



Department of Jewish Art
and Art Therapy Program
Faculty of Jewish Studies
Bar-Ilan University

Ars Judaica

You are invited to a lecture | מוזמנות ומוזמנים להרצאה
as part of the departmental seminar | במסגרת הסמינר המחלקתי
From the Researcher's Desk | משולחן המחקר

Elia Kahvedjian (1910-1999): The Photographic Eye on the Corners of Jerusalem's Streets

Diana Ghazaryan,
Pázmány Péter Catholic
University, Budapest

Wednesday, 10 Shvat 5786, January 28, 2026
יום רביעי, י' בשבט תשפ"ו, 28 בינואר 2026
בשעה 16:00 בZoom | ביום 16:00

Click to Join | לצפייה היכנסו

The talk will touch upon the understudied Armenian photographic heritage of Mandate Jerusalem through the work by Elia Kahvedjian (1910-1999). Being an orphaned survivor of the Armenian Genocide, Kahvedjian found shelter in Nazareth and later established his photographic studio, Elia Photo-Service, in Jerusalem. Kahvedjian's photographic eye captured both hidden corners and bustling bazaars of Jerusalem, documenting its transition from the British Mandate rule to the State of Israel. Kahvedjian's images represent the intercommunal encounters and the fragile urban environment of the multiethnic city through his cosmopolitan lens. While Kahvedjian did not use photography to narrate his own trauma, I will echo Greg Grandin's question of whether the subaltern can be seen by moving further and asking whether the subaltern can produce imagery hence visibility outside of the nationalist discourses.

Departmental Seminar organizers: **Dr. Mariann Farkas and Dr. Zvi Orgad** | ד"ר מריאן פרקס וד"ר צבי אורגד
למידע נוסף: facebook.com/Jewishart.biu
Under auspices: The Samson Feldman Chair for the History and Culture of East-European Jewry | בחסות:

משפיעים על המחר, היום.

המחלקה לאמנות יהודית | <https://jart.biu.ac.il/en> | אוניברסיטת בר-אילן | רמת גן, 5290002 | ישראל



Elia Kahvedjian, The Christian Quarter, Jerusalem, 1935 (detail). source: malikianphotography.com. All rights belong to the Kahvedjian family