



Timeless Textiles: KURAK – Piecing Together Women's Stories

TIMELESS TEXTILES: KURAK – Piecing Together Women's Stories

Exhibition

18 October – 2 November 2024
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Kurak art works have always carried deep symbolic meanings associated with fertility, care and protection. Kurak is an act of love of a woman for people close to her, Kurak is warmth and comfort, Kurak is a collection of symbols and meanings, Kurak is all the colors of nature, Kurak is a collective memory. Kurak is also an example of caring for nature through the recycling of fabrics: even the smallest scraps of fabric acquire their place and meaning in this big world.

The Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts is exhibiting Kurak works through their own funds; the exhibition also presents works of contemporary textile artists who, while maintaining technological continuity, are creating new forms and meanings, raising various social and personal issues. This exhibition shows how tradition intertwines with contemporary artistic practices, creating a dialogue between past and present.

The exhibition “Timeless Textiles: Kurak – Piecing Together Women's Stories” is an invitation to immerse ourselves in the cultural heritage left to us by our grandmothers and great-grandmothers and inspires contemporary artists to create new works that will also be displayed at the exhibition. This exhibition reflects on women's contributions to the culture and arts of Kyrgyzstan, emphasizing the role of women in preserving and passing on traditions to future generations.

Organisers: The Department of Decorative and Applied Arts at the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts named after G. Aitiev, in collaboration with the University of Central Asia (UCA), Graduate School of Development (GSD), Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit

Curators:

- Altyn Kapalova, Acting Director, GSD's Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit, UCA.
- Cholpon Alamanova, Applied Artist, member of the Union of Artists of Kyrgyzstan.
- Chynara Daniarova, Head of the Department of Decorative and Applied Arts at the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts named after G. Aitiev.

Artists: Manshuk Esdaulet, Gaukhar Sadykova, Nagima Alamanova, Cholpon Alamanova, and unknown craftswomen, whose names history has not preserved, but each panel has preserved the warmth of their hands and the memory of their creativity and ability to care for loved ones.

Opening of the exhibition: 18 October 2024, 4:00 PM
at the Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts named after G. Aitiev.

