

## SHUSHA DESCRIPTION IN ART

**Mammadov M.***Doctor of Philosophy in Pedagogy  
Department head of Ganja State University***ABSTRACT**

This article is dedicated to the works of art that glorify the ancient city of Shusha, which has a unique place in the cultural history of Azerbaijan. In addition to the architectural monuments spread throughout the seventeen neighborhoods of this charming corner of Karabakh, the national architectural features of the civil buildings have also become a source of inspiration for artists who have seen this place. The artists' creations are also of historical importance, as they bring to life the visions of the city of several centuries in their painting and graphic works.

If we talk about these works addressed to Shusha in chronological order, then first of all we should remember the graphic art examples drawn by the famous Russian artist V.V. Vereshagin and the local brush master Mir Mohsen Navvab.

The creation of examples of fine art addressed to Shusha mainly after the sovietization of the country was primarily related to the opening of the first art school in the republic and the enrichment of fine and decorative-applied art with new personnel. In the course of time, A. Hajiyev, M. Abdullayev, N. Abdurrahmanov, A. Rustamov, V. Ucatay, A. Hajiyev, A. Huseynov, A. Aziz, R. Bayramov, Z. Mirzayev, E. Avalov, O. Huseynov, A. Asadli, Y. Samadov and others.

**Keywords:** painting, graphics, occupation, landscape, history, nightingale.

The ancient city of Shusha, which has an exceptional place in the cultural history of Azerbaijan, has always attracted the attention of those who visit it with its unique landscape. Along with the architectural monuments spread throughout the seventeen neighborhoods of this charming corner of Karabakh, the national architectural features of its civil buildings have also become a source of inspiration for artists who have seen this place. The artists' creations are also of historical importance, as they bring to life the visions of several centuries-old cities in their paintings and graphics.

If we talk about these works addressed to Shusha in chronological order, then first of all we should remember the examples of graphic art drawn by the famous Russian artist V.V. Vereshagin as the author of battle paintings. The artist, who was in the city in the month of Muharram in 1865, stayed here for almost two months and gave an artistic appearance to the motifs and scenes that seemed very interesting to him. All aspects of the city's public life and everyday life have found a memorable animated solution in the artist's graphic boards, which have entered the history of art, such as the "Karabakh" series. The artist's "Mosque in Shusha", "Maharram religious procession in Shusha", "Tatar (Azerbaijani) cafe in Shusha", "Tatar (Muslim) grave in Shusha", etc. the plates confirm this.

In 1873, Shushali brush master M.M. Navvab also expressed his attitude to the Ashura ceremony held in the city. In this diptych created by him based on his personal observations, the moral and psychological burden of the participants of the event is expressed in a very effective capacity. In this double work, the author presented the mourning ceremony held on the last day of Ashura as a condolence for Imam Hussain as a unity of past and present, ancient historical truth and contemporary events

One of the graphic works, which is relatively little known to the public, was created in the distant 1897. This plate, which contains a generalized image of Shusha, depicts the general view of the city rising from

behind the fortress walls. It is also noticeable that the carriage depicted in the foreground completes the overall composition and gives it dynamism.

The creation of examples of fine art addressed to Shusha mainly after the sovietization of the country was primarily related to the opening of the first art school in the republic and the enrichment of fine and decorative-applied art with new personnel. The young Amir Hajiyev (1899-1972), who went to this educational institution from Shusha in the early twenties, created works praising his native city throughout his later career. His work "Shusha" created in 1964 is one such example. This plaque, which sheds light on the history of the Karabakh Khanate, depicts the meeting that took place in front of the gates of Ganja

Let's admit that his exposure to the Armenian occupation had a noticeable effect on the creation of the artist's attention to Shusha. Therefore, no matter how much admiration for the beauty of the place is the leit-motif of the works addressed to Karabakh-Shusha, the direction to the lost lands is also relatively prominent in these art examples. In this sense, first of all, the profound works of Honored artist Adil Rustamov (1943-2017) and Vagif Ujatai (1955-2020) can be named.

The graphic series "Karabaghname-pages of history" (2019) created by the well-known graphic artist - People's Artist Arif Huseynov is entirely dedicated to the history of the Karabakh problem. The artist's "Khari bulbul - a flower connected to Karabakh", "Bulleed sculptures - Uzeyir Hajibeyli, Khurshudbanu Natavan and Bulbul", as well as several graphic boards dedicated to Shusha musicians reflect the period when the city was occupied and the architectural buildings surrounded by the local population.

In two works (2021) dedicated by the well-known graphic artist Adil Asadli to Panahali Khan Javanshir, the founder of the Karabakh Khanate, and Ibrahimkhalil Khan Javanshir, the third ruler of the Khanate, it is possible to see the successful result of the inclusion of urban images in the composition. The compositional

solution similar to the works dedicated to the khans was used in the plaque dedicated by the artist to the vizier of the Karabakh Khanate - the poet Molla Panah Vagif.

Rovshan Bayramov, who considered the mysterious nature of Shusha to be his first source of beauty and considered it his life's work to describe what he saw through colors, in the numerous graphic boards created by Rovshan Bayramov, in addition to emphasizing the individual squares and streets of the city, there is a desire to emphasize the peculiarities of the buildings that live a certain part of history.

