his everyday life. This became an idiosyncratic poetic work with an inner, personal form – not a poem, not a litany, but a demand, a list-like literary positioning against a standardized life pressed into silent consent by social and political systems. The text was created in relation to an active, artistic life in Bulgaria full of resistance, of course, yet it touches its reader beyond that, because the author manages to say **I DON'T WANT** 200 times without limiting his narration to himself. The imperative not to want something is not a call to view the world in a negative way; here it turns into a confession, into an intention: full of lust and life, entertaining, enticing. We have made it into a slim, but very special book object.

Please send us a short message by post or to the email address info@dasfuenftetier.ch, and we will send you a review copy as soon as possible. We can also send the cover image file, a portrait of the author, and files of the drawings upon request.

Thank you very much for your attention,
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- **ICH WILL NICHT (I DON'T WANT)**

Не искам поетите да приличат на кучетата си.
 Не искам джуджетата да са героите на Снежанка.
 Не искам да гледам как умират чайки под горящия диск на
 созополския залез.
 Не искам дъждът да загуби тъгата си, снегът – радостта,
 нощта – опиянението, и утрото – ужаса.
 Не искам да намирам в полозите на надеждата си зърна от
 градушка.

(Publisher's postscript:)

Alexander Obretenov is one of those writers who are actually painters. No, the other way round – or completely different, actually poets, or poets in an ancient sense, no matter what their craft. You throw him a rose (a beer, of course) after a reading and say: "I want to have your book." But he has time and looks at matters from the beginning. To start at the beginning, where you got it from. He sends a text by Boyan Obretenov, his father. This had to come out first, to this day only to be read in Bulgarian, on the Internet. The poem, the litany immediately jumped in our face: "I don't want..." A strong beginning. And two hundred times on: "I don't want..." – and that in times when only an "I want..." will get you anywhere. Ich will nicht is an intention, too, one that goes through the mirror. Circling what you might want by excluding everything you don't want. Saying with a poetic "I don't want" what cannot be expressed poetically in an "I want". Yes, we wanted this book by Boyan Obretenov, accompanied by Alexander Obretenov's drawings, circumweaving the not-wanting in a manner as simple and splendid, mirroring, spider-like as the text does, which is neither prose nor verse, neither prayer (mirror prayer at best) nor poetry (yes, of course, mirror poetry). "I don't want" to write a book of poetry. That has succeeded!

- **Boyan Obretenov**



Boyan Obretenov, born 1946 in Sofia, was an editor of many newspapers and magazines, most recently the chief editor of the Sofia News. He founded the first independent newspaper in Bulgaria after the political upheavals of 1990. As a freelance writer and journalist, he has published numerous articles and books on Bulgaria's cultural history.

Alexander Obretenov, born 1967 in Sofia, is a fine artist and publishes poetry and prose. He currently lives in Lucerne.

This information is available in PDF format on www.dasfuenftetier.ch