

Berberyan





The Artist



Empathy

36" x 36"

Front cover image: I Really Don't Want To Know 36" x 36"

Berberyan paintings and prints are represented by Art Traditions, Westlake Village, California, USA.
<https://arttraditions.net>

Berbery Contemporary

People relate to this artwork because it is so outrageous, you can't just walk away. The paintings, the colors are beautiful if you can see past the madness. People love the humor in this work, and its themes; and they relate to the rage and the outrage, the disappointment, isolation, frustration and drama that we have all experienced from time to time.

These characters represent the extreme of emotions that are familiar to us these days, as we try to navigate through trying times and modern challenges in a crowded world that is often confusing and unfair.

Have you ever sat in a flimsy hospital gown waiting to have your prostate checked? You know the feeling. If you have ever tried to get your Cable Bill explained, you might know the feeling. Been stranded overnight in an airport, or waited in an E.R. late at night? Been cheated out of a lot of money? That's it.

Like it or not, most people have a fascination with the suffering of others, as if seeing someone less fortunate makes us feel a little better about our own self, or our own predicament. It's why we like a good car crash or train wreck. This Contemporary, boldly colored emotions series by Berbery is here to remind us of our human shortcomings. Yet, we can all look at these faces and say : "That's not me."

These paintings have several interpretations. In one sense, Berbery is reaching back to the time he grew up, wanting to be an artist under Russian Communist tyranny. These twisted Orwellian people are like a bad dream. They also represent an amalgam of the cruel, dehumanizing, insane world of fear that totalitarian USSR enforced on its own people, and others like the Armenians that they imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain. To be truthful, the Communists did not look like this, says Berbery. But, if you could peer inside their souls, he says, these kinds of feelings would be revealed over and over again.

Today, the paranoid, survivalist mentality of the Putin regime looks to Berbery like a return to the FEAR you see in the people in these paintings. The Artist is so glad, so lucky to have escaped that dictatorship, and not to have ended up like them. He found a new life, and raised a happy family in America. But the scars of Stalinism remain on the psyche of all who lived through it; and the internal reactions that those fears can sometimes engender feel real.

"Even from the relative safety of the USA," Berbery says, "the planet sometimes seems like it is coming apart."

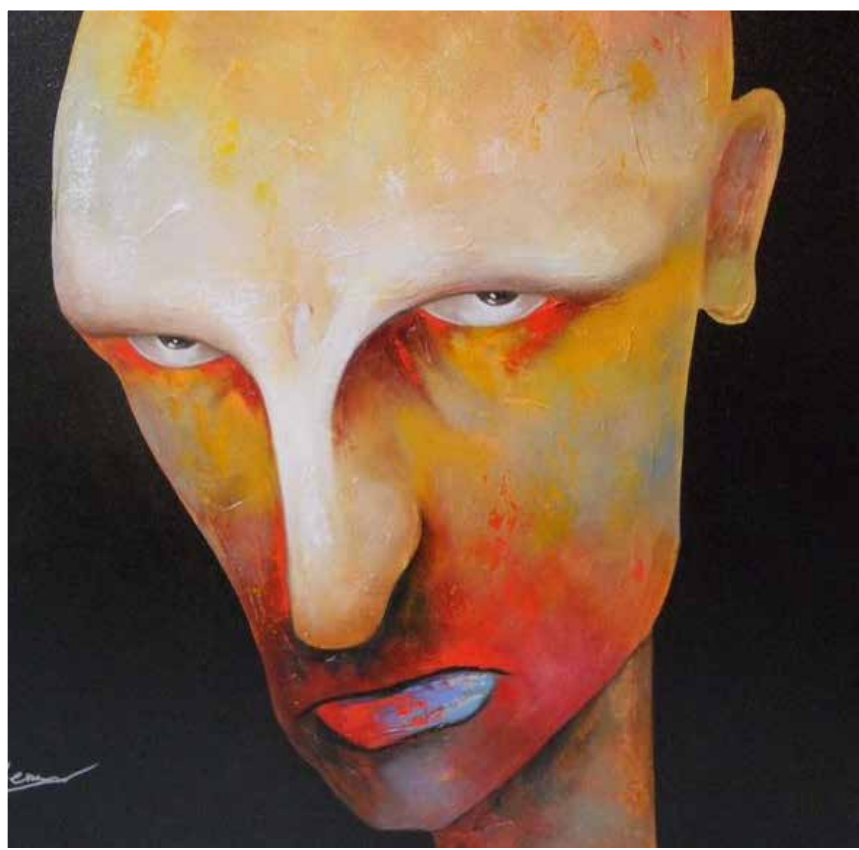
By putting his fears and frustrations into colorful canvas creations, Berbery can turn the page on them and go home to his beautiful happy family life in America.

