

PAUL GUIRAGOSSIAN

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MADONNA AND CHILD
Paul Guiragossian
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The paintings and drawings of renowned artist Paul Guiragossian reflect the nuances of the human condition with radiant complexity through colour, form and careful abstraction. Born into a family of Armenian descent in Jerusalem, Guiragossian's art reflected on themes of Palestinian exile, collective struggle, kinship and representations of the maternal. His line drawings exhibit masterful renderings of gesture with fluid outlines of clothed figures, while his paintings reckon human form through thick, elongated brush strokes.

In 1942, the artist studied painting at Jerusalem's Yarkon Studio before emigrating to Lebanon in 1948 during the Arab-Israeli war. The son of a single mother, Guiragossian revisits the theme of mother and child in a vivid spectrum of hues and gestures, showing his reverence for the roles of women as virtuous caretakers at the crux of every society. On this theme, Guiragossian wrote, "The woman is constantly present in my paintings, my drawings, because she is Love, Childhood, Suffering and Peace. She is the one who is against sending her son and husband to wars."

Guiragossian, who pursued a scholarship at the Academic di Belle Arti in Florence in 1957, won First Prize at the 1958 Florence Biennale and the 1961 Paris Biennale. Lebanon held a state funeral in Beirut for Guiragossian upon his death in 1993.

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