



Detail from *Front Line* (2007), Hair Sarkissian

## PANEL DISCUSSION: FROZEN CONFLICT On the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh

**Thursday 19 March, 7.00pm, The Mosaic Rooms**

Disputes over ownership of Nagorno-Karabakh - a war-torn territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan - have persisted over the centuries, as has repression of the region's indigenous population of Azeris and Armenians. Last year saw some of the worst clashes for a decade.

Join **Andrew Jack** (Financial Times), **Marina Nagai** (International Alert), **Hratch Tchilingirian** (Oriental Institute) and **Dennis Sammut** (LINKS) to discuss the current situation and the challenges that lay ahead for the region.

In association with [Pushkin House](#).

Places Limited, Entry FREE. RSVP [rsvp@mosaicrooms.org](mailto:rsvp@mosaicrooms.org)

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**Contemporary culture  
from the Arab world**

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<http://mosaicrooms.org/event/frozen-conflict-talk-nagorno-karabakh/>



TALKS AND EVENTS

## Panel Discussion: Frozen Conflict

19/03/15 7:00 pm

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Join us for a timely panel discussion reflecting on the current situation in the independent Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh and the challenges that lay ahead for this war-torn territory.

The self-proclaimed independent Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh is today a war-torn enclave between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Throughout the centuries the claims over this area have shifted, the borders been mapped and remapped, yet the repression of the region's indigenous population has persisted. Today, over a million of its Azeri and Armenian inhabitants remain displaced; last year saw some of the worst clashes for a decade, and negotiations for a long-term solution are yet to be reached.

This talk accompanies [\*Imagined Futures\*](#), the first UK solo show by internationally exhibited artist Hrair Sarkissian, and aims to shed further light on issues raised by the works in the show.

The panel will include:

**Andrew Jack** is an award winning journalist who has worked for the Financial Times since 1990. He runs the newly-created curated content team which identifies the best news and analysis from the FT and the rest of the web. He is also an author, the co-chairman of Pushkin House, a London-based independent centre for Russian culture, and a trustee of SciDev.net, a non-profit media group covering science and development. He graduated in geography from St Catharine's College, Cambridge, was the Joseph Hodges Choate Memorial Fellow at Harvard University and a New York City urban fellow. He is a former FT Moscow bureau chief and author of *Inside Putin's Russia*.

**Marina Nagai** is a Senior Projects Manager, Eurasia Programme, at [International Alert](#). Educated at Edinburgh and Stanford Universities, her initial training was in international public law and relations. As a Senior Staff Attorney and Programme Head at the American Bar Association, she focused on promoting legal reforms in the former Soviet Union countries. She joined Alert in 2010, and has been involved in peacebuilding initiatives in the South Caucasus that aim at laying the foundation for lasting peace and security in communities affected by conflict.

**Hratch Tchilingirian** is a sociologist (with a particular reference to sociology of religion) and associate faculty member of the Oriental Institute, Oxford. From 2002 to March 2012 he taught and held various positions at Cambridge University and has published and lectured extensively on inter-ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus, minorities in the Middle East and the Armenian Diaspora. (See [www.hratch.info](http://www.hratch.info)).

**Dennis Sammut** is a foreign policy analyst with two decades of experience of work in the Caucasus Region and other parts of the Former Soviet Union and the wider Middle East. He is the Director of LINKS (Dialogue-Analysis-Research), and a Member of the Advisory Council of the European Policy Centre in Brussels. [Visit his website.](#)

This event is organised in association with [Pushkin House](#).

**FREE. [RSVP HERE](#)**



**The Mosaic Rooms — Contemporary Culture from the Arab World**

**VISIT**

The Mosaic Rooms  
226 Cromwell Road  
London SW5 0SW  
[www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org)

Nearest Underground station: Earl's Court, Earl's Court Road exit  
Buses: 74, 328, C1, C3  
Parking: One disabled parking space is available by prior arrangement;  
parking meters are available in Lexham Gardens behind the building.

**STAY IN TOUCH**

Join our mailing list at [www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org) to stay up to date with all our latest events and exhibitions. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



The-Mosaic-Rooms



@themosaicrooms

Follow the exhibition on Twitter: #ImaginedFutures

**THE MOSAIC ROOMS BOOKSHOP**

Our bookshop provides a fantastic resource, stocking celebrated and new writers from the Arab World, art books, and films, in both English and Arabic. Open Tuesday—Saturday, 11am–6pm.



AN A.M. QATTAN  
FOUNDATION PROJECT

# Hrair Sarkissian *Imagined Futures*

13/03/15—25/04/15

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Hrair Sarkissian (b. 1973, Damascus, Syria) uses photography to re-evaluate larger historical, religious or socio-political narratives. *Imagined Futures* is Sarkissian's first UK solo exhibition; he has exhibited widely internationally in both group and solo shows including Tate Modern (London); New Museum (New York); Darat al Funun (Amman); Mori Art Museum (Tokyo); SALT Beyoglu (Istanbul); Thessaloniki Biennale; Sharjah Biennial; Istanbul Biennial; Asia Pacific Triennial (Brisbane) among many others. In 2013 the artist won the Abraaj Group Art Prize. Hrair Sarkissian is represented by Kalfayan Galleries, Greece.

