

GEORGIAN CULTURE: PAST AND PRESENT
A SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, 24 April 2007, 10:00am-8:30pm
1501 International Affairs Building

Thursday, April 26, 2007, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Grant Gallery
7 Mercer Street (between Grand and Canal Streets)
New York City
www.grantgallery.com

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Mzia Chikhradze

Mzia Chikhradze graduated from the Art Theory and History department of Tbilisi State University with a Master Degree. Since 1988 she has been working in Chubinashvili Institute of Georgian Art History, where she holds the position of Senior Research Fellow. She works on the problems of Modern and Contemporary Georgian and European art. She is a founder of the non-government organization Arts Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory, where she leads fruitful and intensive curatorial and scientific work. She is the co-founder of a culturalogical newspaper-almanac "Iliazd".

Mzia Chikhradze is the co-organizer of the International Seminar on Contemporary Art "DifferAnce", she is the co-organizer of the International Seminar and Workshop "OutLow", she is the organizer of Georgian-Swiss joint project on Contemporary Art in the frames of which were held the annual International exhibitions and film shows "Tbilisi1, 2, 3 and 4".

Mzia Chikhradze participated in the RSS two-year scientific-research group program of Prague Open Society Institute "Tbilisi-Moscow-Paris. 1910-1920"; she took part in the Summer University Program of CEU of Budapest - "History and Theory of Art after the Cultural Turn"; she participated in Basel International Artists and Art Historians Exchange Program of Christoph Merian Foundation. At present she is a visiting scholar at Yale University in the frames of three year Faculty Development Program of OSI New York.

Mzia Chikhradze was a lecturer of Art History and Theory in the I Experimental School and Tbilisi State Institute of Foreign Languages. At present she gives lectures on the History of Modern and Contemporary Art at Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts. In 2006 she got the PHD for the thesis work "Analysis of the Development of Modern Georgian Drawing Basing on the Creations of Edmond Kalandadze, Zurab Nijaradze, Givi Kasradze and Dimitri Eristavi".

Maka Mariam Dvalishvili,

Georgian Arts and Culture Center President

Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harriman Institute Columbia University 2006-2007

Graduated as an Art Historian from Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts (1980); Post graduated in Italy University of Turin, ILO, Beni Culturali - "Cultural Project for Development"(2003); "USSR Central Research Institute for Technical Aesthetics and Design" Moscow (1987); Is the alumna of the US programs - SABIT (1994) and IV (1998).

As the founder and executor of the Georgian Arts and Culture Center, she runs GACC ongoing activities and programs, international restoration projects funded by UNESCO, World Monument Fund, Getty Foundation, the World Bank, etc.

The project for conservation of the "Timotesubani Church of the Virgin" (13th c) have been awarded by the World Monument Watch 2004 and received the Medal of Europa Nostra 2007.

She participated in a number of international symposiums, conferences and exhibitions: The Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity: Partnership in motion, Cultural Industries, UNESCO (Paris 2005); Innovative policies for Cultural Tourism development, UNESCO Moscow Office, (Moscow, 2005), Museum Store Association, Conference & Expo. (Portland. Oregon.2004); ICON CC 13th triennial meeting (Rio de Janeiro 2002); etc.

Board member and expert at the program "Cultural Heritage Initiative" (World Bank & the Georgian Government, 1996-1998), Expert at Review Commission of OSGF Cultural Heritage and Arts and Culture programs (1995-1998)

Lecturer at Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, she has provided professional lectures in various Universities –Harriman Institute at Columbia University (2006-2007), Texas University (2005), teaching Georgian Art and World Art History at D.Kakabadze Studio of Fine Arts at Tbilisi Central Art House (1985-1991);

Curator of up to 200 of the local Georgian and international traveling exhibitions: “Adornment and History” (Paris, Brussels, Istanbul 2006; Luxemburg 2005; Washington, Austin 2005); History, Stile, Costume (Tbilisi, 2003), Au Natural, Musical Instruments, Dolls Exhibit (Tbilisi 1999-2002), etc. She was on the executive board of the exhibition in the US “National Treasures of Georgia”, which did not end up happening.

She is the author of a number of publications in the field of Art history, art management & administration and preservation and restoration of Georgian cultural heritage.

Helen C. Evans

A specialist in early Christian and Byzantine art, Dr. Helen C. Evans is currently best known as curator of The Metropolitan Museum’s two major Byzantine exhibitions: The Glory of Byzantium (843-1261) in 1997 and Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557) in 2004. Both were named major cultural events of their years by the New York Times and one of the top five shows of their years by Apollo Magazine. Byzantium: Faith and Power (1261-1557) also won the prestigious Alfred H. Barr Jr. and the George Wittenborn Awards for its catalogue.