Elliot Blinder
Publisher
Art Traditions



Again Please How Many Fingers?

36" x 48"



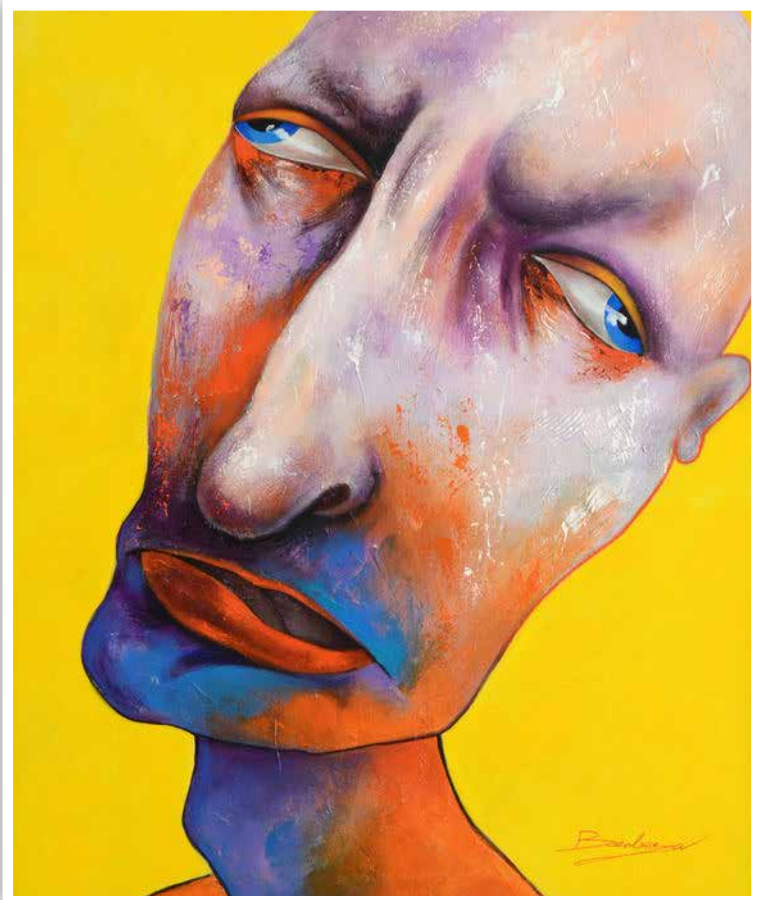
That's Nonsense!

30" x 30"



Everything Is Sideways

30" x 30"



Who Are You Calling Fucked Up?

36" x 30"



(detail from) I'm A Girl

48" x 36"



Better Than A Poke In The Eye 48" x 36"



Envy

36" x 48"



Lonesome

48" x 36"



I Always Feel Like a Target

48" x 48"



Disqualified

40" x 30"



No, No, No, No!