### Background

To coincide with this exhibition The Mosaic Rooms have produced Sarkissian's first publication: *Background*. The book reflects on the disappearing tradition of studio portraiture in the Middle East and features hundreds of images taken by Sarkissian of studio backdrops from six major cities in the region.

The project was selected as one of a small number of 'outstanding non-commercial art projects' to be showcased on the first Art Basel Crowdfunding Initiative in partnership with Kickstarter.

Available in our bookshop and online now!

### Exhibition dates

**13 March—25 April 2015**

**Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, FREE**

**Private view: Thursday 12 March, 6.30-8.30pm**

## Spring Highlights at The Mosaic Rooms

### TALKS

#### Artist Talk & Book Launch

**Saturday 14 March, 12pm**

Artist Hrair Sarkissian discusses his work and the exhibition with Shoair Mavlian, Tate Modern. Sarkissian's first book, *Background*, will be launched at this event.

**FREE**

#### Frozen Conflict

**Thursday 19 March, 7pm**

Panel discussion on the issues facing Nagorno-Karabakh, with Marina Nagai, Dr Hratch Tchilingirian and Dennis Sammut, chaired by Andrew Jack, FT journalist. In association with Pushkin House.

**FREE**

### LITERATURE

#### My House in Damascus

**Wednesday 1 April, 7pm**

Author Diana Darke talks with Syrian archaeologist Zahed Taj-Eddin about the latest edition of her book and the war in Syria's threat to and destruction of the country's historic monuments and sites.

**FREE**

#### The Renaissance Emir

**Thursday 16 April, 7pm**

Author Ted Gorton will read from his latest book, followed by an evening of music performances evoking the 17th century Emir's journey from the Levant to Tuscany.

**FREE**

### FILM

#### Concerning Violence

**Wednesday 25 March, 7.30pm**

Documentary exploring the struggle for national liberation in Africa from colonial rule in the late '60s/'70s and Franz Fanon's text *The Wretched of the Earth*.

**Tickets £6.50 online**

#### Haunted (Maksoon)

**Wednesday 22 April, 7.30pm**

UK premiere of new documentary that explores the relationship people have with their homes in Syria during this current conflict, and when they are forced to leave them.

**Tickets £6.50 online**

### COLLABORATIONS

#### The Sick Man of Europe: The Painter Until 12 April 2015

**ICA, London SW1Y 5AH**

ICA presents a solo exhibition by artist Dor Guez in collaboration with The Mosaic Rooms. The installation presents the story of a painter-turned-soldier, and is part one of five in Guez's most ambitious project to date.

Visit [www.mosaicrooms.org](http://www.mosaicrooms.org) for full event listings and to book tickets. Email [rsvp@mosaicrooms.org](mailto:rsvp@mosaicrooms.org) for free events.







The Mosaic Rooms are pleased to present *Imagined Futures* by Hrair Sarkissian. The exhibition features new video and previously unseen photographic work that reflect on concepts of place, conflict, and future.

*Front Line* (2007) draws on the artist's Armenian identity to contemplate the uneasy predicament of a people and place with an unknown political destiny. The works look at a war-torn enclave between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the self-proclaimed independent Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. Throughout the centuries the claims over this territory have shifted, the borders mapped and remapped, the indigenous population repressed. Today, over a million of its Azeri and Armenian inhabitants remain displaced; last year saw some of the worst clashes for a decade, and international powers are still trying to negotiate a long-term solution.

The photographs portray both the landscape of this disputed terrain and those Armenians that fought during the 1988-1994 war. The portraits are displayed and configured in a way that resembles both an assemblage of human figures and a memorial. This suspension and entombing of the image speaks of being rendered liminal: in between states, times, places. Discarded military vehicles, scarred buildings left to ruin, and a disquieting emptiness punctuate the large-scale verdant landscape photographs. Through a sense of isolation, estrangement and

haunting, the works raise questions about conflict, war and struggles for national independence.

The new two-screen video installation *Homesick* (2014) depicts the artist destroying an architecturally-precise, scaled replica of his parents' home in Damascus, where they still live to this day. More than just a house, the building represents a space where he belongs, a container for his memories, and a place for his family's collective identity. Through *Homesick* Sarkissian constructs a story that, in the current political situation of mass destruction and civil war, could very well take place. He contemplates what the consequences would be: what does it mean to expect the worst? Can we fast-forward the present, acknowledge loss and begin reshaping a collapsed history, even before the event?

These two projects, made seven years apart, both deal with issues of temporality: one with a non-time, a suspended unrecognised present; the other constituting a projection from an envisioned future that threatens to rupture the present at any moment. Together these bodies of work visualise that which is out of time — histories, people and narratives that have yet to be realised, political spectres that intrude upon the present. These emotive and resonant works engage the viewer beyond the reductive reportage of immediate information media, and make seen what is unseeable, the prospects of time.



Top *Front Line*, 2007  
Above *Homesick*, 2014, video still  
Images courtesy of the artist and Kalfayan Galleries, Greece