



ARA OSHAGAN

Born in Beirut, Lebanon.
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

EDUCATION

1988 BA, Physics and English Literature, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Ara Oshagan: How The World Might Be*, Tufenkian Fine Arts, Glendale, CA.
- 2018 *Ara Oshagan: Disrupted Borders*, Seongbuk Cultural Foundation Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2016 *Mirror*, Tufenkian Fine Arts, Glendale, CA.
- 2012 *Juvies/A Poor Imitation of Death*, Columbia University School of Social Work, Columbia University, NY.
- 2010 *Father Land*, powerhouse Arena, Brooklyn, NY.
Father Land, LA Municipal Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, CA.
Ara Oshagan: Juvies, Armory Center for the Arts, Mezzanine Gallery, Pasadena, CA.
- 2008 *Community and Identity*, Center for Experimental Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2005 *Traces of Identity*, Downey Museum of Art, Downey, CA.
- 2004 *Traces of Identity*, LA Municipal Gallery at Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2002 *iwitness*, Senate Rotunda on Capitol Hill, Washington DC.
- 2000 *iwitness*, Downey Museum of Art, Downey, CA.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Before, After, The Armenian Genocide*, Curated by Ryann Casey, Stockton University Art Galleries, Stockton, CA.
- 2020 *Photo LA*, Focus LA Group exhibition, Photo Fair.
- 2019 *8*, Search-ResQ Gallery @ The Brewery, Los Angeles, CA.
Listen! Listen! Listen! 100th Anniversary of March 1st Korean Independence Movement Day: Women's Rights through Contemporary Art, Art Foundation of Hwaseong City, Sponsored by the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
Special Exhibition on 8th Comfort Women's Day in the City of Glendale, Boeun City Gallery.
100th Anniversary of March 1st Korean Independence Movement Day: Comfort Women Special Exhibition, Namdong Sorae Art Center, Sponsored by the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

- 100th Anniversary of March 1st Korean Independence Movement Day: Comfort Women Special Exhibition*, Art Foundation of Gunpo City, Sponsored by the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- 100th Anniversary of March 1st Korean Independence Movement Day: Comfort Women Special Exhibition*, Suwon Yeongtong City Gallery, Sponsored by the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- 100th Anniversary of March 1st Korean Independence Movement Day: Comfort Women Special Exhibition*, Art Foundation of Gimpo City, Sponsored by the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- 100th Anniversary of March 1st Korean Independence Movement Day: Comfort Women Special Exhibition*, Jeju Sculpture Park, Sponsored by the Korea Sports Promotion Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- Beirut Mural Project*, Photo LA, Photo fair, Los Angeles, part of A&I Fine Art booth.
- Mirror*, <Light Paradise> Group exhibition, Yangpeong Museum of Art, South Korea.
- 2018 *Reconstruct(ed) Comfort Station installation*, Glendale Central Library, Glendale CA.
(in)visible Border installation, Glendale Central Library, Glendale CA.
- 2017 *Mirror*, Venice Arts, Venice, CA.
iwitness, Photo LA, Photo fair, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2016 *South Caucasus Live Documentary*, Photoville Photo Festival, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2015 *100life*, Brand Art Gallery, , Glendale Municipal Art Gallery, Glendale, CA.
- 2012 *Cruel and Unusual: a gripping look behind prison walls*, Photoville, Brooklyn, NY.
Cruel and Unusual: a gripping look behind prison walls, Noorderlicht Gallery, Groningen, Holland.
- 2011 *Moving Walls 18*, Open Society Institute, New York, NY.
- 2010 *Conversations and Intersections*, LA Municipal Art Gallery, Actions, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2009 *Offerings from the City of Angels*, Guadalajara State Museum, Guadalajara, Mexico.
From the permanent collection, SouthEast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, FL.
Man's Inhumanity to Man, Brand Library Art Galleries, Glendale, CA.
A Sense of Place, Downey Museum of Art, Downey, CA.
Requiem for the Genocide, Writers' Union Gallery, Yerevan, Armenia.
Echoes, Articultural Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.

PUBLIC ART AND INSTALLATIONS

- 2020 *Alight*, Public art installation, Seongbuk City Plaza, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2019 *iwitness*, Pasadena Convention Center, Pasadena, CA.
- 2018 *Reconstruct(ed) Comfort Station*, Public art installation, Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
(in)visible Border installation, Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- 2017 *iwitness*, large-scale public art installation, Central Park, Glendale, CA.
- 2016 *Live Zeke*, Exhibit and live streaming interview from Armenia to NY, Brooklyn, NY.
iwitness, Permanent Commemorative Monument, Grand Park, Los Angeles, CA.
Drum Room++, Video/sound/drum installation, Tufenkian Fine Arts, Glendale, CA.
- 2015 *iwitness installation*, large-scale public art installation, Music Center Plaza and Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2012 *Re)population Shushi*, Public art Installation of portraits of residents of the city of Shushi in the windows and doors of a war-damaged building, Shushi, Nagorno-Karabagh.

