

Butunay Hagverdiyev

b. 1989, Baku, Azerbaijan

"I'm still alive and working hard, exploring new styles, meanings, and approaches to painting".

Butunay Hagverdiyev's artistic journey is shaped by tradition yet distinctly his own, defined by a deep exploration of everyday life and human nature. Rejecting conventional canons, he immersed himself in the study of human behavior, capturing familiar scenes with a depth that goes beyond mere representation. For Butunay, painting is not just about documenting a moment - it is about uncovering the essence of various routines and emotions, transforming them into visual revelations.

His creative process is rooted in keen observation. The artist meticulously studies people, and their interactions with the world, memorizing every detail. In his works, these details are imbued with meaning, gradually unfolding before the viewer. His works serve not only as emotionally evocative compositions but also as a historical archive, preserving the habits, traditions, and cultural codes of specific eras and regions.

Born in Baku, Butunay studied Fine Arts at the Azim Azimzade State Art School before continuing his education at the Moscow branch of the British Higher School of Art and Design. In his teenage years, the artist contributed to the restoration of frescoes in an Orthodox church in Baku between 2003 and 2008.

His first solo exhibition was held in 2010 at the Contemporary Art Center in Baku, marking the beginning of an active career that has included numerous group exhibitions in Azerbaijan, Russia, France, and Italy.

His international presence expanded in 2013 when his work was featured in the Azerbaijan Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale.

Two years later, his wooden sculptures, adorned with Azerbaijani carpet motifs, were showcased at the Azerbaijani Carpets in Art exhibition at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes and later at the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum in Baku.

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A turning point in his artistic journey came during the lockdown. In isolation, Butunay began to perceive his surroundings through a new lens. Nature and solitude became central to his creative exploration, leading him to experiment with themes of silence, simplicity, and the cyclical nature of life away from the bustle of city life and urban distractions. This experience reinforced his role as an observer rather than a participant, allowing him to depict crowds and events from a reflective distance.

Each of Butunay's works is more than an image - it is a deeply personal narrative, shaped by his observations and experiments. As an artist with an exceptionally broad range of mediums, he navigates digital art, sculpture, installation, and traditional painting. His diverse practice not only expands the boundaries of his visual language but also compels viewers to reconsider their own perceptions of the ordinary, revealing the profound layers hidden within the moments of daily life.

EDUCATION

2011 - 2012 British Higher School of Art and Design

2004 - 2008 Azim Azimzade State Art School

EXHIBITIONS

2024 QGallery, Baku, Azerbaijan

2017 "Song in a stone" II International Sculpture Symposium / Baku, Azerbaijan

2016 "Azerbaijan meets Maldives in Berlin" / Berlin-Baku Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2014 "Crossing" / QGallery, Baku, Azerbaijan

2014 "Semeni" art contest ("Kuknar" festival)/ Baku, Azerbaijan

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- 2013 "From Waste to Art" II International Festival / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2013 "Kuknar" festival / Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2013 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2012 "Heritage" / European Union Embassy, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2012 "Situational Sculpture" / Moscow, Russia
- 2012 "Ön Söz" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2010 "Payız" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2010 "Before, now, after" / Center of Contemporary Art, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2009 "Resonanse" / Yaradan, Azerbaijan
- 2008 "Payız" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2008 "Uçuş" / Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2008 Yaradan, Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2003-2008 Group project in orthodox church of Apostle Bartholomew, Baku, Azerbaijan

Museums and Collections

Housed within private collections.