

As part of its mission to present the prominent tendencies of contemporary art in Armenia and to offer the best of Armenian culture to the world, the Cafesjian Center for the Arts is pleased to present the exhibition HAGOP HAGOPIAN: The Song of Earthen Colors. The paintings and sculptures included in the exhibition enable the viewer to gain a comprehensive insight into the limitless creativity of the artist.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all those, whose dedication and determined efforts made the opening of The Song of Earthen Colors exhibition at the Cafesjian Center for the Arts a reality on May 14, 2011.

We are grateful to Mr. Gerard L. Cafesjian, the founder of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts, whose vision and endless inspiration have become the guiding light for many people, both in Armenia and the Diaspora.

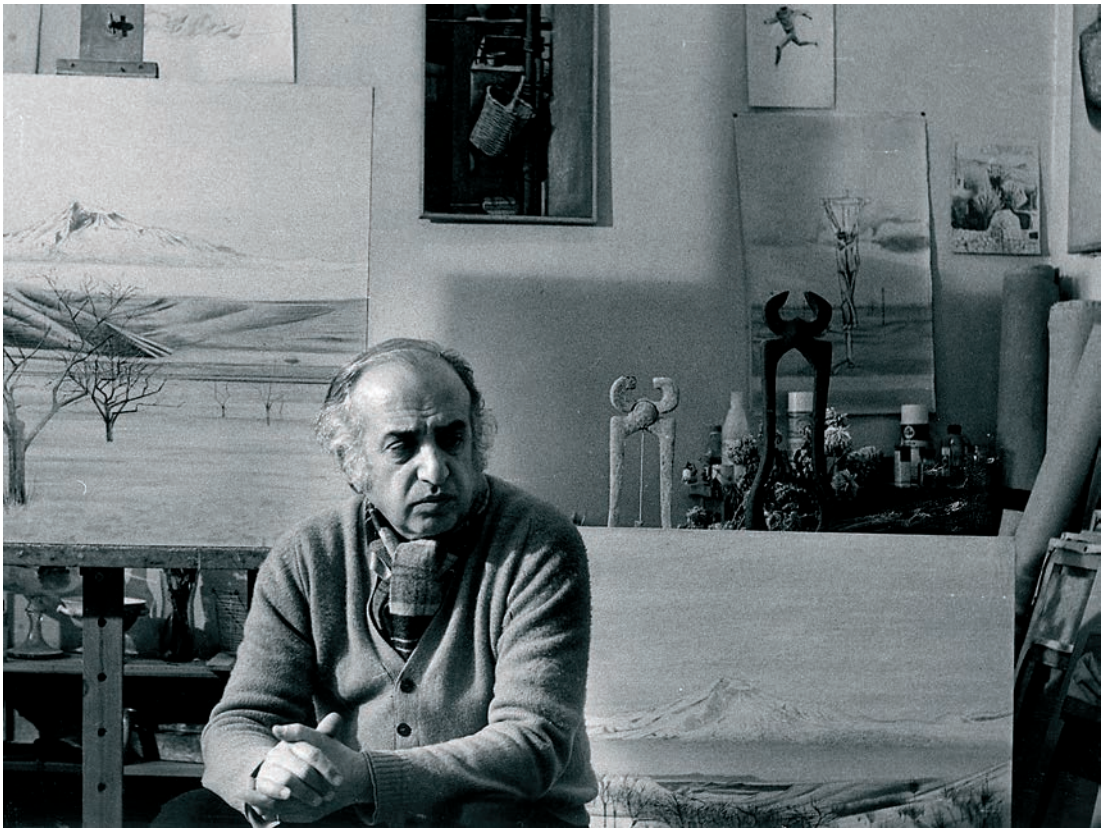
I would also like to thank the author of the catalogue text, art critic, and recipient of the Armenian title of Honored Art Worker, Shahan Khachatryan, for assisting with the exhibition.

At the same time, I extend my congratulations and sincere gratitude to the staff of the Cafesjian Center for the Arts for their dedication to the Cafesjian legacy, their efforts in organizing the exhibition and preparing the catalogue; Programming Director, Astghik Marabyan; PR and Marketing Director, Anna Simonyan; Museum Registrar and Head of the Exhibition Department, Yesayi Karamyan; Education Coordinator, Mane Mkrtchyan; Conservator and Installation Specialist, Davit Paradyan; Art Handlers and Preparators, Stepan Hayrapetyan and Igor Avagyan; Museum Carpenter, Aram Poghosyan; PR and Marketing Coordinator, Anna Karagulyan; Assistant to the Programming Director, Shushan Paremuzyan; Manager of the Special Events Auditorium, Hrach Grigoryan; Director of the Museum Store and Visitor Center, Kristine Gulkanyan; Acting Director of Services, Hakob Hakobyan; Network Administrator, Hovhannes Karapetyan; Office Manager, Inga Aselesyan; Assistant to the Director, Adis Abrahamyan; and the Security Manager, Arman Davtyan.

