

ARAKS SAHAKYAN

Geboren 1990 in Hrazdan, Armenien
Lebt und arbeitet in Paris, Frankreich

Araks Sahakyan ist eine multidisziplinäre Künstlerin, deren Praxis Zeichnung, textile Arbeiten, Performance, Video und Installation umfasst. Ausgehend von Erfahrungen von Migration, Entwurzelung und kultureller Hybridität untersucht ihre Arbeit die Verflechtungen von persönlicher und kollektiver Erinnerung, Übersetzung, Identität sowie das Verhältnis des Körpers zu politischen und ökologischen Realitäten.

Geboren in Armenien und teilweise in Spanien aufgewachsen, bevor sie sich in Paris niederließ, entwickelt Sahakyan ihre Arbeiten aus fragmentierten Erinnerungen, ornamentalen Bildsprachen, populärkulturellen Referenzen und technologischen Bildwelten. Ihre Werke bewegen sich zwischen Intimität und räumlicher Präsenz und verbinden intensive visuelle Oberflächen mit darunterliegenden Spannungen, die von Exil, transgenerationalen Traumata, ökologischer Fragilität und Prozessen der Transformation geprägt sind.

Durch textile Strukturen, symbolische Formen, Bewegtbild und performative Gesten schafft Sahakyan immersive Bild- und Erfahrungsräume, in denen Erinnerung nicht als festes Archiv, sondern als fluider und fortwährend wandelbarer Prozess verstanden wird. Ihre Praxis reflektiert Zustände des Übergangs und der Durchlässigkeit, in denen Verschiebung, Übersetzung und Hybridisierung zu grundlegenden Bedingungen zeitgenössischer Existenz werden.

Sahakyan studierte Bildende Kunst an der Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, am Central Saint Martins in London sowie an der ENSAPC École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy, die sie 2018 mit Auszeichnung abschloss. Anschließend setzte sie ihre Forschung an der École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay im Rahmen des Programms ARRC Art, Science & Technology fort.

Ihre Arbeiten wurden international unter anderem im Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, im Giudecca Art District in Venedig, in der UCLA New Wight Gallery in Los Angeles, in der Fondation Fiminco sowie in der Cité internationale des arts in Paris präsentiert. 2024 nahm sie mit einer ortsspezifischen Intervention in der Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière an der Nuit Blanche Paris teil.

Born 1990 in Hrazdan, Armenian
Lives and works in Paris, France

Araks Sahakyan is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice spans drawing, textile works, performance, video, and installation. Rooted in experiences of migration, displacement, and cultural hybridity, her work explores the intersections of personal and collective memory, translation, identity, and the body's relationship to political and ecological realities.

Born in Armenia and partly raised in Spain before settling in Paris, Sahakyan develops her work from fragmented memories, ornamental visual languages, references to popular culture, and technological imagery. Her works oscillate between intimacy and spatial presence, combining vivid visual surfaces with underlying tensions shaped by exile, transgenerational trauma, ecological fragility, and processes of transformation.

Through textile structures, symbolic forms, moving images, and performative gestures, Sahakyan creates immersive visual and experiential environments in which memory is understood not as a fixed archive, but as a fluid and constantly shifting process. Her practice reflects states of transition and permeability, where displacement, translation, and hybridization become fundamental conditions of contemporary existence.

Sahakyan studied Fine Arts at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Central Saint Martins in London, and the ENSAPC École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy, graduating with highest honours in 2018. She later continued her research at the École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay within the ARRC Art, Science & Technology program.

Her work has been presented internationally at institutions including the Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Giudecca Art District in Venice, UCLA New Wight Gallery in Los Angeles, Fondation Fiminco, and Cité internationale des arts in Paris. In 2024, she participated in Nuit Blanche Paris with a site-specific intervention at the Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière.