A graduate of Newcomb College of Tulane University, Dr. Evans received her masters and Ph.D. from The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. She has held fellowships from The Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, the Samuel F. Kress Foundation, the American Academy in Rome and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She joined the Department of Medieval Art at the Metropolitan Museum in 1991 becoming a full curator in 1999. She has written numerous scholarly articles and co-authored catalogues for exhibitions she organized at the Met as well as the Morgan Library, the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, the Benaki Museum in Athens, and the Foundation Pierre Gianadda in Switzerland. Dr. Evans has taught at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, Columbia University, the University of Chicago and Oberlin College and has lectured extensively in Europe and America.

Dr. Evans is a member of the Editorial Board of the Art Bulletin, the Advisory Panel of the Library Project for the Holy Monastery of St. Catherine at Sinai, the Scientific Committee for the Exhibition of the Religious Treasures of the New Sacristy of the Holy Monastery; and the Scientific Committee for the Exhibition for the 500th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican, Vatican City. She is a member of the Director’s Council of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and a founding member of the American Association of Museum Curators. She was chosen the Alumna of the Year of Newcomb College of Tulane University in 2005 and has been presented the American Hellenic Institute, Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award, and the Hellenic American Women’s Council, Aristeon Award.

Nino Gaganidze

Tbilisi State Academy of Arts

Nino Gaganidze is an associate professor of the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. She is the Head of the Quality Assurance Agency of the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. She is a leader of MA program in Contemporary Art at the faculty of Restoration and History of Art.

Dr. N. Gaganidze gives lectures on the History of Modern and Contemporary Art at Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts and at the Tbilisi Theological Academy. She has published and lectured extensively on various topics. She works on the problems of Modern and Contemporary Georgian and European art.

Since 1979 she has been working in G. Chubinashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art, where she holds the position of Senior Research Fellow.

Since 1999 she is the deputy Editor-in Chief of journal of human sciences ACADEMIA edited by Association of Modern Scientific Investigation (AMSI) and Academy of Sciences of Georgia.

She is co-author of the 8th and 9th grades textbooks in history of art for the schools providing general education.

Dr. N. Gaganidze, a native Georgian, received her BA and MA in the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts and PhD from the G. Chunimashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Mary Kay Judy

Mary Kay Judy is an architectural conservator based in New York. She received her Masters of Historic Preservation from Columbia University and undergraduate degree in Art History from the University of Cincinnati. She is a two-time Asian Cultural Council Humanitarian Fellow and grant recipient of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, Trust for Mutual Understanding and the Association for Preservation Technology (APT).

In 1998, Mary Kay was a Eurasia Public Service Fellow in the Georgian Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Architecture and Urbanism focusing on the legislative reform to protect cultural heritage during oil exploration and other large scale public works. She returned in 1999 to spend two months working with ICOMOS Georgia (International Council on Monuments and Sites) on the physical documentation of the village of Chazashi, in Ushghuli, Svaneti.

In 2002 she collaborated with the Academy of Sciences Center of Archaeological Research in the preparation of a UNESCO cultural heritage management plan for the Uplisikhe Archaeological Complex. In 2003, she advised the World Monuments Fund on the exceptional phenomenon of Georgian Art Nouveau architecture and the local preservation advocacy community. Most recently, she returned in 2005, on behalf of the WMF to meet local specialists at the Georgian Art and Cultural Center (GACC) engaged in the conservation of Byzantine-era frescos at Kintvisi, Timotesubani and Gelati Cathedral.

Ana Kldiashvili

Tbilisi State Academy of Arts

Ana Kldiashvili is an associate professor at the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. She is the deputy dean of the Faculty of Restoration and History of Art. She is the author of the curricular and leader of the BA program in History of Art. 2004-2006 she was a leader of MA program in Medieval Georgian Art.

Since 1979 she has been working in G. Chubinashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art, where she holds the position of Senior Research Fellow.

She is the medieval art scholar. She is publishing and lecturing extensively on topics as varied as Byzantine and medieval Georgian murals, research methods of History of Art, principles of analyses of artifacts, religion and art; At the same time the Georgian antiquity is in the sphere of her interests and she has various publications in this field.

She is a member of the Georgian group creating the “Corpus of Byzantine Mural Paintings.”

Since 1998 up today she is creating series of books “Course of History of Art for Youth” (Published 1. 2. 3 vol.) Soros Foundation grants.

Since 1999 she has been the Editor-in-Chief of journal of human sciences ACADEMIA edited by Association of Modern Scientific Investigation (AMSI) and Academy of Sciences of Georgia.

Since 1999 Dr. Kldiashvili is a board member of the Association of Modern Scientific Investigation (AMSI). She is co-author of the 8th and 9th grades textbooks in history of art for the schools providing general education.