30" x 30"



It's Mine

36" x 36"



I'm Not Sure I Can Do This

30" x 30"



Superiority Complex

36" x 30"



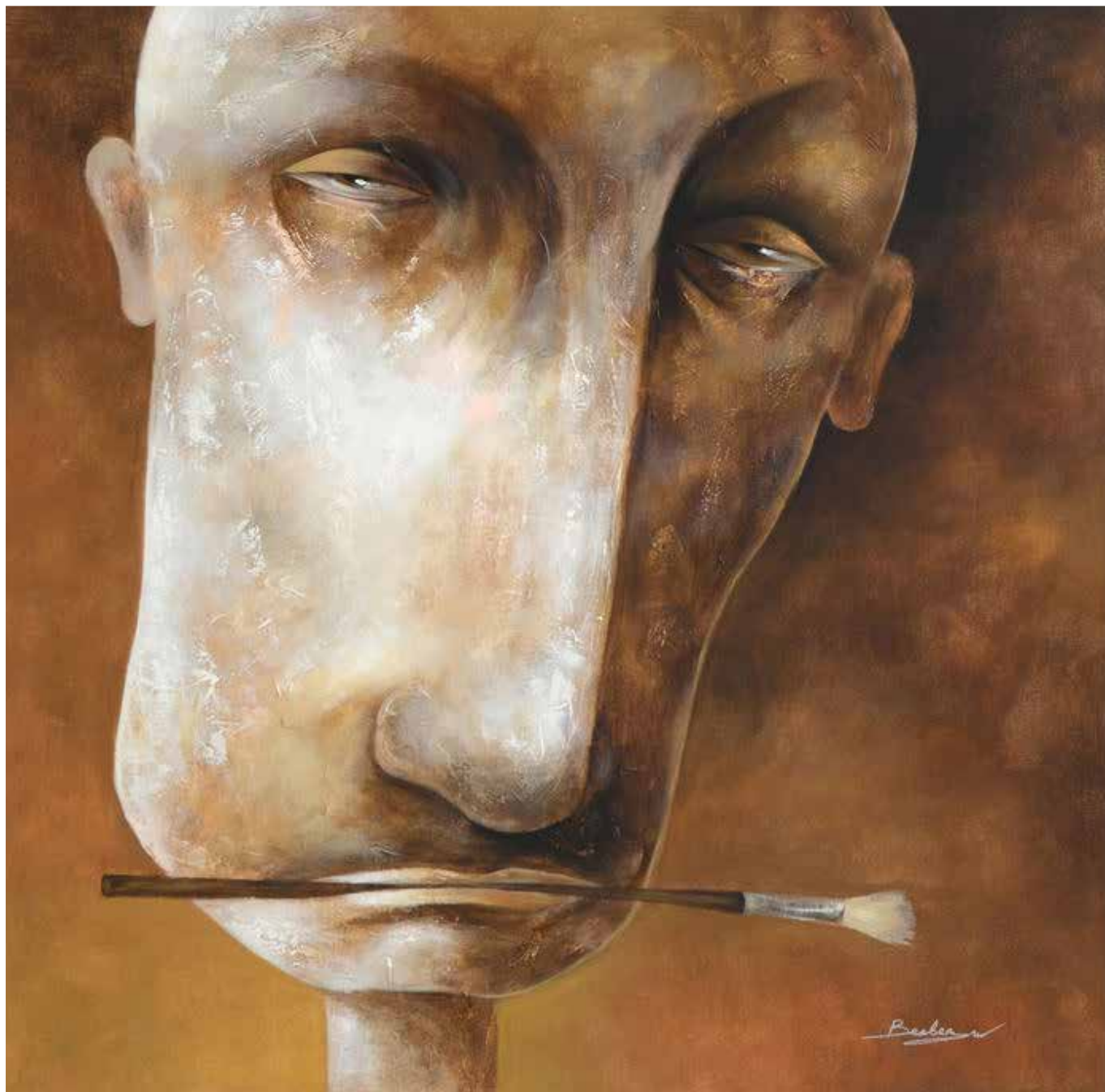
Beyond Embarrassing

48" x 36"



I Did It Four Times!

24" x 30"



I'm A Blank Canvas

48" x 48"

Opposite page: Berberyan at his art studio in Yerevan, circa 1975, with his charcoal and pencil sketches.

Berberyan

These Contemporary originals by Berberyan are acrylic and mixed-media paintings on canvas. The artist incorporates a variety of other media into his work, creating texture in the abstract backgrounds or in the faces of his curious characters.

