

**THE DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE FOCUSES ON THE UNCERTAINTY OF
REFUGEE JOURNEYS IN PRESENTING *HRAIR SARKISSIAN: HORIZON***



WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College will present, ***Hrair Sarkissian: Horizon***, a two-channel video [installation](#) that charts one of the shortest and most common refugee routes from Kaş on the southwestern Turkish shore, across the Mycale Strait, to the island of Megisti on the edge of southeastern Greece. The exhibition, which opens on September 19, and runs through December 17, 2017, will be on view in the Joan Levine Freedman '57 and Richard I. Freedman Gallery.

“Sarkissian’s installation powerfully evokes the uncertainty of the refugee experience across a perilous route,” said Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum and curator of the exhibition. “It is a great honor to present Sarkissian’s beautiful and moving piece, and to introduce the artist’s work for the first time in New England. It also demonstrates the Davis Museum’s ongoing commitment to providing a platform for artists who address today’s most pressing and complex political concerns.”

Sarkissian writes of this journey “into the unknown” as marked by extreme uncertainty wherein “there is just one line to hold on to: the horizon. A line that divides the blues of the water and the sky, the up and the down. It visualizes how close the future is, a starting point for building up hopes and dreams, a refuge for escaping the darkness of the present, while holding on to the memories of the past.”

Hrair Sarkissian’s [Horizon](#) (2016), was filmed from the sky by a drone, over an area of 1.2 kilometers. The two-channel video installation is six minutes and 58 seconds in length.

The Artist

Hrair Sarkissian (b. 1973) was raised in Damascus, Syria and trained in his father’s photographic studio. He is best known for dramatically staged photographic series that imply political and social

conditions through situations that highlight absence. Sarkissian attended the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie in Arles, France (2003-2004), completed a BFA in Photography at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam in 2010, and has lived and worked in London since 2011.

Sarkissian is the 2012 winner of The Abraaj Group Prize, Dubai. Since 2005, his work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions around the world. His work is held in many private and institutional collections, including that of the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, and the Tate Modern, London. The artist's website can be found at: <http://hairsarkissian.com/>.

Hrair Sarkissian: Horizon is presented with generous support from the Maryam and Edward Eisler / Goldman Sachs Gives Fund on Art and Visual Culture in the Near, Middle, and Far East at the Davis Museum.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FALL OPENING CELEBRATION

Tuesday, September 19, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Remarks at 7 p.m.

Davis Lobby and Galleries

The Davis Museum invites the public to celebrate the opening of its fall 2017 exhibitions—including six special installations that bring spectacular energy and creative visual innovation to the Wellesley College campus. Guests will welcome visiting artist Eddie Martinez in debuting his major solo exhibition, *Ants at a Picnic*, and enjoy a first look at *Hrair Sarkissian: Horizon*; *Martin Luther: Protest in Print*; *Life on Paper: South African Prints from the Davis Collections*; *Soong May-ling: Paintings*; and *David Teng Olsen: Smoked My Head on Yes Waters*.

CONVERSATION WITH THE ARTIST: HRAIR SARKISSIAN

Wednesday, November 1, 12:30 p.m.

Friends of Art Gallery

The public is invited to join Hrair Sarkissian, by Skype from his London studio, with exhibition curator Lisa Fischman in conversation on the artist's video installation, *Horizon*, and contemporary art practices inflected by political concerns.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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Image Credit: *Horizon*, 2016. Two channel video, HD, 6min 58sec. Courtesy the artist and Kalfayan Galleries, Athens - Thessaloniki

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request.