AWARDS

- 2021 ARPA Film Festival selection, "Resurrection Myth" in collaboration with Chris Atamian. Tokyo Film Festival Selection for "Resurrection Myth" film in collaboration with Chris Atamian.
- 2019 "Be Heard" 2020 Prize Winner, "Resurrection Myth" film, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Armenian Communities Department.
- 2016 "Cultural Trailblazer" award from Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.
- 2015 "Top 100 Leading Global Thinker of 2015" by Foreign Policy Magazine in Washington DC.
- 2014 Featured photographer of the month, *A Poor Imitation of Death*, SocialDocumentary.net.
- 2011 Best of 2010, *Father Land*, SocialDocumentary.net.
- 2009 Photolucida Critical Mass Top 50.
- 2006 Finalist, Aperture Foundation bi-annual portfolio review, Project: *Juvies*,.
- 2004 Project of Note, Fifty Crows International Fund For Documentary Photography, Project: *Nagorno-Karabagh: a Tightrope Walk Towards an Uncertain Future*.
- 2001 Third Prize, The Project Competition, Santa Fe Center for the Visual Arts, Visions 2001, Project: *Nagorno-Karabagh: a Tightrope Walk Towards an Uncertain Future*. Freedom Award from the Armenian National Committee, Awarded for *The Genocide Project* for significant contribution to the advancement of Armenian issues.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2007 Ramela Grigorian Abbamontian, "The Diasporic Witness: Reconstructing Testimony in the Works of Contemporary Los Angeles Artists," Cultural and Ethical Legacies of the Armenian Genocide edited by Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, Los Angeles, CA: Transaction Publisher.
- 2006 Ramela Grigorian Abbamontian, "Crossing Borders and Imagining Home/Land: Armenian Artists Construct a Diasporic Identity in Los Angeles," *Shifting Borders*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press.
- 2005 Jean Maruchanian. Ph.D. Candidate, UCLA Department of Art History. "*The Demand for Recognition: Armenian Genocide Memorials*". Art Historians of Southern California, 46th Annual Conference, L.A. Public Library.
- Jean Maruchanian. Ph.D. Candidate, UCLA Department of Art History. "Armenian Genocide Memorials" Graduate School of Arts & Sciences: "After Death and After Life: The End or the Beginning?" Bryn Mawr College, October 2005
- Ramela Grigorian Abbamontian, Ph.D. Candidate, UCLA Department of Art History. "Testimony and Witness: Armenian Artists in Los Angeles" UCLA International Conference Series: After Nine Decades: The Enduring Legacy of the Armenian Genocide, UCLA.

CURATORIAL

- 2021 *You Can't Arrest An Idea: Shiela Pinkel*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition.

- Sites of Fracture: Diasporic Imaginings of Occupied Artsakh*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition, Co-curated with Mashinka Firunts Hakopian.
- Reckoning: Racism & Resistance in Glendale*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition, Co-curated with Shannon Currie Holmes.
- 2020 *Beyond the River Free Zone-DMZ: The City that Lost the River*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition.
- disPLAced: Communities Beneath Dodger Stadium*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition.
- Nowhere and Everywhere: Indigenous in America*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition.
- Borders: Artists Consider the Armeno-Turkish Divide*, ReflectSpace @ Glendale Central Library, Online Exhibition.
- Access: A Century After Women's Right to Vote*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- 2019 *Fragmented Futures: Afghanistan 100 Years Later*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- Tell Me: Stories of Migration to Glendale*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- 1 in 3: Sexual Violence Pandemic*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- Threshold: Armenian Passages*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- Erasure–Native American Genocide: A Legacy*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- Incarceration Nation: the US Prison Industrial Complex*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.
- Body Politics: the LBGTQI+ Experience*, ReflectSpace @ Downtown Central Library, Glendale, CA.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Father Land," *Visions Magazine*, China, Sept 2015
- "Traces of Identity", *GUP Magazine #37* Los Angeles, Nov 2013
- Taline Voskeritchian, "Reading Father Land, a book of text by Vahe Oshagan and photographs by Ara Oshagan", *Passages blog*, April 2011
- Father Land, www.socialdocumentary.org, photo essay, December 2010
- Father Land, www.araratmagazine.org, photo essay, December 2010
- Nova Safo, "In Search of Roots", www.laforward.org, Video-feature, November 2010
- Jean Casella and James Ridgeway, "Voices from Solitary: Ara Oshagan Photographs California Juvies", www.solitarywatch.com, Sept 4, 2010
- Father Land, www.maisdever.blogspot.com, Sept 1, 2009
- Father:Land, "burnmagazine.org", 2009
- Adriana Chalian, "Documentary Photography in the Diaspora: A Conversation with Ara Oshagan." *Asbarez Armenian Newspaper*, October 8, 2005
- Benjamin Adair, "Pacific Drift", 89.3 KPCC Radio, 12 Minute Feature, February 13, 2005
- Josh Kleinbaum. "Taking Snapshots of Armenian Life." *Glendale News Press*, Feature about *Traces of Identity* exhibit with one photo, September 25-26, 2004, p. A7