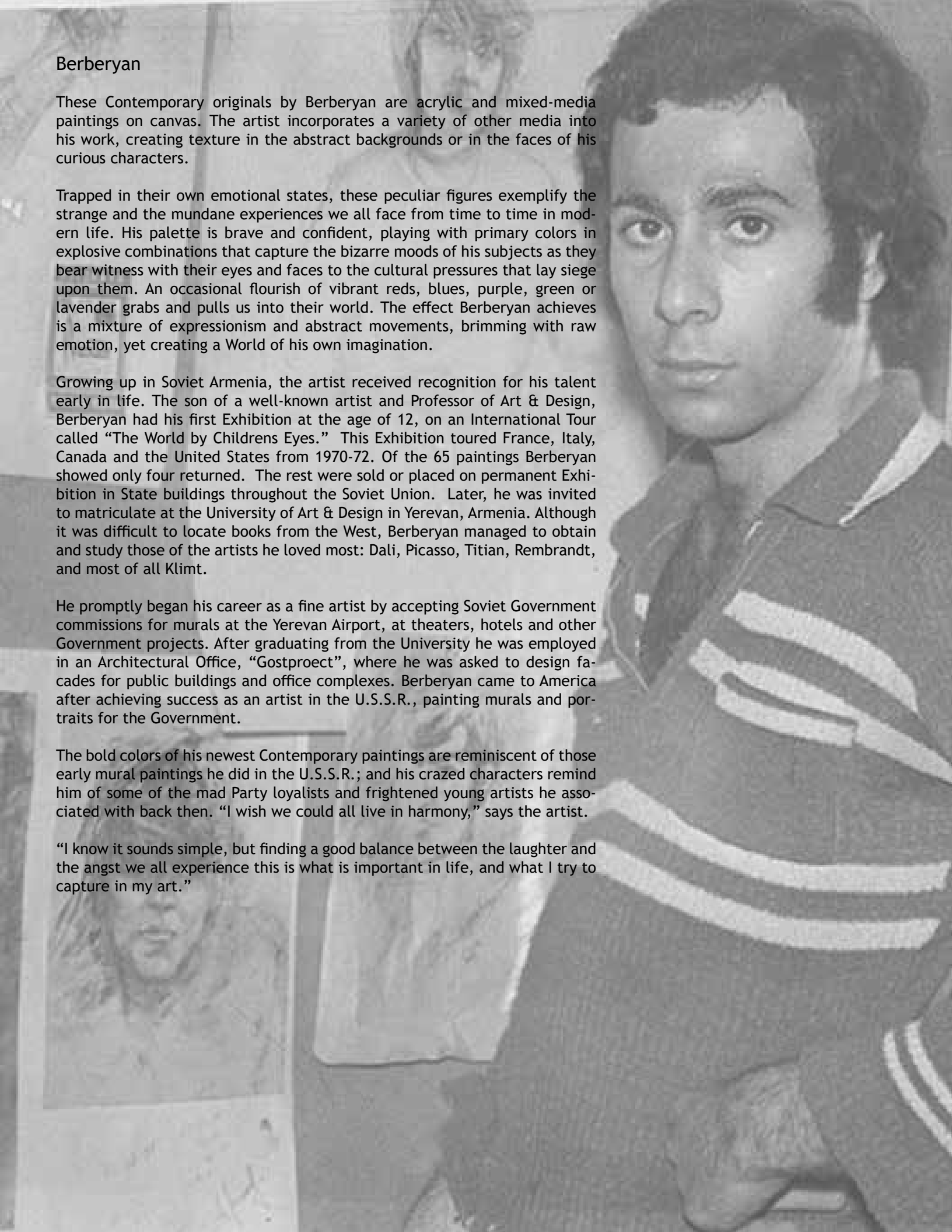
Trapped in their own emotional states, these peculiar figures exemplify the strange and the mundane experiences we all face from time to time in modern life. His palette is brave and confident, playing with primary colors in explosive combinations that capture the bizarre moods of his subjects as they bear witness with their eyes and faces to the cultural pressures that lay siege upon them. An occasional flourish of vibrant reds, blues, purple, green or lavender grabs and pulls us into their world. The effect Berberyan achieves is a mixture of expressionism and abstract movements, brimming with raw emotion, yet creating a World of his own imagination.

