



*...Culture, arts, & heritage of Azerbaijan & the Caucasus*

## For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C. February 1, 2001*— Dozens of people from all walks of life came to Pepco's Edison Gallery Place on Tues., Jan.25, for the opening reception for Abol Bahadori's ***Divided Colors: Abstract Views from the Land of Fire*** exhibition. This dazzling abstract paintings display is still available to visit through February 4.

Patrons dined on wine, cheeses, crackers, and fruit. The evening's program included Foundation board member Dr. Adil Baguirov. Executive Director Diana Cohen Altman introduced the artist.

Abol Bahadori was born in Tabriz, the capital of Iranian Azerbaijan, and was inspired by the colorful carpets in his home. His father was a third-generation immigrant from the Azerbaijan region of Karabakh, whose family left their homeland for Iranian Azerbaijan after the Turkmenchay Treaty split Azerbaijan between Iran and Russia.

An abstract colorist, Abol says that the bright colors of the Azerbaijani landscape come to him naturally and spontaneously. "The divisions of Azerbaijan are in my subconscious; all I do is to express them in colors. If I could make the colors even brighter, I would," he says.

Abol Bahadori studied art in his hometown Tabriz and later in Manchester, England. He has more recently studied abstract art under John Blee, Beverley Ryan, and Adam Lister. He is a member of the Philadelphia Museum of Art as well as Del Ray Artisans, Alexandria Art League, and Falls Church Arts and has actively shown his work in local galleries in Northern Virginia. This is Mr. Bahadori's first solo show in Washington, D.C.

The majority of Abol Bahadori's works are on sale at the gallery and on [www.KarabakhFoundation.org](http://www.KarabakhFoundation.org). Forty percent of the sale proceeds benefit the Karabakh Foundation. For information on purchase, please call 202-349-3796 or e-mail [documentary@karabakhfoundation.org](mailto:documentary@karabakhfoundation.org)

*Volunteer Ken Young interviews Abol Bahadori about his art.*



*Patrons admire Mr. Bahadori's painting, "Pomegranate Tree."*

*Mr. Bahadori's abstract paintings are on display at Pepco's Edison Gallery Place through February 4.*





*Crowds gather for the opening reception on Tues., Jan. 25.*



## About the Karabakh Foundation

*The Karabakh Foundation seeks to increase awareness and understanding in the United States of the cultural heritage and traditions of the country of Azerbaijan, the Caucasus area, and the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. While coalescing significant artistic and scholarly talent, the Foundation is nurturing a new generation of artists and scholars toward important accomplishments.*

*The Foundation serves as a dynamic facilitator and clearinghouse raising the public profile of Azerbaijan, its Karabakh region, and the Caucasus region in general. Main activities include preserving and disseminating cultural content via archival collecting, public programs, publications, exhibitions, speaking forums, international collaborations, scholarly exchange, artistic sponsorship, and related venues.*

*Foundation support comes primarily from Khazar University, the first private university in Azerbaijan and one of the country's leading institutions of higher learning. Support also comes from the U.S.-based Allaverdy Foundation. Additional information about the Karabakh Foundation may be found at [www.karabakhfoundation.org](http://www.karabakhfoundation.org).*

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