

ARMENIANS

PORTRAIT of A PEOPLE

Paris exhibition



HRATCH ARBACH

“Meeting Armenians from city to city, settling down somewhere, getting together, sharing memories, feelings, stories, seizing this passage from past to present, just through a simple take.

Reuniting, through face-to-face encounters, the greatest number of Armenians dispersed by History.

This is the path I have decided to undertake, where one ceases to look in the past and turns to the identity of the present.”

Hratch Arbach

This exhibition takes the visitor in a journey organized around four distinct visiting areas.

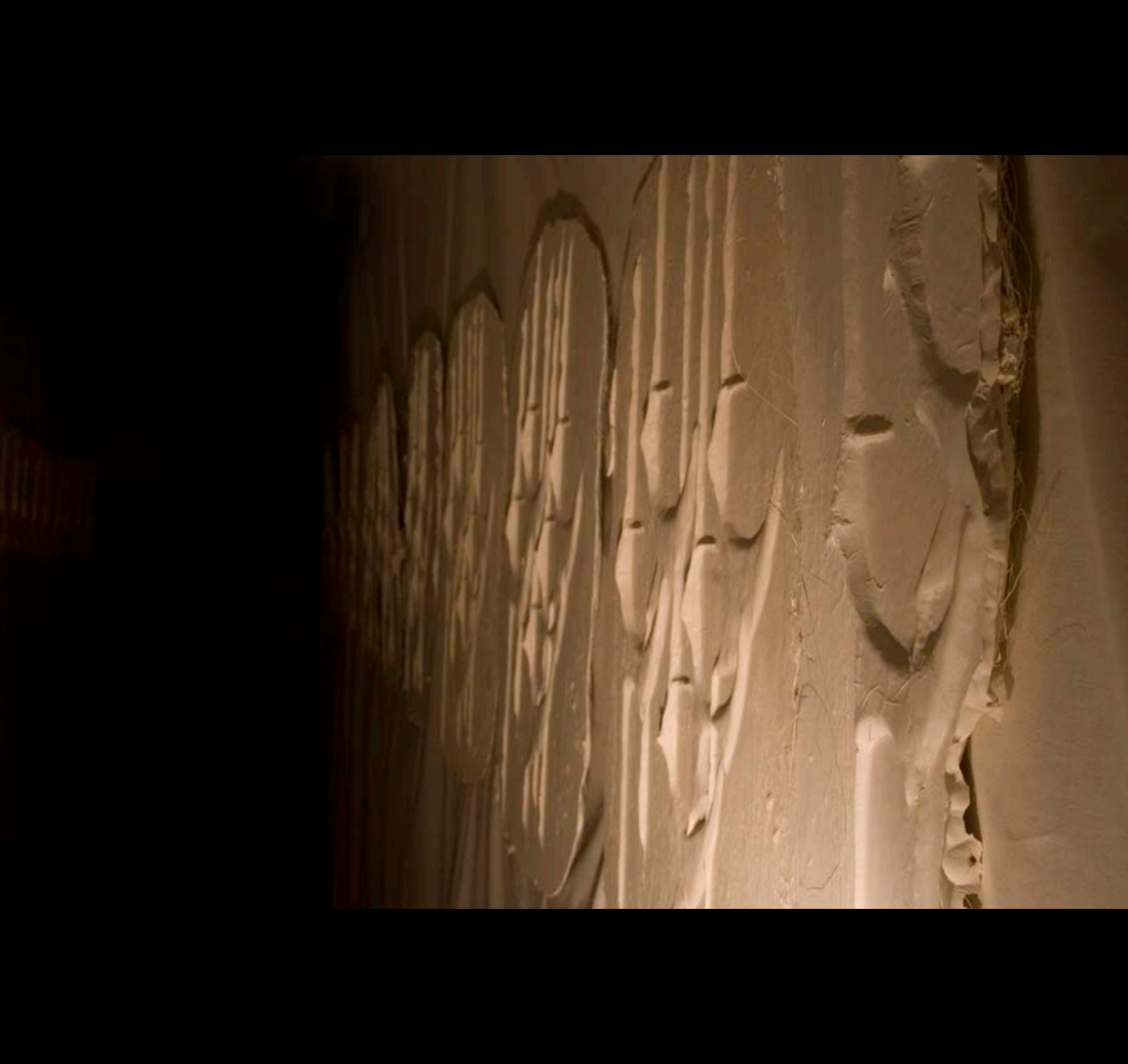
Characters that are part of the artistic work are present along the path. They do not engage any conversation but their ghostly presence and whisperings remind us of the victims and transport the visitors into a different period of time.

Groups of 2 to 3 visitors will be allowed to visit the exhibition at a time; wearing a tunic and holding a lantern they can wander in the exhibition space.



The journey starts in a dark and silent atmosphere. The lantern's light allows the visitor to perceive a series of silhouettes in reliefs on the wall.

They all point to the same direction as if to guide the visitor throughout the exhibition.



Visitors first discover a painting that depicts a scene of a long march. The dominant ochre color, an expression of a tenuous but still existing hope, retraces fragments of Armenian History.

The visitor is carried away into this mass exodus and becomes part of its history. This feeling is reinforced by the presence of a mirror along the path and parallel to the painting.



Another space takes the spectator deep into the Armenian Tragedy. In the midst of hanging ropes, paper made figures, stones, torn and burned books only photos of smiling children subsist.



The spectators will then find themselves in the, dark, silent room where they will discover the portraits in black and white at a scale of 1/1. This space remains darkened, only the portraits are lit and visible and displayed in such a way as to create the impression of a real human presence.

The photos are displayed at eye level to create this face to face encounter. In such a display, the faces seem to be talking to each other and the visitor finds him/herself at the heart of this conversation.





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Paris exhibition has been supported by :

Ms Nariné Katibian

Armenian house of Paris

Armenian General Benevolent Union