Growing up in Soviet Armenia, the artist received recognition for his talent early in life. The son of a well-known artist and Professor of Art & Design, Berberyan had his first Exhibition at the age of 12, on an International Tour called "The World by Childrens Eyes." This Exhibition toured France, Italy, Canada and the United States from 1970-72. Of the 65 paintings Berberyan showed only four returned. The rest were sold or placed on permanent Exhibition in State buildings throughout the Soviet Union. Later, he was invited to matriculate at the University of Art & Design in Yerevan, Armenia. Although it was difficult to locate books from the West, Berberyan managed to obtain and study those of the artists he loved most: Dali, Picasso, Titian, Rembrandt, and most of all Klimt.

He promptly began his career as a fine artist by accepting Soviet Government commissions for murals at the Yerevan Airport, at theaters, hotels and other Government projects. After graduating from the University he was employed in an Architectural Office, "Gostproect", where he was asked to design facades for public buildings and office complexes. Berberyan came to America after achieving success as an artist in the U.S.S.R., painting murals and portraits for the Government.

The bold colors of his newest Contemporary paintings are reminiscent of those early mural paintings he did in the U.S.S.R.; and his crazed characters remind him of some of the mad Party loyalists and frightened young artists he associated with back then. "I wish we could all live in harmony," says the artist.

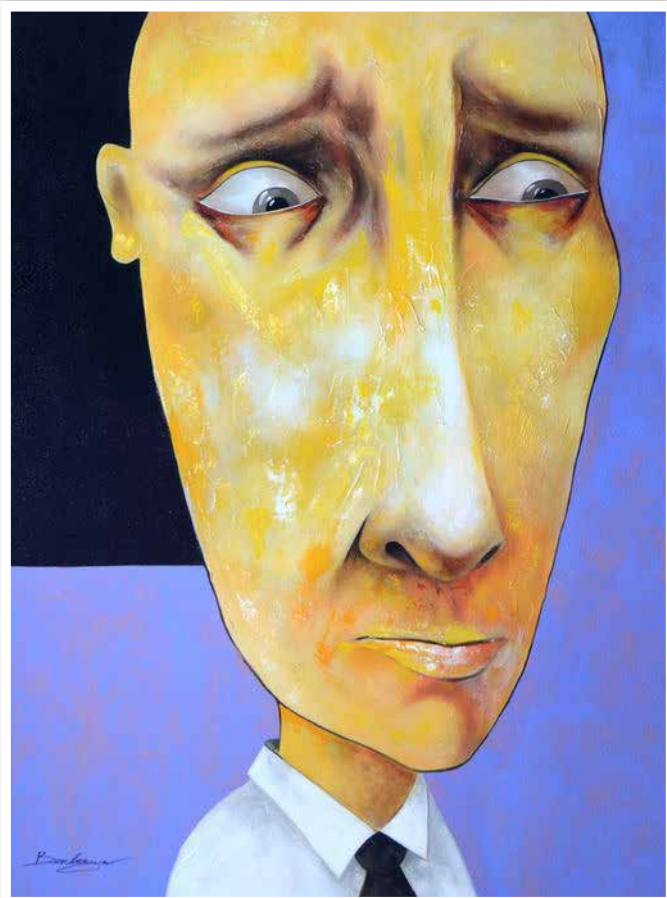
"I know it sounds simple, but finding a good balance between the laughter and the angst we all experience this is what is important in life, and what I try to capture in my art."





