

*Sargis Katchadourian's Artistic reproductions of India's cultural gems from the collection of  
National Gallery of Armenia*

Dr. Satenik Chookaszian (Armenian National Art Gallery)

Sarkis Katchadourian (1886-1947) stands among the most famous Armenian artists of modern period. Born in Ottoman Malatya, Katchadourian pursued his artistic studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and the National School of Decorative Arts in Paris, before embarking on further studies and extensive travels through Europe and the Caucasus. In 1915, he settled in Tbilisi, and visited Armenia frequently from there, painting a series of refugee women and orphans of the Armenian Genocide. In 1929, Katchadourian was invited by the government of Iran to restore and copy seventeenth-century wall paintings in Isfahan. Between 1937-1941, he visited India periodically and copied the Buddhist wall paintings in the rock-cut chapels there. He displayed these artworks in numerous exhibitions in India, Egypt, Europe and the United States. Over the course of his career, Katchadourian presented more solo exhibitions than any other Armenian artist. His paintings are held in the collections of numerous international museums, but the greatest quantity of his artworks, as well as his and his wife's archives are preserved at the National Gallery of Armenia. Drawing from a direct study of the paintings, as well as the National Gallery's archival holdings, including the artist's own published and unpublished writings, this paper contextualizes Katchadourian's engagement with and reproduction of fifth-twelfth century C.E. cave paintings from Ajanta, Badami, Bagh, Sittanavasal, and other sites in India, as well the place of these works within his oeuvre. The original Indian frescoes and rock carvings are considered among the finest surviving examples of Indian art, particularly painting. Since some of the original murals survive in poor condition, the replicas made by Katchadourian offer insight into their appearance nearly a century ago.

**Bio:** *Satenik Chookaszian had graduated from the Art History Department of Yerevan State University and then studied a half-semester at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Since 2007 she has worked as a professor of Armenian Art history at Yerevan State University. Dr. Chookaszian has delivered numerous conference papers in USA, Europe and Russia. In 2015 she received her Ph.D. in Arts. Her research was devoted to the study of illumination of Cilician miniature painting and relations to the Art of the Mediterranean World. Dr. Chookaszian is the author of numerous papers in different scholarly journals. Since 2018 she has served as the head of the Decorative-Applied arts department of the National Gallery of Armenia.*