Among the graphic works dedicated to Shusha, there are many examples that preserve the historical importance of the city. "Shusha" created by architect-artist Ghazanfar Alizade. "Ibrahimkhalil Khan's Castle" (1945) is one such work. Ghazanfar Alizade's painting "Shusha" painted in the same year seems to have been inspired by the enchanting appearance of the ancient city.

The graphic boards created by the well-known brush master Honored teacher Yashar Samadov based on his imagination are enough to make you think. He created in different years "Karabakh Symphony", "Shusha Harai", "Khari nightingale calls you!", "The plane trees are waiting for the road...", "El knows that you are mine...", "Govhar Agha Mosque" etc. . In addition to the meaning of what appears in the artist's thoughts expressed in his works, it is also amazing that the image takes on an unexpected - figurative capacity. In his works addressed to Shusha, it is possible to encounter an artistic and pictorial solution of the subject.

Among these artists, architect-painter, Honored art worker, professor Elturan Avalov's love for Shusha is different from others, we would not be mistaken. Thus, the interest and love for the "Pearl of Karabakh" that he wrote in his youth on "Architecture of the city of Shusha and the preservation of its historical image" and successfully defended in 1973 became the main leitmotif of numerous graphic works created in the following years. In these works, it is quite visible that he can convey to the viewer the beauty of the history living in the stones in all its subtlety. These graphic boards, which number up to 50 and were created in the pen and ink technique, can be called Shusha's "Stone Tale".

Zaur Mirzayev is one of our artists who dedicated a series of works to Shusha, whom he opened his eyes to. Ganja gate, Meydan spring, Vagif's monument, Castle walls, Natavan spring and general images of various neighborhoods, which he painted with black and white

lines, show the author's immeasurable sympathy for spiritual and artistic resources that give us all pride.

In the "Shusha" triptych, which the talented graphic artist Tahir Majidov worked on while the city was still under occupation, the past, present and future of the ancient city are expressed in a very impressive capacity. This triptych, in which our glorious history is realized in a memorable way, can be considered one of the best examples of art dedicated to this charming corner of our country.

Let us say here that the liberation of Shusha from the occupation inspired most of our creators, and interesting graphic examples reflecting its past and present have been created. Among them, we would like to specially mention the series of watercolor works by Vahid Ismayilov, an artist from Barda. His "Shusha Road", "Shusha City", "Dasalti Road", "City Motif", "Road to Shusha", "Morning of Shusha", "Shusha. Lachin Road", "Isa Spring", "Mountains of Shusha" etc. . the author's love for the homeland is deeply felt in the graphic boards.

In the series of works painted with watercolors by the young artist from Ganja, Faig Mammadov, there is endless emphasis on the Shusha mountains. Looking at the mountains surrounding the city from different perspectives, the author has a deep observational ability in the different sources of beauty he finds every time.

As a result of the great Victory achieved in the second Karabakh war, which inspired our creators to the utmost, interesting graphic examples were created immediately after the victory. Aysel Aliyeva, a young artist who always longs for Shusha, created one of these works. In his view of the nature of Shusha from the castle gate of the city, infinite love for the place can be felt.

Since the desire to be inspired by the artistic attitude of our painters to the beauty of the mysterious nature of Shusha, mixed with music, is quite prominent, these works, which are valued as precious treasures today, deserve to be considered as a worthy contribution to the future successors of the modern generation. The creator of one of these works was an outstanding brush master, People's Artist Mikayil Abdullayev (1921-2002). In his painting "Evening" (1947), the national costumes of Karabakh women who went for a walk and the gate, which introduces the uniqueness of the local architecture, and the junction of the emerald greenery, which plays the role of a place for figures of different ages, can be felt as a whole.



*M. Abdullayev "Evening"*

The famous landscape master, People's artist Sattar Bahlulzade (1909-1974) visited Shusha in the fifties of the last century, which was very fruitful, and he dedicated to the unique nature of these places "Jidir plain"

(1956), "Flint forest" (1956), "In the mountains". road"(1956), "Around Shusha"(1957), "Upper Dashalti"(1957), "Misty Mountains"(1957), "Karabakh View"(1957), etc. created the tables.



*Sattar Bahlulzadeh. The racetrack is straight. 1956*

People's artist Togrul Narimanbeyov (1930-2013), who is originally from Shusha, created the work "Holiday in Shusha" (1990s), created during the occupation of the city, and the numerous characters in the painting are perceived as carriers of positive spirit, as the optimistic song is combined with the hope that overcomes longing.

Orkhan Huseynov's painting "Shusha City" (2007), distinguished from his colleagues by his unique artistic attitude to the distant past of our people, depicts

the celebration of Novruz. The composition, whose artistic solution is dominated by the eye-catching aesthetics of the miniature style, successfully used the junction of the urban architecture and its festive residents.

Rovshan Bayramov's paintings dedicated to his hometown are of historical and artistic importance, like his graphic boards. By giving an artistic appearance to the corners of the city, which can become a source of wonder for others, the artist was able to realize a benev-



olent mission of bringing urban motifs, which are indicators of the local construction culture, to history in a realistic capacity.