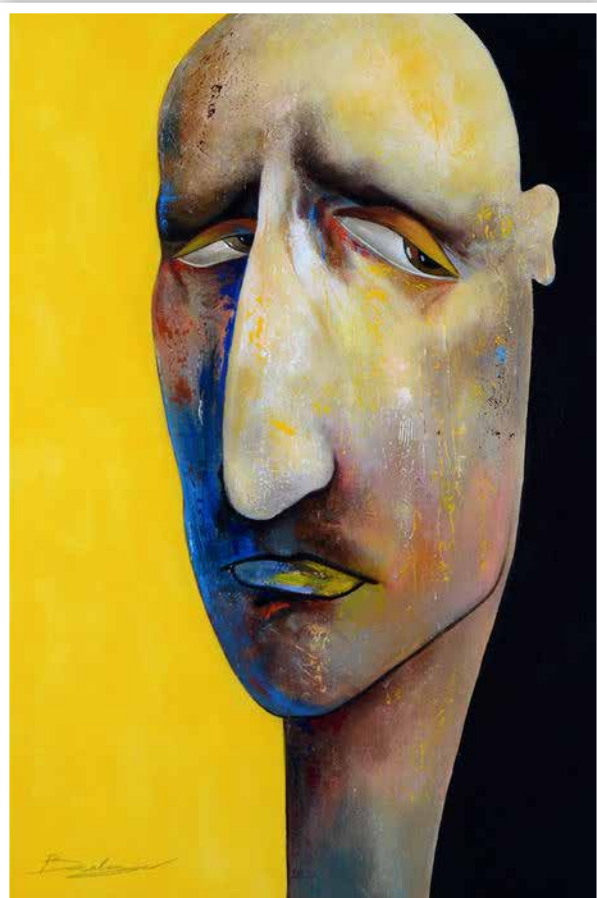
Disconnect

36" x 36"



That Doesn't Look Good

48" x 36"



Game Over

36" x 24"



Let's Get Out Of Here

30" x 30"



There's No Going Back Now

48" x 48"



Things Are Looking Up

30" x 30"



Why Do You Bother Me?

30" x 30"



Mr. Negativity

36" x 24"



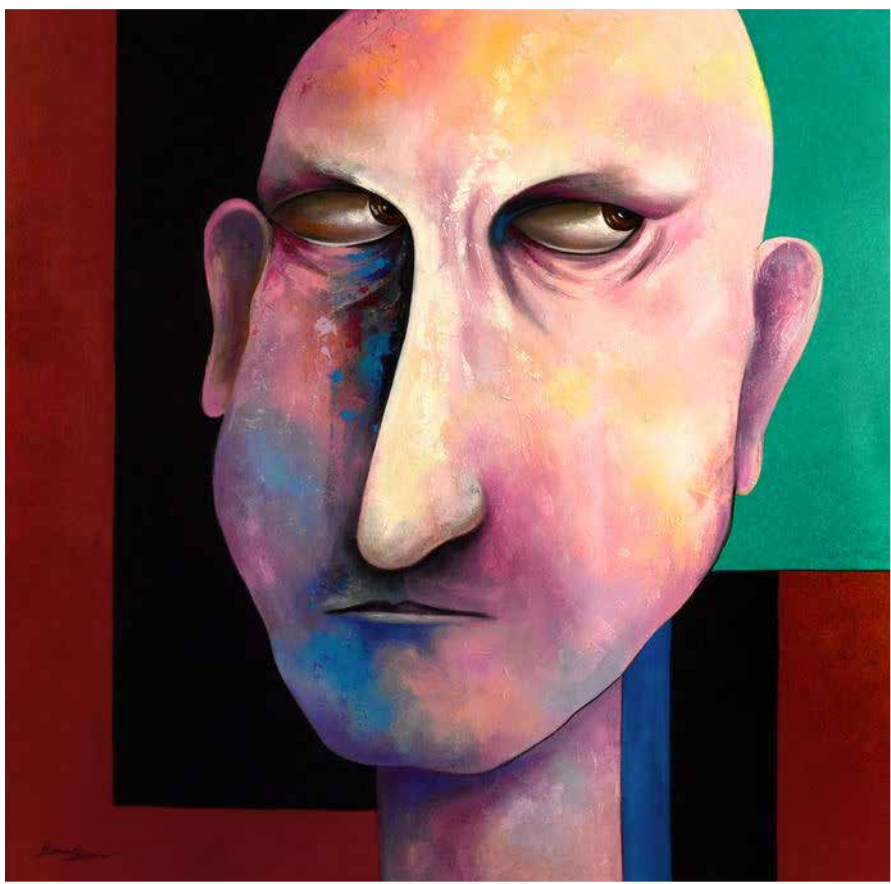
No Smoking Here!

