

# GREAT MASTERS OF ETCHING

📍 Studio-museum of Giotto

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This year marks the 150th birth anniversary of French-Armenian artists Edgar Chahine and Tigrane Polat. On this occasion, the National Gallery of Armenia has organized their joint jubilee exhibition at "Gevorg Grigoryan (Giotto) Studio-Museum", the NGA branch, which presents the artists' best graphic works from the NGA collection by their chronological stages and thematic periods.

Starting his creative activity in France in the mid-90s of the 19th century, Edgar Chahine became one of those few Armenian artists who won an all-European recognition during their lifetime. Throughout his prolific activity of more than half a century he created hundreds of highly artistic etchings, which enriched not only French, but also Armenian realist graphics. Over the years,

the artist perfected his art using various techniques: dry point, etching, aquatint, soft varnish, though he finally preferred dry point.

Tigrane Polat was one of the renowned artists in the field of graphics. Chamber graphics and book illustrations occupied a significant place in his multi-genre work. The success of the talented artist was conditioned by the illustrations of books of the most famous authors, among which the 70 sheets of "Fables" by Jean de La Fontaine are distinguished. The series of pictures "Stations of the Cross" created in 1948 is the "requiem" of Polat's creative life. It presents the dramatic events of the last days of Christ's earthly life.

Chahine and Polat were close friends. Polat under the supervision of his teacher Chahine mastered the technical nuances of etching, became skillful in that art and had the advice and support of his friend throughout his life. They travelled together, attended exhibitions and art evening performances. As the artist, art critic R. Chichmanian wrote, "Edgar Chahine and Tigrane Polat were close friends both in life and in their activity, their works could be seen side by side on the same wall like brothers".

The exhibition is also presented with a trilingual catalogue (Armenian, English, Russian).

👤 Curator and author of the catalogue: Nune Tadevosyan.

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