The Falling Armenian Series

Paintings by Patrick Webb



THE IW GALLERY





The Falling Armenian Series

Paintings by Patrick Webb

For Tigran and Arsen



THE IW GALLERY

In the Pfizer Building, 630 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn,
September 8 through November 1. Opening reception Friday, September 11, 6-8:30 PM.
Hours 1-5 PM Saturday & Sunday; also weekdays during business hours (11-5) by contacting
Patrick Webb at 718-392-3751/klopwebb@aol.com or Vida Sabbaggi at vida@copenyc.org



























































Paintings reproduced

oil on canvas 2023-26

Falling Armenians Series

Cover: Falling Armenians, 36 inches

Inside Page: Left: Falling Armenians, 60X36 inches
Right: Fallen Armenians, 60X28inches

Title Page: Rest, 36 inches

Tondos: Falling, Fallen, and Rest, each 36 inches

Page 1: Polyptych: Falling /Fallen, each 48X28 inches

Page 2: Polyptych: Falling /Fallen,
each 60X28/36 inches

Page 3: Polyptych: Falling /Fallen,
each 66X36/40 inches

Diptych: Falling Armenians Ignored II, 60X126 inches

Trilogy: Falling Armenians Ignored: Battle,
Queen Bee, Parade of the Gods,
each 66X78/80 inches

Triptych: Falling Armenians Ignored I. 60X99 inches

Back: Falling Armenians Ignored I, 60X99 inches









Patrick Burton,

Curator of Mighty Real/Queer Detroit, writes:

On the evening of October 20, 2022, two young, queer men jumped to their deaths from a bridge in Armenia's capital city, Yerevan. The couple—16-year-old Arsen and 21-year-old Tigran—recently posted photos on Instagram with the caption,

"Happy end: decisions about sharing. The photos and our future actions were made jointly by both of us!"

The deaths led to an outpouring of hate speech on social media. The reaction to the Instagram photos, showing the two young men kissing, applying face masks and displaying what appeared to be wedding bands, included some emotional tributes—but were expressions of jubilation that they were dead and called for other gay people to kill themselves.

These paintings are inspired by the story of Armenian lovers Tigran and Arsen, who threw themselves from a bridge, unable to face the homophobia of their culture. It is a contemporary Romeo and Juliet narrative, made even more poignant by the celebration of their death online, suggesting all gays follow their lead. I cast my Punch as one of the two guys, while the other clutches a stuffed bear similar both to the one in their posts and to my own childhood bear. In one composition, the figures link their ringed hands, echoing the post of their forbidden nuptials. This story resonates for me in so many ways: my own experiences with homophobia, both internal and external; my own episodes of suicidal ideation, both during adolescence and at the height of the HIV epidemic; and the strength of the transitional object (stuffed bear) both as a fundamental support and as a foreshadowing of my erotic and artistic ambitions and commitments. The story of Tigran and Arsen is one of intense love. The paintings also explore the experience of rejection by the other. The Ignored paintings place the entire narrative in a world that has no empathy, as found in Auden's *Musée des Beaux Arts*.

Patrick Webb, 2026
patrick-webb.com

