ERVAND KOCHAR. MULTIDIMENSIONAL GENIUS

/Presentation of Artistic legacy of Maestro Kochar and his relations with Georgian artists Lado Gudiashvili, David Kakabadze and Helene Akhvlediani/

Painter - sculptor Ervand Kochar's (1899 - 1979) creative heritage is one of the most interesting phenomena of modern art of the 20th century.

The art of Ervand Kochar, the painter and sculptor, offers a compelling illustration of the affinities and resonances between Armenian and world culture, the parallel trajectories of artistic development, and the rich cultural dialogue between Armenia and Georgia, as well as between Armenia and France.

1923-36 in Paris, he created an art that placed his name among the greats who influenced the European Avant-Garde and the subsequent course of world fine art. Kochar is the founder of Painting in the Space /"Peinture dans l'espace"/ - a new form of artistic expression that incorporates time as an additional fourth dimension.

He was born in 1899 in Tiflis to Simon and Fiokla Kocharian from Shushi. Ervand Kochar enrolled at the Nersisian School in 1906 and studied there until 1918. He simultaneously attending the O. Shmerling college of Arts and Sculpture. Tiflis was perhaps the warmest, dearest, and most unforgettable of all the memories cherished by Ervand Kochar.

Here he encountered his remarkable teachers and savoured the privilege of meeting the distinguished and revered Armenian, Georgian, and other artists, writers, and intellectuals of his time. It was in this city that he took his first steps into the world of art, the world he adored; here he experienced the exhilaration of his first successes and the enchantment of his first love...

Numerous documents and letters preserved in the Ervand Kochar Museum's archives testify that Kochar's connection with Tiflis remained alive until the very end of his life. Tiflis was closely associated with many of his friends and

contemporaries, including Lado Gudiashvili, David Kakabadze, Helene Akhvlediani. Even in Paris, these extraordinary sons of Tiflis remained together.

And how deeply meaningful it is that Nersisian School, with its remarkable historical legacy, and Ervand Kochar, with his boundless creative vision, should meet once again within these historic walls.