

 Experience the work of young Armenian Artist, Vahagn Hamalbashyan, at a new exhibition in the School of Design.

Vahagn is one of a new generation of Armenian artists and his work, influenced by Pop, is collage, graffiti and figurative images, over-painted like Sigmar Polke on other images / panoramas.

The exhibition is in the School of Design's Corridor Gallery, 30 April - 4 May, with the opening event Tuesday 1 May.

Everyone is Welcome.

Vahagn was selected as the first artist to participate in a new exchange project set up by the School of Design's Professor Ken Hay and the AKOS foundation - which organises artists' residencies in Armenia.

We hope to continue with this exchange into the future.

Following Prof. Kenneth G. Hay's visit to Yerevan last spring and his residency at AKOS, we are now following up on possible future plans with this exchange project, which we are building on the very positive relations and contacts which we made during M. Tonoyan's (chair of the Akos Cultural NGO) visit to Leeds and France, to set up a regular exchange between our two countries, and in particular to enable the sharing of art ideas and exchanges between Leeds and Yerevan, through Akos and the School of Design, University of Leeds.

For the beginning we see this as operating on a relatively small scale, enabling one artist/scholar per year from each country to have short study trips to each other's country to learn about and develop understanding of each other's art and cultures. Activities might include researching into the art and culture of each region for exhibition or publication purposes, or short artists' residencies to produce a body of work about the locality, study trips to visit key cultural sites of each country and lectures, talks, meetings and debates to extend learning and fellowship between our two countries.

This might develop, longer term into a permanent cultural link, involving joint exhibitions, publications, films and research projects.

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