“5 Person Bufet” is a multi-phase project that started out with a text Deniz Gul wrote to be performed by 5 people; now seeking its spatial counterparts at ARTER; and envisioned to be composed to in- corporate a musical performance later on. In the text, Deniz Gul has opened a linguistic memory to the voices and performances of 5 characters embodied in 5 pieces of furniture, using words that she could remember from media, from the streets and from her inner voice— words mostly deformed through the filter of memory. Liberated from sound and language to be re- constructed in the context of the exhibition, the project’s main body now is shaped by the furniture in- stalled in the exhibition space and the window glasses Gul frames the space with, thus rendering visible a feeling that was first expressed in language.

The furniture of the “5 Person Bufet” installation (Vitrine, Closet, Safe, Coffin and a Door turned into a room) is lined up in the exhibition space to welcome the audience, to create a new ‘outside’ with their own ‘inside’ for those stepping in through half open doors. As loud as the text is, the furniture is just as silent in turn.

These 5 pieces of furniture, which meet the audience facing the window (their backs to the viewer), create a new outside within the exhibition space with a layout recalling buildings lined up on a street. These pieces of furniture, which the artist intervened their interior with the help of some objects and material, yet made almost no changes on their appearance, rep- resent nothing but themselves at first glance. Through their linear arrangement they diverge from the set up we are accustomed to from our homes and they evoke rather the publicness of a street or square, confronting us as monument-objects. As Deniz Gül places the furniture as her own monument-objects at the centre of the installation, she opens up a space fostered by the tension between the outside and the inside and the transitivity be-tween them. For instance, the cut glass motifs inspired by glassware that are usually displayed in vitrines and applied to the windows serve to expand the ‘interior’ to the ‘outside’, the private to the public. Similarly, the shutter Gül transfers from the street into the exhibition space stands for an invasion from outside to the interior.

Deniz Gül employs a quite unusual table almost trying to create a platform of dialogue for her furniture. Inspired by the fountain pools in public domain, this large and round table enchants the en- tire space while the milk boiling at its centre thickens and spreads its scent all over the furniture as the day wears out.

As the furniture of “5 Person Bufet” leads the viewer into his/her own depths, they release what has been hidden in the personal and social memory. “5 Person Bufet” creates a unique space where the claustrophobia of introvert, small spaces and the agoraphobia of getting out, of overflowing oneself co-exist together.

Emre Baykal, Curator, ARTER, Istanbul, 2011