

## *About Chant Avedissian*

Chant Avedissian was born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1951 and died in his hometown in October 2018.

Coming from Christian Armenian traditions due to his origins, but raised and educated inside the Egyptian culture and schools, he and his work had been always committed to the identity of nations, traditions and culture. His work for the Aga Khan Foundation with celebrated Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy (1900-1989), inspired him to develop a strong interest in traditional art and local materials: the imprints and tools he used to understand and get a closer look to his own primal identity as a transversal human being.

Well travelled, Avedissian finds icons from traditional arts and local cultures around the world, but specifically in the Silk Route, and transfers them to his own universe, working through a wide range of media, including photography and textiles. Since 1990, his most known work focuses in painted stencils on cardboard, showing the icons he found during his trips all around the world through several countries, from Egypt to Uzbekistan, Paris to Canada, from Cuba to Greece. Avedissian stencils collect symbols and icons from every corner visited by the artist and translate them into his own artistic language.

His work is in very prominent public collections such as The British Museum (UK), Mathaf Museum of Modern Art (Qatar), National Museum of African Art - Smithsonian Institution (USA), the British Airways Collection (UK) and National Museum of Scotland, amongst others.

CV – Chant Avedissian

Education

- 1976 Major in sculpture. École nationale supérieure des arts décoratifs (ENSAD), Paris. France
- 1973 Graduate Montreal Museum of Fine Arts at School of Art and Design, Montreal, Canada.
- 1967 Kalousdian Armenian School, Boulaq, Cairo. Egypt.

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 *Al Musiqa, voix et musiques du monde arabe*. Paris Philharmonie. Paris, France.
- 2018 *A Levantine heading East*. Casa Árabe. Cordoba, Spain.
- 2017 *A Levantine heading East*. Casa Árabe. Madrid, Spain.
- 2017 *Transfer, Transport, Transit*. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
- 2006 Gallery Janine Rubeiz. Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2000 *Solo show*. National Museum of African Art. Smithsonian Institution. Washington, USA. (curated by Elizabeth Harney).
- 1998 *New Stencils on Arab Women*. British Council. Cairo, Egypt.
- 1996 *Panels and Stencils*. Tropenmuseum. Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1995 *Stencil show. Icons of the Nile*. Leighton House Museum. London, UK.
- 1994 *Stencil show. Icons of the Nile*. Galerie 50 x70. Beirut, Lebanon.
- 1992 *Stencilled panels*. The British Council. Cairo, Egypt, (curated by Basma El-Husseiny).
- 1991 *Stencils*. Mireille and Kenton Keith's house. Cairo, Egypt.
- 1990 *Costume show*. The Institut du monde arabe. Closing of the exhibition Egypt-Egypt. Paris, France.
- 1988 *Costume show*. El Itriby. Manial Palace. Golden Hall. Cairo, Egypt.
- 1985 *Textile hangings*. Cairo, Egypt, (organised by historian and art collector Shahira Mehrez).
- 1979 Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Centre art gallery. Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 1979 Carzou Hall. Cairo, Egypt.
- 1978 Atelier of Alexandria. Alexandria, Egypt.
- 1976 Carzou Hall. Cairo. Egypt.
- 1974 Carzou Hall. Cairo. Egypt.
- 1973 Carzou Hall. Kalousdian School. Cairo, Egypt.
- 1971 Tekeyan Armenian Cultural Association. Montreal, Canada.
- 1971 Tekeyan Armenian Cultural Association. Boston, USA.
- 1970 Carzou Hall. Kalousdian Armenian School. Cairo, Egypt.
- 1969 Kalousdian Armenian School parents' council. Cairo, Egypt.

### Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *From Sound to Silence*. Galerie Tanit. Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2015 *Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society 1915–2015*. Whitechapel Gallery. London, UK.
- 2014 *What Remains Part I*. Rose Issa Projects. London, UK.
- 2012 *Re-Orientations II*. Rose Issa Projects. London, UK.

- 2012 *Green: A Spring Hanging*. Rose Issa Projects. London, UK.
- 2010 *Arabicity*. Beirut Exhibition Centre. Beirut, Lebanon.
- 2009 *Taswir -Pictorial Mappings of Islam & Modernity*. Martin Gropius Bau Museum. Berlin, Germany.
- 2008 *Re-Orientations: Contemporary Arab Representations*. European Parliament. Brussels, Belgium, (curated by Rose Issa).
- 2003 *Love Affairs*. IFA Galleries, Stuttgart, Bonn and Berlin, Germany, (curated by Rose Issa).
- 1998 *The Shape of Memories*. Berchem Cultural Centre. Antwerp, Belgium, (curated by Rose Issa).
- 1984 *Fotografia Mediterranea*. Centre Cultural de la Caixa de Pensions. Barcelona, Spain.
- 1995 *The Art of African Textiles*, Barbican. London. UK, (curated by Carole Brown).

### Biennals

- 1995 Kwangju Biennale, Korea.

### Art Fairs

- 2019 ARCOmadrid. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
- 2018 Art Basel in Miami Beach. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Miami Beach, USA (solo).
- 2018 Artissima. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Turin, Italy.
- 2018 Art Basel in Hong Kong. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Hong Kong (solo).
- 2018 ARCOmadrid. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Madrid, Spain.
- 2017 Abu Dhabi Art. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Abu Dhabi, UAE (solo).
- 2017 Artissima. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Turin, Italy.
- 2017 Art Brussels. Sabrina Amrani Gallery. Brussels, Belgium.

### Public Collections

- National Museum of African Art - Smithsonian Institution. Washington, USA.
- British Airways Collection. London, UK.
- The British Museum. London, UK.
- British Council. Cairo, Egypt.
- National Museums of Scotland. Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.
- Tropenmuseum. Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- National Gallery of Jordan. Amman, Jordan.
- Guggenheim. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

### Selected Bibliography

- Picton, John ed. *The Art of African Textiles: Technology, Tradition and Lurex*, London: Lund Humphries, 1995.
- Beyond the Borders*, Kwangju Biennale 1995, South Korea: Kwangju Biennale Foundation, 1995.

Karnouk, Liliane, *Contemporary Egyptian Art*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1995.

Porter, Venetia, *Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East*, London: British Museum Press, 2006.

Issa, Rose ed., *Reorientations: Contemporary Arab Representations*, Brussels: European Parliament Publications Office, 2008.

Almut Sh. Bruckstein and Hendrik Budde, ed. *Taswir – Islamische Bildwelten und Moderne*, Berlin: Nicolai Verlag, 2009.

*Arabicity: Such A Near East*, Liverpool: Bluecoat Arts Centre and Beyond Art Productions, 2010

Saeb, Eigner, *Art of the Middle East: Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World and Iran*, London: Merrell, 2010.

Blazwick, Iwona and Af Petersens, Magnus, *Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society 1915-2015*, London: Prestel and Whitechapel Gallery, 2015.

Issa, Rose, *Signs of Our Times: From Calligraphy to Calligraffiti*, London: Merrell, 2016.