

RESUME

SONIA BALASSANIAN

81 Murray Street, New York, N.Y. 10007, USA

Telephone: 212/732-3598

80 Hanrapetutiu Street, Apt. 21, Yerevan, Armenia

Telephone: +37410/56.17.99, Fax +37410/56.73.28

Updated May, 2009

Founder and Artistic Director of
ARMENIAN CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL ART
Yerevan, Republic of Armenia

EDUCATION

- 1978 M.F.A., Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1971-72 Independent Study Program, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
1970 B.F.A., Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

AWARDS

- 1971 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts: Drake Press Prize
1970 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts:
J. Henry Scheidt European Prize
Quaker Prize for Meritorious Achievement
Thouron Prize for Outstanding Composition

ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 Pavilion of Republic of Armenia, 52nd Venice Biennale, *"Who Is the Victim?"* a multi-screen video installation, Curator Nina Möntmann.
2006 ACCEA, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. *"Who Is the Victim?"* a multi-screen spatial mixed-media performance/installation, against brutality and trauma of war.
2005 Palazzo Zenobio, Venice, Italy. *"Sentenced to Death."* An exhibition of video art in conjunction with the Pavilion of the Republic of Armenia at 51st International Art Biennale of Venice.
2004 ACCEA, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. *"Brooding"* Exhibition of works on paper, video art and installations
1993 *"Shadows of My Sisters"*, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, N.C.
1992 *"The Other Side"*, The Sculpture Center, New York, N.Y.
1989 *"Sonia Balassanian: The Art of Brooding"*, Exit Art, New York, N.Y.
1982 *"Black, Black Days"*, Franklin Furnace Gallery, New York, N.Y.
1980 *"Hostages: A Diary"*, Elise Meyer Gallery, New York, N.Y.
1978 *"Graduation Project"*, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y.

CURATED and ORGANIZED EXHIBITIONS

- 2001-09 Armenian Pavilions at Venice Biennale, Organizer
2003 ACCEA, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. *"There Might Have Been an Insane Heart"* a multimedia performance event based on H. Toumanian *"Anoush"* poem.
2002 ACCEA, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. *"Brooding..."* a multimedia performance event organized on the occasion of 10th anniversary of founding of ACCEA.
2001 ACCEA, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. *"Shadows of Dust"*, a multimedia performance event organized at the park across the entrance of ACCEA.
XLIX Art Biennale of Venice, *"The Armenian Pavilion"*, Organizer.
2000 ACCEA, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. *"Collapse of Illusion"*, a multimedia performance event at public park, including 4 new video pieces by Sonia Balassanian.
1999 XLVIII Art Biennale of Venice, *"The Armenian Pavilion"*, Organizer.
1997 XLVII Art Biennale of Venice, *"The Armenian Pavilion"*, Curator.
1995 XLVI Art Biennale of Venice, *"The Armenian Pavilion"*, Commissioner and Curator
1992-Present: Several group exhibitions of painting, sculpture and installation per year by Armenian and international avant-garde artists, curated and participated in by Sonia Balassanian, in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York., *"East West Dialogues, Mysticism, Satire and the Legendary Past"*, curated by Layla Diba

- Palazzo Piozzo-Casa del Conte Verde, Rivoli, "*The Gates of Mediterranean*", curated by Martina Corgnati
- 2006 Leila Taghina-Milani Heller Gallery, New York, USA. "*The Contemporary Persian Scene: The American and European Experience*."
- 2001 Museum de Lakenhal, Holland. "*4 Artists of the Armenian Diaspora*".
- 2000 Stads Galerij Heerlen, Holland. "*Continental Shift*".
- 2000 Exit Art, New York, N.Y. "*The End: An Independent Vision of Contemporary Culture*".
- 1999 Artotel, Dresden, Germany. "*Nabel SCHAU*".
- 1998 Apex Art Gallery, New York, N.Y. "*Remembering Times Past*", Apex Art Curatorial Program.
- 1997 XLVII Art Biennale of Venice, Venice, Italy. "*The Armenian Pavilion*", one of five Armenian artists from Armenia and the Diaspora, representing Armenia.
- 1995 CARGO International Center of Visual Arts, Marseille, France. "*International Biennale of Group Art*". Bochum Museum, Bochum, Germany. "*Armenia: The Rediscovery of a Land of Ancient Culture*". An Exhibition of Armenian Art from Prehistoric Times to Present.
- 1993 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y. "*Readymade Identities*". Works of 6 Artists at the Project Room.
- 1991 Franklin Furnace Gallery, New York, N.Y. "*Burning In Hell*". A Collection of Artists' Book Projects Invited by Nancy Spero.
- 1990 Ceres Gallery, New York, N.Y. "*Memory/Reality*". An exhibition presented by NYFAI.
- 1989 Fine Arts Museum of Long Island, Hempstead, N.Y. "*On the Cutting Edge: 10 Curators Choose 30 Artists*".
- 1988 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, N.Y. "*Committed to Print*".
- 1986 Exit Art, New York, N.Y. "*Transculture/Transmedia*".
- 1985-86 "*The American Experience: Contemporary Immigrant Artists*".
 Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL.
 The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, PA.
 Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, Peoria, IL.
 An exhibition sponsored by Statue of Liberty Committee, and organized by the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and Independent Curators Incorporated.
- 1985 Marilyn Pink Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1984 Pyramid Arts Center, Rochester, N.Y. "*Introspectives*".
- 1983 New Castle Polytechnic Gallery, New Castle, U.K. "*New Work - New York: New Castle salutes New York*".
 Institute for Art and Urban Resources, P.S.1, Queens, N.Y. "*Seven Women/Image Impact*".
- 1982 Alternative Museum, New York, N.Y. "*Visual Politics*".
 Louois Abrons Arts for Living Center, New York, N.Y. "*Beyond Aesthetics: Art of Necessity by Artists of Conscience*".
 Just Above Midtown/Downtown Gallery, New York, N.Y. "*Decision by Arms?*".
- 1981 Freeman Gallery, Albright College, Reading, PA. "*Messages: Words and Images*".
- 1980 Artspace, Middlesex, N.J. "*Artists and Contemporary Issues*". Joseloff Gallery, University of Hartford, Hartford, CT. "*Rendering of the Modern Woman*".
- 1976 Basel International Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland.

