



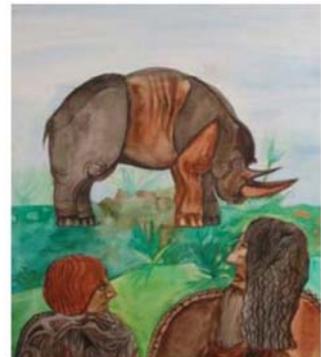
National Center of Aesthetics - Fine Arts and Decorative Applied Arts studio-college

The National Center of Aesthetics (“NCA”) - Fine Arts and Decorative Applied Arts studio-college is one of the important parts of the educational complex named the National Center of Aesthetics (initiated and headed for a long time by Henrik Igityan) and has existed for more than 30 years. Similar to other parts of the Center, the studio-college is devoted to providing an aesthetical education and art practice for children and teenagers (4-17 years of age). All of the 7 workshops of the studio give specialized lessons in various disciplines of art, such as ceramics, drawing, etching, sculpting, decorative applied arts, embroidery, carpet-weaving and so on. The active creative process is of great importance in these workshops, as well as the conceptions of the art supervisors and teachers, analyses of new ideas and realizations of different creative collaborative projects. Gradually these conceptions evolve into the realization of group exhibitions suggested by teachers of the studio or by invited guests. Works resulting from these projects are displayed in the Children’s Museum of Armenia, other exhibition halls of the city, or abroad (Russia, Austria, Japan, Germany, France, Ukraine, Lebanon, and so on). Numerous books have been printed about different occasions of participation in the exhibitions and projects.

Some documentation-photos from the projects of the studio-college realized by the initiative or supervision of Samvel Baghdasaryan.



From left to right: “Heroes of the European Fairy Tales” exhibition, mixed media, Ananyan Viktorian, 11y., 2007, “Davit of Sasun” joint project, in permanent collection of the Children’s Museum of Art, 2003, “A word game” drawing project for teenagers, paper, printing, 2006



From left to right: “Everyday life in Armenia: in the beginning of the 20th century” exhibition, mixed media, Grigoryan Hasmik, 14y., 2008, “The Shepherd” exhibition, ceramic, Manukyan Armine, 13y., 2008, “Armenian alphabet, letter “R”” project, drawing, Nersisyan Rafayel, 12y., 2007



Working process in the studio-college



From left to right: "Ecology" exhibition opening, 2006, "My Cosmos" project, meeting with the children-participants, by Samvel Baghdasarayn, 2009 "Heroes of the European Fairy Tales" exhibition, in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Commission of Armenia, 2007

The studio-college has realized different types of collaborations with the other institutions both locally and internationally. One of the long-term based collaborations is with World Vision Armenia in the sphere of creating and designing toys for the rehabilitation of children with special needs. As a result of this cooperation a design-laboratory was established in the Malatia-Sebastia Child Center in 2002. This is how the partnership between the NCA and World Vision Armenia began, aimed at designing development toys for children with special needs, as well as at promoting the integration of these toys into mainstream society. Annual organized events include; June 1st events, exhibitions, special classes, and experimentation of the toys designed by the young professionals who have graduated from Armenian Open University, Department of Fine Arts (the institution where graduates of the NCA's studio-college apply).

In 2005 the studio-college of NCA and World Vision Armenia suggested the Foerdern durch Spielmittel – Spielzeug fuer behinderte Kinder e.V. (Germany) conduct the 13th Workshop in Armenia, the first international symposium and exhibition "Toys for Rehabilitation of Children" in Yerevan. This was the first German-Armenian initiative in this sphere and additional financial support was provided by the Open Society Institute in Yerevan.



"June 1st" public art events for children, organized by NCA and WV Armenia, 2004, 2006



Toy prototypes and testing with the children with special needs

Armenian Open University, Department of Fine Arts

The Department of Fine Arts at the Armenian Open University was officially established in 1998 within the National Centre of Aesthetics, Fine Arts and Decorative Applied Arts studio-college. The Department of Fine Arts provides four years of professional education in visual arts, art history and theory, and cultural studies. During the last few years the Department has initiated different activities which involve students not only in the educational process, but also in an active dialogue and exchange of experiences and ideas concerning the most current developments in local, regional and international contemporary art situations.

The Department also invites acting artists, curators and theoreticians from the local contemporary art scene to carry out different workshops, lectures and master-classes, as well as to provide networking opportunities. In addition, collaboration with many international and regional institutions in the field of contemporary art and culture is always a priority. In fact, since the very beginning, the department has regularly hosted different international professionals, such as, artists, curators, and art critics, and provided them with professional support for their projects, as well as assisted in the organization of their presentations, lectures and workshops with students of the department (for example the educational project titled “Changes through Exchanges”).

Finally, there exists a tradition of welcoming free-students for short-term educational experiences.



Some documentation of students' works and projects



From left to right: “Trivial or not Trivial?” exhibition and workshop, lead by Kazakh artists, “Changes through Exchanges” project, 2006, Master-class by Samvel Baghdasaryan in the 2nd course, 2008, “Armenia from Sea to Sea” 5th International Biennale of Gyumri, 2006

Students, during their educational process, take part in local and international exhibitions, biennales, workshops, seminars, and art competitions. Some students, after graduation from Armenian Open University, work in the NCA's studio-college as art teachers and assist in the education of future generations. In this way there persists a constant circulation between these two important art institutions of Armenia.



From left to right: "Grotesque" series of drawings, awarded the first Armenian President's prize for young artists, Armine Hovhannisyan, 2007, "The City" etching, installation, awarded the first Armenian President's prize for young artists, Liana Khachatryan and Nana Manucharyanm 2008