

The Art of Yuliya Alagir in the Context of Uzbekistan's Cultural Heritage

THE INCLUSION OF AN ARTIST'S WORKS IN A MUSEUM COLLECTION IS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT, UNDERSCORING THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MARKING ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF RECOGNITION IN THE ART WORLD. THIS EVENT SITUATES THEIR CREATIVITY WITHIN THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY. MUSEUMS SELECT WORKS NOT ONLY FOR THEIR AESTHETIC VALUE BUT ALSO FOR THEIR ABILITY TO REFLECT IMPORTANT HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL IDEAS. AN ARTIST'S NAME RECORDED IN MUSEUM ARCHIVES STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THEIR SKILL, CONFIRMING A LEGACY THAT WILL BE STUDIED AND PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. SUCH RECOGNITION AFFIRMS THAT THE ARTIST'S WORK HAS A VALUABLE IMPACT ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND HELPS SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ART, BECOMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF BOTH NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS.

In August 2024, as part of the national action ***“My Contribution to Cultural Heritage”*** in Uzbekistan, Yuliya Alagir's works were included in the permanent collections of museums in the city of Urgench, located in the Khorezm region, known for its rich history and cultural traditions. This region is recognized as a cradle of ancient civilizations, which have left behind unique artifacts and traditions. This event not only highlights the individuality and expressiveness of Yuliya Alagir's works but also establishes her place among the creations of other renowned artists, thus forming a more complete and diverse representation of contemporary art in the region. The inclusion of her works in Urgench's museum collections ensures their preservation and accessibility for future generations, making it a vital contribution to the country's cultural heritage.



One of the key spaces where Yuliya Alagir's works will be exhibited is the Museum of Contemporary Art of Uzbekistan (CAMUZ). Here, visitors will have the opportunity to explore her early works created in the genre of academic painting. The museum boasts an impressive collection of approximately 1,000 pieces of painting, graphics, and sculpture, including works by more than 200 artists — both well-known and lesser-known representatives of various

artistic schools and movements who have left a significant mark on the history of national fine art. This institution serves not only as a repository of contemporary art from the Khorezm region but also as a venue for displaying Yuliya Alagir's works, emphasizing the importance of her creativity in the context of contemporary art exhibitions.



Another significant venue that will showcase Yuliya Alagir's works is the unique **Lazgi Museum**, which is currently being built and is set to open in March 2025. A crucial part of the donated collection is a triptych from the art direction "Mystery of the Sun," which has already been accepted into the museum's collection. This museum is not only dedicated to Zoroastrianism — one of the world's oldest religions — but also to the ritual fire-worship dance Lazgi, recognized as **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage**. The dance of Lazgi is revered in the sacred book Avesta, where it is described as the cradle of Zoroastrianism and the great forefather Zoroaster.

The "Mystery of the Sun" is a unique art direction by Yuliya Alagir, unparalleled in the world of art. This direction is valuable not only from an artistic perspective but also for deeply reflecting humanity's blessed values, serving as a spiritual compass in the modern world. In the context of this entire art direction, the symbol of the Sun becomes a powerful embodiment of wisdom, goodness, and prosperity, representing the life force and light that drive human existence.



The *trptych*, now part of the Lazgi Museum collection, consists of three works, each revealing a different side of the deep symbolism of the Sun. The first work, "*Celebration of the Spring Equinox*," portrays an ancient dance dedicated to the arrival of the vernal equinox, a time associated across cultures with the awakening of nature and the rebirth of life. This piece embodies the joy of renewal and the return to harmony with the world. The second painting, "*Responsiveness*," reflects adherence to established family values, where traditions not only form but are passed down, supporting unity within the family and society. This work symbolizes the unbreakable bond between generations and underscores the importance of mutual respect and shared values for maintaining peace and harmony in society. The third work, "*Filigree of the Sun*," symbolizes wisdom, kindness, development, and prosperity. It depicts the delicate and intricate interconnections between people in all spheres of life, where every facet of relationships — whether within the family, professional endeavors, or public life — becomes a cornerstone of successful interaction and shared prosperity.

All three works of the triptych not only complement each other harmoniously but also form a cohesive concept: the Sun, as a symbol of universal values that unite people. The triptych emphasizes the universality of the Sun, which transcends the boundaries of time and space, linking cultures and epochs, uniting them under the common banner of light and life. This artistic narrative reminds us that the Sun is a metaphor for humanity's collective striving toward growth, continuity, and harmony, highlighting that, despite our diversity, there is a common thread that connects us all.

Thus, the symbolism of the Sun in Yuliya Alagir's works naturally weaves into the cultural space of the Lazgi Museum. This museum, dedicated to Zoroastrianism and the Lazgi dance, creates a unique atmosphere where fire and light serve as key elements of spiritual heritage. The artist's works, in turn, expand the interpretation of these symbols, linking them to ideas of cultural unity and renewal, making her art an important part of the museum's exhibition. Through the symbol of the Sun, Alagir's paintings resonate with the rituals and values conveyed by Zoroastrian culture and the Lazgi dance, while adding a more universal meaning to the overall concept.

These themes seamlessly complement the exhibition at the Lazgi Museum, where Yuliya Alagir's works will take their place among other cultural artifacts. Her creations bridge the legacy of the past with contemporary concepts, demonstrating that values such as wisdom and light remain relevant in any historical context. The museum's other halls will present the ancient world of Zoroastrianism through numismatics, musical instruments, traditions, and customs, preserving the memory of the great creations of the past.

In conclusion, Yuliya Alagir's works in the Lazgi Museum serve as a link between ancient traditions and modern cultural concepts. They remind us that the light of the Sun and art have the power to transcend boundaries, uniting people in the pursuit of harmony, peace, and spiritual enlightenment. The Sun, as a symbol, continues to shine in Alagir's work, illuminating the path to a future where art plays a leading role in shaping the shared culture of humanity.