

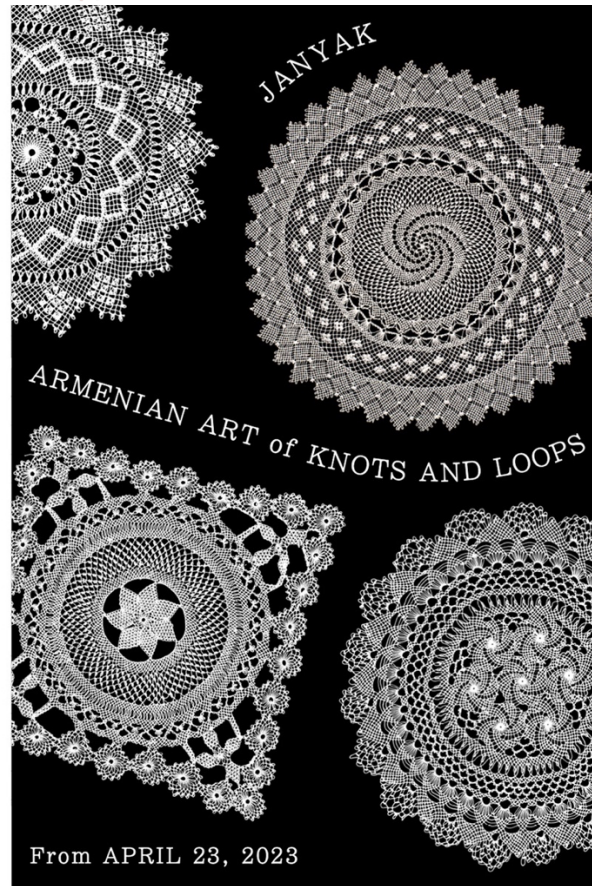
Saturday, May 20, 2023 • 11 am - 12:30 pm

Fowler Museum: Two Curatorial Tours



Myrlande Constant: The Work of Radiance with Curator Katherine Smith

The Work of Radiance is a retrospective of the groundbreaking, 30-year-long career of Myrlande Constant, an artist renowned for her monumental, hand-beaded textiles. The first major museum exhibition devoted to the work of a Haitian, female, contemporary artist, the Fowler features 28 of her works and a short documentary of the artist in her studio. In 2022, her work was included in the Venice Biennale. Constant has expanded upon an older, male-dominated cultural practice of *drapo* Vodou (Vodou flags)—a dazzling component of Afro-Haitian religious regalia. While such flags are typically made with sequins and focus on individual figures or motifs, Constant “paints with beads,” which significantly enlarges her representational repertory. She depicts *lwa* (Vodou spirits), Catholic saints, and regular people in meticulously detailed scenes of religious ceremonies, key moment in Haitian history, and everyday life. Her insistence on the primacy and ubiquity of *lwa* challenges Western art histories and foregrounds postmodern Black aesthetics and the role of Haiti in Black Atlantic visual culture. While intended for a wider public, Constant’s art is also intimately personal: it is labor-intensive and profoundly entwined with her and her family’s spiritual practices. Vodou is not only a theme throughout Constant’s oeuvre, but an irreducible part of her identity and worldview



Janyak: Armenian Art of Knots and Loops with Curator Gassia Armenian

For centuries Armenian janyak (ժանյակ) or needle lace has been a precious link for Armenians across the world. A portable and enduring art form passed from mother to daughter, it has connected generations both in their homeland and in the diaspora, transmitting cultural heritage and values. Janyak may seem a relatively simple craft utilizing only a needle and thread to produce embellishments for furniture and clothing, but the precision and creativity required to execute and innovate motifs make it a vibrant form of artistry in its own right. The 14 janyak doilies on view at the Fowler were created by Marie Pilibossian (1898–1986), an Armenian genocide survivor who emigrated to America and gifted her collection to the Fowler Museum in 1980. Displaced Armenian women like Pilibossian carried this tactile tradition with them into exile and their new homes, knotting memories of survival and endurance into their lacework, bridging time and space, and demonstrating their political unity and resolve.

To RSVP click [HERE](#): Limited to 50 current members!