ARMENIAN
COLORS
78

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EDITIONS
EREBOUNI

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12 contemporary artists from Soviet Armenia

Hagop ANANIKIAN
Ardaches HOUNANIAN
Hagop HAGOPIAN
Garen SEMPADIAN
Henri ELIBEKIAN
Seyran KHATLAMADJIAN
Rudolph KHATCHADRIAN
Edward KHARAZIAN
Raffi ADALIAN
Robert ELIBEKIAN
Viguen TADEVOSSIAN
Varoujan VARTANIAN

AGBU GALLERY

October 6-15

628 Second Avenue

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

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Different cultures unveil different perceptions of light.

George **Yakoulov** (Yakoulian)

I love the primordial force, the passion for struggle, the searching qualities and the mature tenderness of the art of our Armenian people, who first unify sadness with beauty and thereby grasp the full reality of life.

Arshile GORKY (Vosdanig Adoyan)

Armenia, this tiny piece of earth subjected to horrible calamities, profaned a thousand times yet ever sanctified by blood and faith... All my life I have striven to depict on canvas this small piece of land.

Martiros SARIAN

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In one of the smallest republics of the Soviet Union and one of the oldest cradles of civilization, contemporary Armenian painting attains significant results.

The aim of this exhibition is to present 120 works by twelve artists of the new movement, which emerged in Armenia during the nineteen-sixties and gained amplitude in the seventies. These works presented for the first time in Paris and New York, were executed during the last decade in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

The selection was made with the help of the artists in an attempt to assemble their most characteristic works. However, this exhibit does not claim to cover all the avant-garde artists of Armenia, whose works, had they been incorporated, would hardly have shown any dissonance in quality.

Taken as a whole, these paintings coming from the Soviet Union seem to go beyond socialist realism in the strictest sense of the term, but they do not represent a refusal or an opposition. Contemporary Armenian art has developed naturally from a two thousand-year-old tradition. The artists remain spiritually linked to their ancient culture, primarily that of murals, medieval miniature painting (illuminated manuscripts), khachkars (carved stone crosses) and Armenian carpets. In recent years the influences of Yakoulov, Gorky and Sarian have accentuated this evolution. The eternal source of inspiration for all Armenian art, however, remains in the local colors: the sun; the multicolored tufa stones of pink, red, ochre... the blue sky, cloudless for more than three hundred days a year — set against the white majestic background of Mount Ararat.

In Soviet Arménia all artistic manifestation take place in broad daylight; there are no exhibitions in private apartments. The artists presented in this exhibit are members of the Union of Artists of Armenia which counts more than five hundred members for a population of three million. There is strong support by the local population and the number of collectors is increasing. The covers of literary magazines regularly print works by these artists.

This could well explain why Armenia was the first country in the world to establish a Children's Art Museum-Gallery and the only country in the Soviet Union that has a Museum of Modern Art.

Garig Basmadjian

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rudolph khatchadrian

Born in 1937 in Yerevan. Self-taught.
Received third prize at the Vienna International Art Competition (1959) and first prize at the Komitas Centennial Art Competition in Yerevan (1969).
Has participated in group exhibitions in Sofia, Berlin, Prague, Paris, Yerevan and Moscow.

"Sculpture reached its heights with Hellenism; Painting with the Rennaissance. Ours is the age for graphic art."
Hearing Rudolph Khatchadrian say this and seeing his gem-like drawings, one is tempted to believe him — the luminosity of light is drawn not with an ordinary pencil but with the rays of the sun.

Garig Basmadjian

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55	Arc en ciel Rainbow	Huile Oil	90 x 80

Rudolph KHATCHADRIAN

56	Bacchus Bacchus	Sepia Sepia	44 x 39
57	David David	Sepia Sepia	44 x 39
58	Portrait de femme Portrait of a woman	Crayon Pencil	23 x 22
59	Mariamtchik Mariamchik	Crayon Pencil	48 x 37
60	Poires Pears	Crayon Pencil	36 x 32
61	Femme au chapeau Woman in a hat	Crayon Pencil	28 x 24
62	Jeune fille à la tresse Girl with braided hair	Crayon Pencil	23 x 20
63	Femme arménienne Armenian woman	Sepia Sepia	63 x 44
64	Face au miroir Facing the mirror	Sanguine Sanguine	73 x 57
65	Nu Nude	Sepia Sepia	61 x 48
66	Dame au chapeau Lady in a hat	Crayon Pencil	16 x 13
67	Portrait Portrait	Crayon Pencil	18 x 18
68	Jeune fille au vase Girl and vase	Crayon Pencil	30 x 25
69	Fillette Little girl	Crayon Pencil	32 x 14

Edward KHARAZIAN

70	Les réfugiés Refugees	Huile Oil	100 x 90
71	Portrait de femme Portrait of a woman	Huile Oil	89 x 66
72	Jeune fille au livre Girl with a book	Huile Oil	100 x 68

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Rudolf Khachatryan (1937–2007)

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Рудольф Хачатрян (1937–2007)

Цифровой архив Рудольфа Хачатряна · rudolfart.com

Армянские цвета 78. 12 современных художников из Советской Армении

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