48" x 48"



I Am Toast

30" x 30"



You're Reading My Thoughts

48" x 48"



She Loves Me

36" x 48"





Not On Straight

48" x 48"



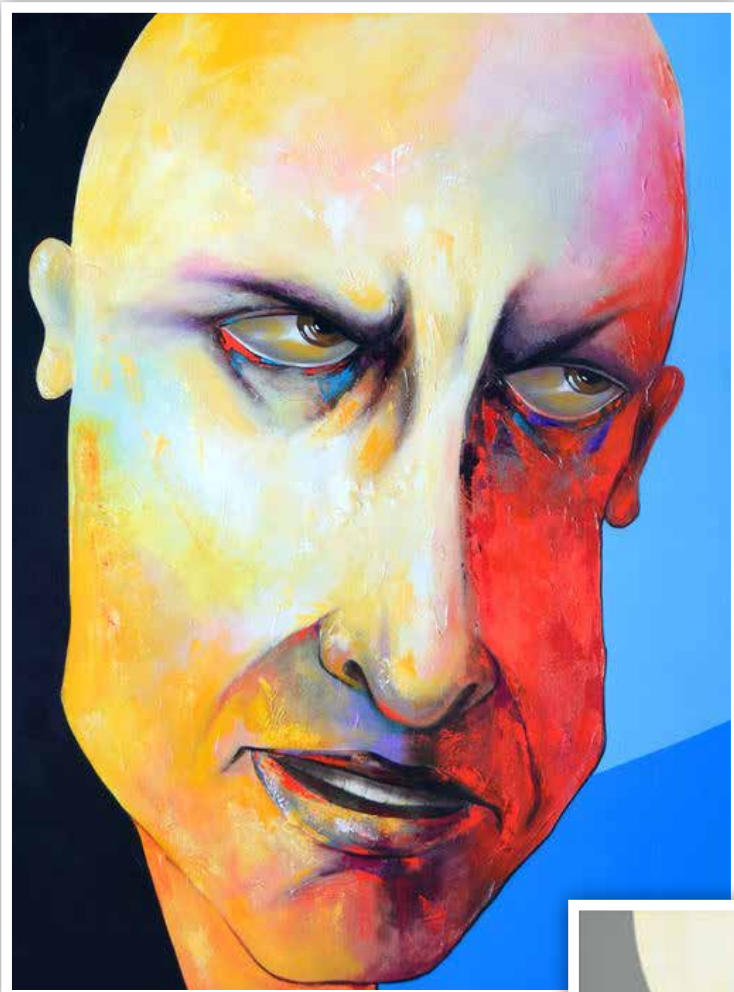
Yes, This Is The Bottom

30" x 30"