Dr. Ana Kldiashvili, a native Georgian, received her BA and MA in the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts and Ph.D from the G. Chubinashvili Institute of History of Georgian Art, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Irina Koshoridze

Senior Curator, Georgian National Museum

Irina Koshoridze is the Senior Curator of the Modern & Contemporary Art Division of the Georgian National Museum. Currently her research and publication concentration is Islamic art and the cultural connections between Georgia and Iran in the 17th to 19th centuries. She is now in New York as a fellow of the Open Society Institute and she is working on creating an Islamic art curriculum for Georgian Universities.

A Fulbright Scholar at New York University in Museum Studies in 2003, she established the first Museum Studies master’s program in Georgia in 2004

She received the first partnership for the Georgia from The American Association of Museums’ International Partnership among Museums and she and her partner created one of the first English language video about the Georgian art and culture and introduced object based learning programs to the museum.

Previously the Head of Oriental Arts Department in Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Fine Arts, Tbilisi, she curated “Les Tapis des Georgian” the first exhibition and catalog of textiles from Georgia and the caucuses to travel abroad. She also initiated the reorganization and digitization of the Oriental Arts Department collections according to current professional standards.

One of the founders of the Georgian Textile Group, she was instrumental in organizing five international symposiums and cultural heritage exhibitions and reviving textile crafts for the preservation of Georgian textile culture and as a means of economic support for the Georgian people.

Dr. Irina Koshoridze, a native Georgian, received her BA and MA in Tbilisi State University and Ph.D from the Institute of History of Georgian Art, Tbilisi Georgia.

Karen Rubinson

Karen S. Rubinson is a Research Scholar in the Department of Anthropology at Barnard College, where she organizes international workshops on archaeological topics. She is also at present the President of ARISC, the American Research Institute of the South Caucasus, a recently founded American Overseas Research Center.

Dr. Rubinson received her B.A. from Barnard College, and her graduate degrees from Columbia University, an M.A. in Oriental Art History and Archaeology, and an M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Ancient Near Eastern Art History and Archaeology. Her Ph.D. dissertation was on The Trialeti Culture.

Dr. Rubinson has excavated in Turkey, Iran and Armenia. Her research interests include the connections among the South Caucasus countries and adjacent areas, especially in the Bronze Age, and the steppe cultures of Eurasia in the Iron Age. The former interest has resulted in two edited volumes *Archaeology in the Borderlands: Investigations in Caucasia and Beyond*, with co-editor Adam Smith (Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press 2003) and *Ceramics in Transitions: Chalcolithic Through Iron Age in the Highlands*, with co-editor Antonio Sagona, to be published by Peeters Press in 2007 as well as many articles and papers. The latter interest is most recently expressed in the edited volume (with Kathryn M. Linduff) *Are All Warriors Male? Gender Roles on the Ancient Eurasian Steppe*, to be published by Altamira Press.

Dr. Rubinson has received fellowships and grants from many sources, most recently from the American Philosophical Society to study the silver objects excavated from Trialeti and housed in the S. Janashia State Museum of Georgia.

Anna Shanshiashvili (Art Historian) is a manager of Arts and Cultural Program at Georgian Arts and Culture Centre. She received her Bachelor's and Masters degrees at I. Javakishvili State University of Tbilisi, The Faculty of History and Theory of Art in 1996-2002; From 2003 till 2006 she was a Postgraduate student of I. Javakishvili State University of Tbilisi, The Faculty of History and Theory of Art; In 2004 she completed a graduate program in arts management and administration in Italy – Cultural Projects for Development – jointly organized by the University of Turin, the International Labor Organization, and the Italian Ministry of Culture.

As a manager of Arts and Cultural Program at GACC Anna Shanshiashvili participated in GACC projects: 2000-2004 Diagnostic Study & Determination of Restoration Needs, architectural rehabilitation & fresco conservation at Timotesubani, Donor: WMF; 2003- Diagnostic Study and Determination of Restoration Needs of the south & north chapels of the Church of the Virgin in Gelati Monastery, Donor: US. Embassy in Georgia; 2003-2007 Diagnostic Study & and Fresco Conservation at the Church of the Virgin in Martvili, Donor: Getty Foundation.

Ms. Shanshiashvili is Lecturer in cultural management and art history at Tbilisi State Academy of Arts and Tbilisi State University since 2006. She is the author of a number of publications in the fields of art history and participant of several GACC exhibitions.

Ori Z. Soltes

Ori Z. Soltes is Goldman Professorial Lecturer in Theology and Fine Arts at Georgetown University, as well as a frequent lecturer in the National and Resident Associate Programs of the Smithsonian Institution. He is also the Executive Director of the Committee for the Republic, whose mission is to generate public discourse regarding the dangers imposed on the American Republic by the current Imperial face it presents to the world. Professor Soltes is the former Director and Curator of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, where he curated over 80 exhibitions. He has taught and lectured in 23 other universities and museums throughout the country, on subjects ranging from the Arab-Israeli conflict to *The Body in Ancient Art*. Both before and since his years as a museum Director, he has guest-curated exhibitions across the United States and overseas.