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EDUCATION

- 2022- 23 ARRC Research-Creation in Art, Science & Technology, ENS Paris-Saclay, France
- 2022 Intensive Acting and Drama Training, École du Jeu, Paris, France
- 2015- 18 DNSEP in Fine Arts, ENSAPC École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts de Paris-Cergy, France — Graduated with highest honours
- 2016 Fine Arts, Central Saint Martins, London (Erasmus), United Kingdom
- 2014- 15 Fine Arts, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France
- 2008- 13 BA & MA in Translation and Interpreting, Universidad de Alicante, Spain

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2025- 26 Residency Programme 2-12, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 2024- 25 Regional Artist Residency Programme, Île-de-France, in collaboration with Scène de Recherche ENS Paris-Saclay and the Laboratory for Climate and Environmental Sciences (LSCE), CEA-CNRS-UVSQ, Saclay, France
- 2024 Finalist, Prix Carré Sur Seine, France
Artist Residency, Collège Les Coutures, Parmain, France
- 2023 Laureate, AIC Grant (Aide Individuelle à la Création), DRAC Île-de-France, France
Residency, Laboratory for Climate and Environmental Sciences (LSCE), CEA-CNRS-UVSQ, Saclay, France
Residency, Abbaye de Maubuisson, France
Residency, La Folie Barbizon, France
Laureate, Pluri-Identitats Visual Arts Award, Museo de la Universidad de Alicante, Spain
- 2022 Residency and Grant, TAMAT Museum of Tapestries and Textile Arts of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Tournai, Belgium
- 2021 Laureate, Transverse Grant with Rebecca Topakian, ADAGP & Freelens, France
Residency and Grant, Drawing Factory, Drawing Lab & CNAP, Paris, France
- 2020 FoRTE Grant (Fonds régional pour les talents émergents), Île-de-France, France
- 2019 i-Portunus Mobility Grant for Artists, European Union
- 2018 Laureate, 3rd Edition Prix BIC® for ENSAPC, France

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *The Windows Of My Home*, Studio 20, Yerevan, Armenia, curated by Momik Vardanyan / art basis
- 2024 *Nuit Blanche 2024 - Archaeologies of a Frozen Memory*, Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière, Paris, France
Partir / Arriver ?, Micro-Folie, Taverny, France, curated by Jay Levent
- 2023 *Araks Sahakyan*, presented in the framework of Hariak Zinemaldia (Festival of Cinema of Resistance Hariak), Kulturarteko Plaza Feminista, Hernani, Basque Country, Spain
Les petites maisons, L'Officine, Paris, France
- 2021 *TRANSITS*, Centre d'art YGREC, Aubervilliers, France

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *RELATION(ES)*, Group Show, Melbye-Konan | Contemporary Art & Advisory, Hamburg, Germany
Tú eres testigo de mi gran amor / Tu es témoin de mon grand amour, Julio Artist Run Space, Paris, France
Si le vent tombe, Galerie Samira Cambie & Maison des Relations Internationales, Montpellier, France, curated by menk
- 2025-26 *Être à la nature*, LSCE & IDEEV, Campus Saclay, France, curated by Le SAS Science Art Société
- 2025 *(Les) Neiges*, duo show with Tatiana Efrussi, Atelier Olga Kisseleva, Paris, France, curated by Anastasia Kurlyandtseva
Projection of the experimental documentary *Solastalgies ou Tapis à mémoire(s)* (2023), in the framework of the exhibition *La France en Antarctique*, LUMEN, France
Territoires tissés / Woven Territories, Fondation Bullukian, Lyon, France, curated by Fanny Robin & Nairi Khatchadourian
Přesuny a proudy - Kde se setkávají Dněpr a Labe / Displacements and Torrents: Where the Dnipro and the Elbe Meet, Dům umění, Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic, curated by Sasha Baydal & Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez
- 2024-25 *I Hit You With a Flower*, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Netherlands, curated by Nanda Janssen
Displacements and Torrents: Where the Dnipro and the Elbe Meet, Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France, curated by Sasha Baydal & Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez

