

## **Armenian Printing as a Bridge between Late Medieval and Early Modern Armenian Arts**

Armenian medieval art developed in close cooperation, direct or indirect communication within the rest of the world. Being situated at the crossroads of east and west and being influenced by art movements of great empires, Armenian art is characterized by a unique artistic tradition. However, the question as to when the medieval period ended or the Early Modern period started remains debatable among scholars.

In my report, I aim to present this passing period (16th-17th centuries) by comparing artworks from medieval and early modern periods. The Armenian medieval art, especially miniature illustrations existed and flourished up to the 18th century. Parallel from 16th century the Armenian printing developed in the Armenian diaspora centers in Europe. Old printed book illustrations presented a new European artistic tradition which became very popular among Armenian artists. Armenian paintings, frescoes, embroideries, metal works, book bindings and manuscripts of this period very often largely copy Italian or Dutch book illustrations. As a result, we have two artistic variations in Armenian art of Late Medieval or Early Modern period: the conservative art traditions from medieval times, and new influences of the European artistic achievements.