And last, but not least, I would like to thank Hagop Hagopian, whose work is presented in this exhibition. The Song of Earthen Colors exhibition is a tribute to the artist, who is about to celebrate his 88th birthday, an artist, whose legacy has an established place in the history of modern art.

Vahagn Marabyan
*Acting Executive Director,
Cafesjian Center for the Arts*

Artist's Statement

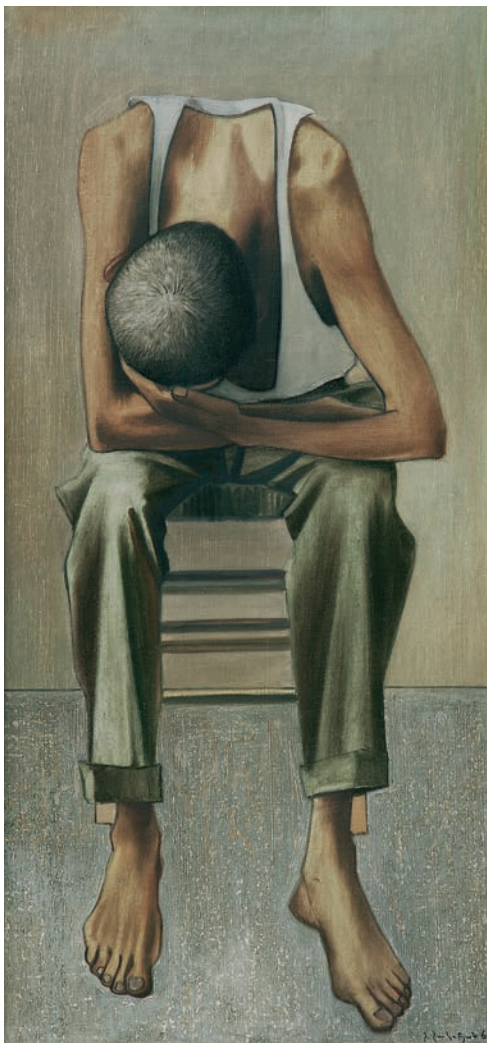


Hagop Hagopian in his studio, Yerevan, 1976
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE ARCHIVES OF HAGOP HAGOPIAN

A work of art is the reflection of an artist's soul. It can make people happy, it can also make them sad. Regardless of the feelings that a piece of art may evoke, it should be alive with emotion and in harmony with a zeitgeist. For a true artist, inspiration always comes from experience, his or her native land and its people. Artists may be quite different in their ideas and styles, but deep inside, at the very basic level, they are in tune with each other. The 20th century gave us a splendid constellation of such artists both in the Armenian Diaspora and the Armenian Motherland. Hagop Hagopian is one of the brightest stars in this constellation.

Born in Egypt and educated in Paris, Hagopian settled in Armenia at the age of 40. Of the first generation Armenians born after the Genocide, he came to Armenia as a mature artist with a distinctive style.

The feelings engendered by a fatherless youth, to whom the hardships of life were not unknown, guided his career and compelled him to create images of men thrown into the maelstrom of life: miserable, anguished and helpless in the face of destiny. This is how Armenia first saw Hagopian.



Sorrow

1961

Oil on canvas

114 x 53 cm

National Gallery of Armenia, Yerevan

...A man is sitting on a chair, his head against the palm of his hand (Sorrow, 1961). At first glance his head seems severed from the shoulders. It takes much contemplation to see that, indeed, thinking does not always help a man find a way out of distress.

Hagopian's profoundly poignant color schemes are the echo of the Genocide that still haunts the artist and other members of his generation, the sad song of a man deprived of a motherland. One painting by Hagopian, however, is permeated with a different emotion. The image of a man kneeling in the middle of a desert, with his palms tenderly folded around a fragile sprout (The Man and the Plant, 1962), is



Serenity
1970
Oil on canvas
141 x 93 cm
Artist's collection



The Group
1984
Oil on canvas
97 x 130 cm
Artist's collection



**Still Life
with Mannequin and Flowers**
2007
Oil on canvas
92 x 73 cm
Artist's collection



The Day
2007
Oil on canvas
92 x 60 cm
Artist's collection



Family
2008
Oil on canvas
100 x 81 cm
Artist's collection



Three Graces. Love Garden
2010
Oil on canvas
81 x 100 cm
Artist's collection



Conversation. Love Garden

2011

Oil on canvas

81 x 100 cm

Artist's collection



Ararat at Sunset

2011

Oil on canvas

98 x 130 cm

Artist's collection



Lovers
2008
Plaster cast
200 x 58 x 50 cm
Artist's collection



Dancer
2009
Steel
42 x 12 x 8 cm
Artist's collection



Young Woman
2009
Steel
34 x 10 x 8 cm
Artist's collection



Rider
2009
Steel
30 x 26 x 6 cm
Artist's collection