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- 2024 *Mouvement*, Galerie Melbye-Konan, Hamburg, Germany
Gyumri Art Week, Aslamazyan Museum, Gyumri, Armenia
Imagining the Present: Towards a New Language, Empire Zero One, Cologne, Germany, curated by art basis
Un Carré de Jardin, exhibition of the finalists of the Prix Carré sur Seine, Musée des Années 30, Boulogne-Billancourt, France, curated by Ami Barak & Carré sur Seine
As the Sharp Narrative Fades, a Revealing Map Emerges, Gallery Chosun, Seoul, South Korea, curated by Inseon Kim
- 2023- 24 *Biennale d'Art Textile Contemporain Étoffes*, Centre Historique de la Laine et de la Mode, Verviers, Belgium
- 2023 *Borderline Ornaments*, Folk Arts Museum, Yerevan, Armenia, co-curated with Irina Popiashvili
Pluri-identitats - III Convocatoria de Artes Visuales 2023, Museo de la Universidad de Alicante, Alicante, Spain
From Thread to Fabric, HayArt Cultural Center, Yerevan, Armenia, curated by ICA Yerevan
- 2022- 23 *R22*, TAMAT Museum of Tapestries and Textile Arts of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Tournai, Belgium
- 2022 *Between the Self and Its True Home*, UCLA New Wight Gallery, Los Angeles, USA, curated by Rachel Hakimian-Emenaker & Farshid Bazmandegan
Circades, Le 6B, Saint-Denis, France, curated by Collectif Espace Fine
SILK, Giudecca Art District, parallel to the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, curated by Alfons Hug / Goethe Institut
- 2021 *Les 24 heures de la création FoRTE*, Fondation Fiminco, Romainville, France
Salon de Montrouge, 65th edition, Le Beffroi, Montrouge, France, curated by Ami Barak & Marie Gautier
Paper Art 2021, CODA Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands
Pollyanna, Bastille Design Center, Paris, France, curated by Elora Weill-Engerer
- 2019 *Out of the Shadows*, NPAK, Yerevan, Armenia, curated by Sonia Balassanian & Arpa Hacopian
- 2018 *The Voyager's Record - Rejestr podróżnika*, Galeria SKALA, Poznań, Poland, curated by Paulina Brelinska
Organs & Alliances, Goethe-Institut Paris & Berlin-Leipzig, France/Germany, curated by Clémentine Deliss

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- 2017 *Surfaces Sans Cible – After Photography*, Galerie 22Visconti, Paris, France, curated by Anaïd Demir
Neu Now Festival for Emerging Artists, Het Ketelhuis, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2016 *The Script-less Film*, Gasworks Gallery, London, United Kingdom, curated by Erika Tan

PERFORMANCES

- 2025 *Solastalgia*, performance premiere, Scène de Recherche ENS Paris-Saclay, France, developed within the residency at the Scène de Recherche theater in collaboration with LSCE
- 2024 *Concert for Voice and Organ*, with Baptiste-Florian Marle-Ouvrard, Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière, Paris, France
Nuit Blanche 2024, Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière, Paris, France
Healing Translations, in the framework of the exhibition *Un Carré de Jardin*, Musée des Années 30, Boulogne-Billancourt, France
- 2023 *Nuit Blanche*, Hariak Zinemaldia, Hernani, Basque Country, Spain
Nuit Blanche, Parcours artistique Axe Majeur, Cergy, France
- 2022 *Nuit Blanche*, Journée de la Science, Scène de Recherche ENS Paris-Saclay, France
Seismós, Festival de performances Axe Majeur, Cergy, France
Yerma, Nuit des Musées, TAMAT Musée de la Tapisserie, Tournai, Belgium
- 2021 *VERK (blessure)*, 65th Salon de Montrouge, France
- 2020 *Softpain-Vichap*, Stamba D Block, Tbilisi, Georgia
Softpain with SSTR, Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art (NPAK), Yerevan, Armenia
Softpain with SSTR, Jardin Denfert, Paris, France
- 2017 *Home Portrait*, exhibition *Surfaces Sans Cible*, Galerie 22Visconti, Paris, France

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VIDEO PROJECTS

- 2025 *HYPOXIA*, 9'
- 2024 *Paper Planes*, 19' (video installation)
- 2023 *Solastalgies ou Tapis à mémoire(s): rêves archéologiques d'une mémoire glacée*, 33', presented in the framework of the exhibition La France en Antarctique, LUMEN, France
- 2022 *Skin Flags*, 30"
Have You Ever Held a Live Bird Cupped in Your Hands?, 3', video created for the performance Yerma
- 2020 *Flags*, 2'30'', presented in the video program of Jeune Création, 69th edition, Komunuma, Romainville, France
- 2018 *Mythologies féminines: Salomé*, 25'; Juana, 12'; Hansel und Gretel, 12'; Galanthus nivalis, 4'
Flags, Flags, Flags, 3'30"
Salomé, screened at the One Shot International Film Festival, ACCA NPAK, Yerevan, Armenia
- 2014-17 *ingenocide*, 8'43'', presented at the Neu Now Festival for Emerging Artists, Het Ketelhuis, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2015 *DiscoWar*, 3'30"
Fragmentation d'un instant, 1' (video installation)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 *Rouge Insecte*, with Rebecca Topakian, Éditions Sometimes, published with the support of the Transverse Grant by Freelens & ADAGP