



The California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
and the Leon S. Peters Foundation present

“THE SILK ROAD AND ARMENIAN TEXTILES THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES”

by

Dr. Levon Chookaszian

UNESCO Chair of Art History-Yerevan State University



The archaeological evidence of the involvement of Armenia in the developing system of pan-Asian exchange of goods can be traced to the 3rd millennium B.C. Goods destined for the Near East from Central and South-Eastern Asia passed through Armenia to be taken to western Asia Minor, the Balkans, and the North Caucasian passes and beyond. These routes served as the beginning of the Great Silk Road.

Silks and textiles were not only exported to Armenia but also produced inside of country. The renowned Venetian Marco Polo was astounded by the beauty of Armenian carpets. We find that beauty on the canvases of Italian Renaissance painters and in the descriptions of the palaces of Khalid Al-Rashid. Images of these silks and textiles are preserved inside of the Armenian medieval manuscripts—but are as of now largely unstudied. Dr. Chookaszian will trace this history through the study of Armenian medieval manuscripts.

Dr. Levon Chookaszian is the UNESCO Professor of Armenian Art History at Yerevan State University and one of the leading authorities in the world on Armenian art. He is the author of two monographs: one on the art of 13th century Armenian miniaturist Grigor, The Art of the 13th century Armenian Painter Grigor Tsaghkogh (1986), and the other on the art of the painter Fetvadjian, Arshag Fetvadjian Masters and Treasures of Armenian Art (2011). Chookaszian has taught at Yerevan State University since 1978 and is one of the founders of the department of art history. In 1996 he established the UNESCO Chair of Armenian Art History.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 • 7:30PM

University Business Center • A. Peters Auditorium • Fresno State

Free admission. Parking in Lots P5 and P6 near the UBC.

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