

**Feminist Armenian Research Collective (FemARC) – Third Workshop**

*New Directions in Music, Arts, and Performance Studies*

May 26–27, 2026, UCLA

Convened by Melissa Bilal (UCLA) and Lerna Ekmekcioglu (MIT)

**May 26, 2026 (Tuesday), UCLA Schoenberg Music Building, Green Room**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Melissa Bilal & Lerna Ekmekcioglu

9:30–10:00 am

**Panel 1: Archival Interventions: Connecting the Curatorial and the Performative**

10:00 am–11:30 am

*Chair: Melissa Bilal*

Arpine Haroyan, “Between Archive and Praxis: Feminist Engagement with Margarit Babayan’s Legacy”

Chantal Partamian, “What Remains: Queer Hauntings and the Feminist Politics of Archival Return (projects Haralez and Traces)”

Ayda Manukyan, “Alis Manukyan is Alive: Her Life and Legacy”

Sevan Injejikian, “12 Faces of Armenian Feminism: Curating Resistance, Recovery, and Care in and through Archives”

**Panel 2: Feminist Pasts and Futures: A Reading through the Arts**

11:30–1:00 pm

*Chair: Melissa Bilal*

Talinn Grigor, “Femininity-as-Feminism: Armenian Interventions in Iran’s Avant-garde Art and Architecture”

Linda Ganjian, “3D Carpets and Collages: Memory as Metropolis”

Tsovinar Kuumchian, “The Politics of Proprioception in Hera Büyüктаşçıyan’s Site-Responsive Art”

Mashinka Firunts Hakopian, “Բաժակ Եւայր / One Who Looks at the Cup: Data Feminisms and Algorithmic Counter-Divination”

**Lunch Break**

1:00–2:00 pm

### **Panel 3: Intersections of Music, Dance, and Gender Studies**

2:00–4:00 pm

*Chair: Zoe Sherinian*

Natalie Kamajian, “Choreographing Gender Difference in Armenian Concert Dance: From the Republic to the Diaspora”

Sophia Armen, “Breaking the Halay Chain: Gender, Ethnicity, and Indigenous Preservation at Armenian-American Kef Time Performances”

Anoush Tamar Suni, “Seda Suny: Armenian American Dance Pioneer”

Sylvia Alajaji and Lara Sarkissian, “Hearing Our Selves: On the Sound Worlds of Lara Sarkissian and Armen Ra”

### **Panel 4: Writing Armenian Women’s History on the Stage**

4:00–5:30 pm

*Chair: Lerna Ekmekcioglu*

Cassandra Tavukciyan, “Performing Majoritarianism in a Minor Key: Armenian Women Performers in the Construction of Post-1923 Turkey”

Houri Berberian, “Irano-Armenian Theater, Women's Organizations, and Transimperial Connections”

Marie-Aude Baronian, “Performing Aurora on Stage: Prosthetic Media and Bodies in Arsinée Khanjian’s *Auction of Souls*”

Melissa Bilal, “Feminist Prosopographical Recovery of Koharik Gazarossian’s Life Story and Music”

### **Coffee Break**

5:30-6:00 pm

### **Album-launch concert: *Piano Works of Koharik Gazarossian***

6:00–7:00 pm, Schoenberg Hall

Nare Karoyan, piano

**May 27, 2026 (Wednesday)**

**Green Room**

### **Concluding Discussion**

10:00 am–11:30 pm