While Director of the National Jewish Museum, he co-founded the Holocaust Art Restitution Project, of which he currently continues as chairman. In that capacity he has been engaged for the past eight years in research pertaining to the plunder of art by the Nazis and its return to survivors and heirs

more than half a century after the end of the war. His research has helped lead to the return of a number of paintings to heirs of the owners from whom they were forcibly taken, and of a fourteenth-century mystical manuscript to the Jewish community of Vienna, Austria.

Professor Soltes was educated in Classics and Philosophy at Haverford College, in Classics at Princeton University and The Johns Hopkins University and in Interdisciplinary Studies at Union University. He is the author of over 130 articles, exhibition catalogues, essays and books on a wide range of topics, and the writer, director and narrator of over thirty documentary videos. His most recent books are *Fixing the World: Jewish American Painters in the Twentieth Century* (University Press of New England Press, 2002), *Our Sacred Signs: Art in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim Traditions*, (Westview Press, 2005), and *The Ashen Rainbow: Essays on the Arts and the Holocaust*, (Bartleby Press, 2006). Two current book projects include *Untangling the Tangled Web: A Brief Guide to the Problematic of the Middle East* (forthcoming, 2007); and *Beyond Heaven and Earth: Mysticism in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Traditions* (forthcoming, 2007).

Mr. Soltes has varying degrees of working knowledge in some two dozen languages, and has lectured or taught throughout the United States, in various parts of the former Soviet Union, in Israel, Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Austria. He has led study tours throughout the Mediterranean, but particularly in Italy and Sicily, covering the range of archaeology, history, art, theology and literature from the Etruscan to the Baroque eras.

Tamar Tviliani

Tamar Tvildiani, art historian, is a Research scholar in Georgian Art. She was educated in Tbilisi State Academy of Fine Arts (1972-1977) on the Faculty of Architecture and Fine Arts Theory and History; from 1977-1978 she was a chief of department of fine arts at Tbilisi State Public Library; Starting from 1978 to 2001 she worked at Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, first as a senior assistant of the Faculty of Art Theory and History, and then as a Principle of the Giorgi Chubinashbili Educational and Research Laboratory of Art History and Theory; In 1981-2001 she was lecturing in Medieval Art History at Tbilisi State Academy of Art. Tamar Tvildiani is a member of Artists Union of Georgia from 1979 and is the author of a number of publications and exhibition catalogues. She has organized the exhibitions: „National Exhibition of USSR” UK, London 1979, Exhibition of Georgian artists in Germany, Kaiserslautern, 1997 and “The Exhibition of Georgian Artists living in US”, US, NY 2003.

Currently she runs the educational and research laboratory at US based Association “Tvistomi”, teaching and leading the researches in Georgian Arts for Georgian Community in the US.

Gary Vikan

Director, The Walters Art Museum

Gary Vikan was named director of the Walters Art Museum in 1994 after serving as the museum’s assistant director for curatorial affairs and curator of medieval art since 1985.

Under Dr. Vikan’s leadership, the Walters has achieved record attendance levels and has significantly increased the endowment, operating budget and museum membership. His vision has been the driving force behind the reinstallation of the museum’s ancient and medieval collections in the Centre Street Building as well as the Renaissance and Baroque collections in the Charles Street Building. During his tenure, Dr. Vikan secured three major collections: the John and Berthe Ford Collection of the Arts of India, Nepal and Tibet; the Austen-Stokes Foundation Collection of the Arts of the Ancient Americas (10-year loan); and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Collection of South-East Asian Art. Since 1995, he has assembled at the Walters the finest collection of Ethiopian art outside of its native country.

An internationally known medieval art scholar, Dr. Vikan has curated a number of the most significant exhibitions in the museum’s history, including *African Zion: The Sacred Art of Ethiopia* (1993) and *Gates of Mystery: The Art of Holy Russia* (1992).

Trained as a Byzantinist, he has published and lectured extensively on topics as varied as early Christian pilgrimages, medicine and magic, icons and Elvis Presley. He is an adjunct professor at The Johns Hopkins University, Department of Art History, and a faculty member in The Johns Hopkins University School of Continuing Studies. Before coming to the Walters, Dr. Vikan was senior associate for Byzantine art studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.

Since 2004, Dr. Vikan has been a board member of the Maryland Humanities Council and the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors’ Association. From 1999 to 2002, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the Cultural Property Advisory Committee. He was honored by the French Minister of

Culture and Communication with Knighthood in the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) in 2000. In 1999, he was the American Association of Museum Directors' representative to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States.

Dr. Vikan, a native Minnesotan, received his B.A. from Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, in 1967 and his Ph.D. from Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1976.