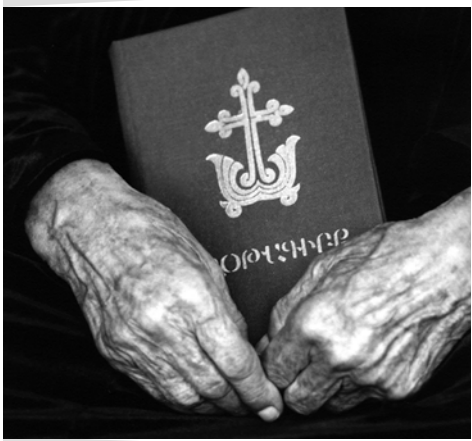


# Requiem for the Genocide



Lord Byron once said, "It is hard to find a record of a nation less marred with crimes than the history of the Armenian people whose virtues were peaceful and vices were the result of persecution." This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and Armenians in the homeland and the Diaspora are reliving the pain and suffering inflicted upon their ancestors almost a century ago.

When Hripsime Arzrumtsyan, Yerevan native and an art enthusiast, lost her sister to a recent tragedy, she embraced the idea of an art show dedicated to the memory of all victims of crime whether it is the massacre of 1.5 million of our forebears or the murder of a beloved sister.

At this very same time, artists in Los Angeles were creating artwork that in one form or another was tied to the

enduring legacy of the tragedy of the Armenian people. "The atrocities of genocide that are still occurring throughout the world are leaving a tremendous impact on the modern art world," states Sophia Gasparian, a Los Angeles based artist who had the original concept of organizing an art exhibit dedicated to the Genocide, fulfilling her long time dream of such an important project held in Yerevan. Thus was born "Requiem for the Genocide".

Henrik Igition, director of Museum of Modern Art, welcomed the idea of Diaspora artists showing their works in Yerevan and a scene of collaboration emerged. An organizing committee consisting of Henry Igition, Samuel Baghdassrian, Hripsime Arzrumtsyan and Zara Ayroumian from Armenia, and Sophia Gasparian and Joan Agajanian Quinn (Journalist and art collector) from the United States came into being to serve as project organizers.

The concept resonated within the artistic community resulting in

the participation of 22 artists in the proposed project. With their work they express their feelings and thoughts regarding the tragedy of the Genocide, sharing a common memory of the martyred nation and lost ancestral lands.



Participating artists in the exhibition that opened at the United Artists' Union Gallery in Yerevan on April 22 are: Srboohi Abajian, Anahid Arslanian, Ana Bagayan, Gregory Beylerian, Eileen Claveloux, Sophia Gasparian, Kaloust Guedel, Lucy Hagopian, Narine Isajanian, J. Natasha Kostan, Zareh Meguerditchian, Alina Mnatsakanian, Shannon O'Leigh, Ara Oshagan, Levon Parian, Robin Roy, Samuel Saghatelian, Cindy Suriyani and Seeroon Yeretsian from the United States; Archi Galentz and Silvina Der-Meguerditchian from Germany and Aiham Dib from Syria.

Artists Lucy Hagopian and Alina Mnatsakanian from Los Angeles, Anahid Arslanian from San Francisco, and Eileen Claveloux from Amherst, MA will be traveling to Yerevan to be present at the opening ceremony.



The artists will take part in a residency program created with Artists' Union Director Karen Aghamian. "We are uniting through the mind and soul of twenty two artists a whole community. Artists who breathe, dream, suffer, hope, live, and work in the Diaspora are condensed under one roof with a new vision: A vision not only about the past, but of solidarity with our motherland today, and a VISION OF HOPE for a better future," said Lucy Hagopian reflecting the thoughts of many participating artists.

"Requiem for the Genocide" curated by Henrik Igition and Samuel Baghdassrian opened at Artists' Union Galleries, 16 Abovyan Street, April 22, 2005. Some of the works of the exhibition will become part of the Modern Art Museum's permanent collection.