



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US PREMIER OF ACCLAIMED ARMENIAN PAINTER AT CRAFT AND FOLK ART MUSEUM
April 30 – July 2, 2006

The Craft and Folk Art Museum is pleased to announce the U.S. premier exhibition of Armenia's venerated painter Hagop Hagopian. The exhibition "**Homeland: Visions of Armenia**", opens on April 30, 2006 in conjunction with *Armenian Genocide Commemoration Month* and runs until July 2, 2006.

This exhibition features an overview of Hagopian's works from both his early and later periods. Hagopian belongs to a generation of Armenians who, as an aftermath of the 1915 genocide, grew up and matured away from their homeland. Hagopian is an artist for whom personal responsibility, both as an artist and as an Armenian, has carried great weight and which has defined his approach to art-making. Hagopian's maturation as a painter consisted of much self-criticism and psychological reflection, and his paintings express a deep yearning for his estranged homeland.

A visitor of Hagopian's retrospective exhibition in Moscow in 1990 wrote, "this painter's art has absorbed the pain and the wisdom of all of Armenia." Born in 1923 in Alexandria, Egypt, Hagopian lived in Cyprus, Cairo and Paris before settling in his ethnic homeland of Armenia, at the age of 40, in 1962. By the time Hagopian settled in Soviet-Armenia, he was already an accomplished painter. His paintings are explicit in theme and subject matter, closely related to deeply felt personal experiences, executed with an extraordinary control and discipline of the medium.

Hagopian's images are mainly still-lives and landscapes. His signature unpopulated landscapes are designed to evoke and reflect an anguished mood, with ravages of decay, barks of gnarled trees, dried leaves and brush; an agonized landscape conveying a sense of loneliness and inner torment. Often the artist incorporates an occasional budding or blooming tree as a sign of awakening, rebirth, hope and struggle for survival. The detailed nature of his style is a vehicle for his hallucinatory imagery and his almost anecdotal explorations into psychological states. At 83,

Hagopian is still producing works with incredible technical precision, a variety of landscapes and metaphysical images combining the monumental and the ephemeral.

Hagop Hagopian's artworks can be found in some of the most prominent public and private art collections in Armenia, Russia, Europe and the United States. His artistic contributions have brought him various official recognitions including the honorary title of People's Artist of Armenia and the State Prize of Armenia.

This US premier museum exhibition opens on **Sunday April 30th** at the Craft and Folk Art Museum and runs through July 2, 2006. Shahen Khachaturian, retired director of the National Gallery of Armenia and author of several books about Armenian artists, will be in Los Angeles to introduce this historical exhibition. An **opening reception for members and VIPS will be held on Saturday April 29th** between 6:00pm – 9:00 pm and will feature a live musical performance.

This exhibition is partially funded by the **City Of Los Angeles** Department of Cultural Affairs.

About CAFAM:

The Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is a Los Angeles nonprofit cultural arts organization dedicated to the public presentation and preservation of folk arts and contemporary craft. Founded in 1965, originally as "The Egg and The Eye" by the late Edith Wyle, who passionately promoted traditional artisans and the virtue of handmade art the Museum opened in 1974. As a local Museum with global reach, CAFAM seeks to promote international goodwill and global understanding among its citizens. The Museum works to preserve and strengthen the folk culture of our community based on its believe that the quality of urban life is directly related to the vitality and diversity of viewpoints and traditions.

#

High and low-resolution digital images are available upon request.

Museum Information:

Craft and Folk Art Museum, 5814 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Information: 323-937-4230 / www.cafam.org

Museum Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 11 am – 5 pm
Thursday 11 am – 7 pm
Saturday and Sunday 12 – 6 pm

Museum Admission: General \$5.00 / Students and Seniors 3.00 / Members and Children under 12 Free / Free 1st Wednesday of month