“Three Day Forecast: Art: Armenians in America.” Los Angeles Times, Calendar Weekend, Feature about *Traces of Identity* exhibit with one photo, Sep 23, 2004, p. E2

Louise Roug. “Fall Arts Preview: Where They’re Coming from: a world of experiences shapes the work of artists from different cultures and nations.” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Calendar, Sep 19, 2004, pg. E.39.

Naush Boghosian. “Exhibit Puts Lens on L.A. Armenians.” Los Angeles Daily News, September 13, 2004, p. 3.

James Russell, “Spotlight on the Arts with Monica Vischer”, 91.5 KUSC Classical Radio, Five 1-minute segments about *Traces of Identity* broadcast 4 times a day for 1 week. November, 2004

The Joan Quinn Profiles, Adelphia Cable TV, 15 minute live interview with Joan Quinn, Nov 1, 2004.

MUSEUMS AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

SouthEast Museum of Photography, Daytona Beach, Florida
Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, California
Downey Museum of Art, Downey, California
Museum of Contemporary Art, Yerevan, Armenia
Caroline Tukenfian Fine Arts, Glendale, California

GRANTS

California Council on the Humanities, California, 2018
California State Libraries, California, 2017
Calouste Gulbenkian Armenian Communities Grant, Lisbon, Portugal, 2015
Open Society Institute, Moving Walls Exhibition Grant, 2010
Center for Cultural Innovation, Artists Resources for Completion (ARC) grant, 2010
California Council for the Humanities, California Stories Major Grant, 2006, awarded for *Ethiopians of LA*
Ignatius Foundation Grant, 2004, awarded for *Traces of Identity*
California Council for the Humanities, Major Grant, 2001, awarded for *Traces of Identity*
Los Angeles City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg, 2000
Los Angeles City Councilmember Joe Ferraro, 2000
Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA), Photography grant, 2000

SELECTED PRESS

Siran Babayan, “Glendale Library’s Gallery Space Reflects on Social Justice”, LA Weekly, Jan 2020

Matt Stromberg, “Survivors and Artists Memorialize the Armenian Genocide at a New Glendale Venue”, Hyperallergic, May 2017

Bettina Boxall, “Memorial to Armenian Genocide unveiled in L.A.’s Grand Park”, Los Angeles Times, Sept 2016

Alexis Corral, "Genocide Centennial: Public Art Installation DTLA", *Artillery Art Magazine*, May 2015

Thomas Curwen, "Armenian Genocide Survivors are Subject of Art Exhibit in Grand Park", *LA Times*, May 30, 2015

Bianca Barragan, "Giant Light-Up Photos Commemorate the Armenian Genocide For Grand Park's First Public Art Installation", *Curbed LA*, May 2015

iwitness Installation Photos, via Associated Press, *Yahoo News*, May 2015

Mark Murrman, Review of *Father Land* and online slideshow, *Mother Jones Magazine*, April 2011

John Greppin, Review of *Father Land*, *London Times Literary Supplement*, December 2010

Neery Melkonian, Review of *Traces of Identity* Exhibit, *Art Papers*, March/April 2005

LA Magazine, "Top 10 Things to do in LA (*Traces of Identity* Exhibit ranks #5)", December 2004

Jordan Elgrably. "An Armenian Novel-in-Progress." *LA Weekly*, October 1-7, 2004, p. 10

Anna Meliksetian, Review of *Traces of Identity* Exhibit, *artcircles.com*, Winter 2005

Talene Kanian, "Identity Confirmed", Review of *Traces of Identity* Exhibit, *Mosaix Magazine*, Jan-Feb 2005.

Peter Frank, Recommended Art Exhibit of the Week, *LA Weekly*, Dec 31, 2004 -Jan 6, 2005

Edgar Allen Beem, "A Quest for Identity", *Photo District News, Exposures*. September, 2002

Timothy Cahill, "A wide-angle view of photography, in two fine shows", Review of group show with mention of my work, *Troy Times Union*, New York, October 7, 2001