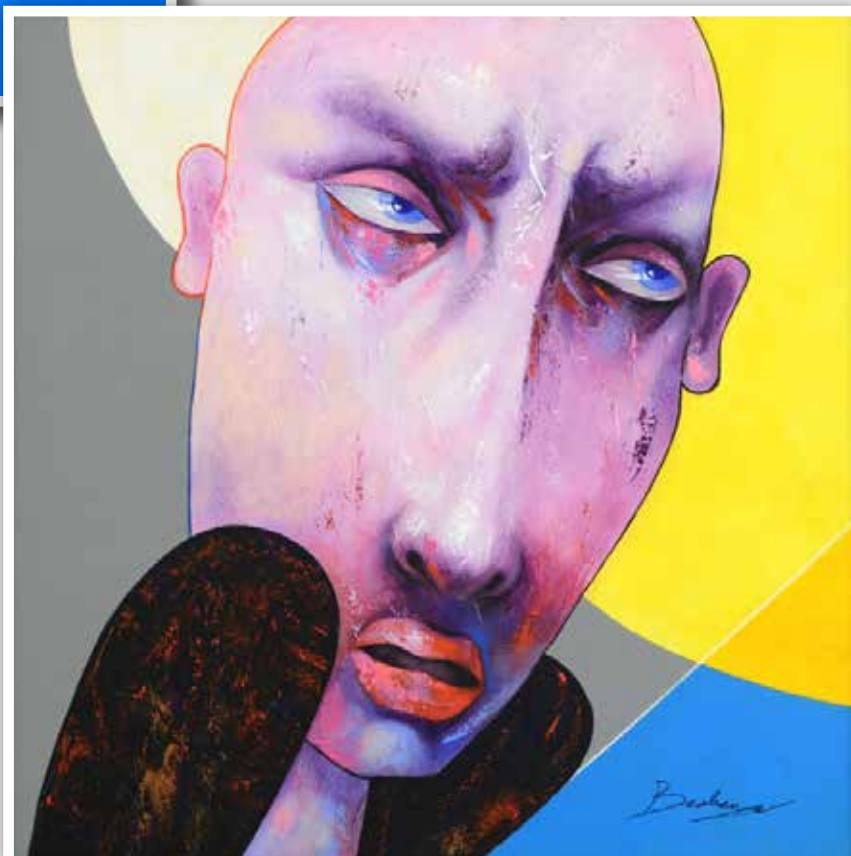


Somewhat Insecure

48" x 48"



But You Can't Handle The Truth!
48" x 36"



Why Would You Say That?

30" x 30"



(detail from) I'll Gladly Pay You Tomorrow For A Painting Today....

36" x 24"



Germaphobe

36" x 36"



Not The Real Me

30" x 30"



Too Much Fucking Knowledge

48" x 48"



That's What You Think

48" x 36"



(detail from) *Don't Even Think About It!*

36" x 36"

Having made his mark on the art world in Soviet Armenia, Berberyan immigrated with his family to the United States, and settled in Los Angeles in 1984. Berberyan's "Klimt period" pieces were Exhibited at the Bellagio Gallery in Las Vegas, in 1999. Berberyan appears here at The Bellagio Show with his wife and lifelong companion, Nazik. Greatly admiring both the style and substance of the gold embellished paintings of Gustav Klimt, Berberyan moved to the Gallery Scene with his romantic and skillful paintings of women and musicians dressed in the colorful, classic costumes of the 16th-18th Centuries. His paintings of love and life in the Court of the Kings was always juxtaposed with his touching portraits of merchants and peasants in their natural garb and habitat. Each painting tells a story against a complex background of patterns and colors. It is the story of their lives, their loves, their physical and emotional struggles. And it is also his own story of love and romance, and triumph over evil, that motivates and drives the Artist to this day.



Berberyan's originals have been collected and cherished by Art Collectors and Interior Designers throughout the United States, including Mrs. Kirk Kirkorian, Oscar winner Sir Anthony Hopkins, Designer Al Corbi, Robin Leach and Prince.



As a teenager growing up in Armenia, Berberyan honed his skills at the best art schools, and with the best art instructors, that the U.S.S.R. could provide; and they were superb. Here he is taking a plein air painting class with a student colleague at The Institute of Art and Design, in Yerevan, 1976. He graduated with a Masters Degree in 1981.



This Is Not Music To My Ears




48" x 48"

This painting is an early transitional piece from Berberyan's *Music and Romance* period to his new *Contemporary* imagery.

BERBERYAN'S CONTEMPORARY

EMOTIONS

ARTIST WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

ALTER EGO

DISCONNECT

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO KNOW

JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE EVENING WITH WINE & HORS D'OEUVRES.

THURSDAY JULY 9, 2015, 6:00-9:00PM

480 W. WASHINGTON BLVD. MARINA DEL REY

(310) 405.6183

The first Fine Art Gallery to host a One Man Show of Berberyan's new Contemporary paintings was the QART Gallery in Los Angeles. In July of 2015 the Gallery Exhibited 33 original paintings in an Event covered by almost 50 newspapers around the nation.



I Can't

36" x 36"



The Sky Is Falling

30" x 30"



I Won't Shut Up

48" x 36"





Can You Believe It?

48" x 48"