

ALEXANDRE GALLERY

For Immediate Release: January 18, 2019

Varujan Boghosian: A Selection

Through April 13, 2019



Varujan Boghosian, *Valentine*, 1986

Alexandre Gallery is pleased to present *Varujan Boghosian: A Selection*, a survey exhibition of select assemblages and collages from the artist's personal collection.

Sculptor, assembler, constructionist, builder – beachcomber, scavenger, collector, historian, conservator – Varujan Boghosian's work is inspired by the past, by an appreciation of the legacy of myth, of people and objects that have come before, and a love of the images and iconography that are part of our shared human experience. He gathers these relics of our common experience, creating objects that become poetic tributes transformed by imagination.

In his assemblages, Boghosian incorporates found objects, such as books, toys, cards and materials from antique shops and flea markets. He employs strategies of construction and deconstruction to re-contextualize these castoff materials into his work. His approach is intuitive and meditative, drawing inspiration from a plurality of sources including literature, mythology, art history, music and nature. Allusions to Greek myths

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feature prominently in his work. He also draws inspiration from Surrealist traditions that contemplate the boundaries between dream and reality.

On the occasion of a 1989 retrospective at the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College curator Robert M. Doty wrote of Boghosian's work:

His art is part of a spiritual life, a means to reach out beyond the limitations of linear time, to expand the potential of individual consciousness. Each of his constructions, paintings and collages invite the mind to work simultaneously to make two approaches, one toward enjoyment from the readily apparent visual delights of texture, color and form, and the other through the obscure and latent resources of the psyche.

John R. Stomberg, current director of the Hood Museum, recently wrote:

By spending time with his work, we get to a place where we increasingly discover his spark and mystery in our own surroundings. His work leads us to a place of enthusiasm and awe for the world. From the mundane to the magnificent, we see it anew. That is the power of wonder.

Boghosian was born in New Britain, Connecticut in 1926. His father emigrated from Armenia and was a cobbler, before going to work at Stanley Tool Works. Boghosian joined the Navy during WWII and returned home in 1946 to enter the local teachers' training college. He soon changed his plans and entered the Vesper George School of Art in Boston. In 1953 he received a Fulbright Grant for painting in Italy. When he returned, he became a student of Joseph Albers at Yale School of Art and Architecture.

Boghosian held teaching positions at the University of Florida, Cooper Union, Pratt Institute, Yale, Brown, and since 1968, at Dartmouth, from where he recently retired. He has received awards from the American Academy in Rome, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, among others. Early in his career he showed at the legendary Stable Gallery and at Cordier & Ekstrom. His work is in many public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, which recently presented a one-person exhibition of his work. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Alexandre Gallery is pleased to represent Varujan Boghosian in cooperation with Berta Walker Gallery, Provincetown.

Alexandre Gallery represents and exhibits contemporary American artists and specializes in works by the early 20th century American Modernists with particular focus on the Stieglitz Group. Alexandre Fine Art Inc. was established in 1996 and is located at 724 Fifth Avenue in New York City.

For further information and images, please contact the gallery at 212-755-2828 or at inquiries@alexandregallery.com

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