PERFORMING ARTS

- 1992 Set Design for "*Law of Remains*". A performance created and designed by Reza Abdo, and presented by Dar A Luz, New York, N.Y.
- 1991 Set Design for "*The True Story of a Woman Born in Iran and Raised to Haven in Manhattan*". Written and Directed by Assurbanipal Babilla, and co-produced by Purgatorio Ink and One Dream, One Dream, New York, N.Y.
- 1989 Set Design for "*Eyeless Tears in a Universe of Ether*". A performance conceived, choreographed and directed by Linda Rappaport, Dia Art Foundation, New York.

ARTIST'S PUBLISHED WORKS

- 2006 Second edition of "*Sonia Balassanian: Portraits*", Yerevan, Armenia
- 2005 "*Two Books*", combined volume of 2 books of poems by Sonia Balassanian, originally published in 1982 and 1991. Yerevan, Armenia.
- 1991 "*To Present Dreams of Emotions to the Noisy Rain*", Selected Poems in the Armenian Language by Sonia Balassanian, New York, N.Y.
- 1983 "*Portraits*", New York, N.Y.
- 1982 "*There Might Have Been An Insane Heart*", Selected Poems in the Armenian Language by Sonia Balassanian. New York, N.Y.

CATALOGUES and BOOKS

- 2008 Martina Corgnati, "*Ports of Mediterranean*", SKIRA, Italy
- 2007 Nina Möntmann, "*Who Is the Victim?*" General catalogue of 52nd Venice Biennale and the Pavilion of Republic of Armenia.

- Rene Gabri, "*Trebisonda or Sonia Balassanian in the Time of Foxes*", Quodlibet, Macerata, Italy.
 1997 Thomas McEvelley, "*The Armenian Pavilion*", XLVII Art Biennale of Venice, Venice, Italy.
 1993 Fereshteh Daftari, "*Readymade Identities*". New York: Museum of Modern Art.
 1993 Susan Lubowsky and Jeff Fleming, "*Sonia Balassanian: Shadow of My Sisters*". Winston-Salem: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.
 1992 Geoffery Young, "*Sonia Balassanian: The Other Side*". New York: The Sculpture Center.
 1989 Donald Kuspit, "*Sonia Balassanian: The Art of Brooding*". New York: Exit Art.
 1988 Deborah Wye, "*Committed to Print*". New York: The Museum of Modern Art.
 1980 Robert Hobbs, "*Sonia Balassanian: Hostages, A Diary*". New York: Elise Meyer.

REVIEWS

- 2007 Chaké Matossian, "*52nd Venice Biennale*", Haratch Daily, Paris, France.
 Salar Abdoh, "*Vanishing Point*", Guernica Electronic Magazine
 Orsola Casagrande, "*Who Is the Victim?*", Il Manifesto, Rome, Italy.
 1994 Mona Hadler and Joan Marter, "*World War II: Reverberations*", Art Journal, Winter 1994.
 1992 Jude Schwendenwein, "*Sonia Balassanian*", New Art Examiner, June/Summer 1992.
 Elizabeth Hess, "*Dressed To Kill*", The Village Voice, March 24.
 1989 Eileen Myles, "*Sonia Balassanian at Exit Art*," Art in America, 77, No. 9 (September).
 1983 Mina Roustai, "*Sonia Balassanian*," Arts Magazine, (February).
 1981 Robert Hobbs, "*Museum Under Siege*," Art in America, (October).
 1980 Carrie Rickey, "*Sonia Balassanian's 'Hostages: A Diary'*," Artforum, (October).
 Mina Roustai, "*Sonia Balassanian*," Arts Magazine, (September).
 Kay Larson, "*Reports from the Front*," The Village Voice, 2 July.
 William Zimmer, "*Sonia Balassanian: Hostages, A Diary*," Soho News, 2 July.
 1978 William Zimmer, "*Drawing Words*," Soho News, 6-12 July.