It is clear that the plates dedicated to the native city of Shusha artist Isa Ibrahimov (1924-2001) are of special importance in terms of the fact that they are made directly from nature. That is why the paintings "Meydan bulaghi" (1962) and "Shusha" (1964) painted by him in a realistic style are also of artistic and historical importance today.

The desire to hold an "artistic mirror" to the distant past of the city is clearly felt in the painting works of the outstanding graphic artist, People's Artist Altay Hajiyevev addressed to Shusha. "Shusha", "Agha Beyim Agha", "Kharibulbul", "Khurshudbanu Natavan", "Construction of the water pipeline to Shusha", etc. it is possible to hear the beauty and love of the country and its people in the rich colors of the paintings

The landscape of "Shusha" (1960s), painted by the outstanding painter - People's Artist Nadir Abdurrahmanov, is panoramic in nature and reflects the appearance of the city before the occupation. In the composition, the author, who brought together ancient religious monuments and buildings that created the later landscape of the city, was actually able to exhibit the uniqueness of Shusha architecture, distinguished by its national characteristics

The monumentality of the place depicted in the painting "At the foot of the Shusha Mountains" (1970s) by the well-known landscape artist Samad Hagverdiyev (1921-1991) can be felt. Thus, the artist who gazed at

Shusha from the foothills of the surrounding mountains managed to express the proud magnificence of the city located at a height.

In the painting "Shusham mein" (2000s) by Intigam Aghayev (1966), who was a participant in the First Karabakh War, infinite love for this mysteriously beautiful corner of the country can be felt. It is also possible to see a memorable artistic manifestation of suburban beauty in the plate "Çıdır düzü" (2021) created by Nazim Mammadov. It is visible that the author, who uses extensive improvisations, has achieved the fresh expression of Shusha's nature characteristics.

Kamil Kamal, who is known as a painter and sculptor in the art scene, in the painting "The fate of my native city" (1959), the artistic attitude towards the city is thought-provoking because it also has a figurative and philosophical meaning. Thus, in the work, which was taken after the occupation of the city, which is a major cultural center, two loaded camels are depicted trying to save Shusha on a magnificent rock against the background of a cloudy sky. Let's admit that this kind of figurative presentation of the event is new and very effective.

Asif Azerelli (1946), who throughout his creative work showed his endless emphasis on the land of Karabakh in his works of various genres, the painting "Old Karabagh" (1987) created in the Soviet period, as well as "Jidir plain" (1990s), "Sketches of Copper Pots" created during the period of independence "(2000s), "Choice of Weapons"(2000s), etc. the love of country is evident in his paintings.



*"Selecting copper vessels". Asif Azerelli.*

Honored artist Elshan Hajizade's (1947) works addressed to Shusha are characterized by figurative presentation of the subject. In this sense, we would like to especially mention the paintings "Shusham Myn" (2015), "Jabbari of the Azerbaijani Mugham" (2016), "Dua" (2019) and "Victory" (2020).

Talented brush master Khuday Ibrahimov's (1962) references to Shusha are also memorable for their artistic features. The composition capacity of one of them is a distant view of the city. The author, who depicted the pre-occupation appearance of Shusha surrounded by fortress walls in all its subtleties, brought together the ancient and modern buildings, which were "enriched" from the blue-emerald colors of the painting, and was

able to show the attractiveness of the place in the artistic whole. Khuday Ibrahimov's work "Shusha Tutu" (2020) is based on the scene that the artist once observed in the city. The main plot of the painting is the

family members gathered around the table on a summer day, waiting for the fruit of the azman mulberry tree that rises to the sky in their neighborhood



*Shusha landscape. Khuday Ibrahimov.*

Naila Ahmadova's "Shusha Mountains" (2022), Mahmud Taghiyev's "Shusha" (1960), Victor Khruslov's "Land of Azerbaijan. Mountains of Shusha" (1970s), Elmar Manafli's "Jidir Duzü" (2021), Sayyar Aliyev's "Isa Bulag "Forest" (2010), "Aga Bridge" (2012), "Kharibulbul" (2012) and "Shusha Castle" (2012).

After the second Karabakh war, the kharibul, which became a symbol of victory, also became the "sign of recognition" of Shusha and acted as the main meaning-content carrier of the works of many artists. In this sense, People's Artist Arif Aziz's "Victory Symbol" (2021), Rashad Jabbarov's "Khariulbul" (2021), Sayali Guliyeva's "Shushan's Beauty" (2021), Khatira Huseynova's "Sun of Victory" (2021), Zaur Mirzayev's "Flower" (2021)), Natig Farajullazadeh's "Kharibulbul's Dream" (2016), Tabriz Soltanli's "Kharibulbul's Awakening" (2021), etc. you can name the works.

Acquaintance with the reviewed examples of painting and graphics shows that the representatives of

different generations of artists were able to give the ancient city a memorable artistic appearance. This actually means the transmission of what happened in the distant past to future generations. In this sense, those art samples are perceived as timeless while maintaining their modernity

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