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# ARPA Institute Zoom Presentation/Discussion

Co-Sponsored by the Armenian American Business Council

**Vahan Khachatryan, Elen Manukyan, Gevorg Baghdasaryan  
from Armenia**

**Talar Bilemjian (TalarNina) & Aida Gharakhani (Nicole Bakti)  
from USA,**

**Moderated by Dr. Ani Shabazian On**

**“The Textile and Fashion Industry in Armenia”**



**Saturday, May 8, 2021 @ 11:00am, PST**

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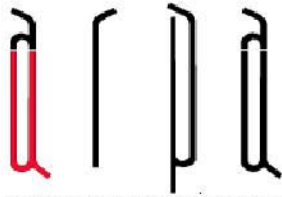
**Abstract:** Leading the textile industry in Armenia is the Fashion and Design Chamber (FDC) of Armenia (<http://www.fdc.am>), a non-profit association founded in 2017 to strengthen the fashion and design sector of Armenia bringing together more than 200 Armenian designers, product brands, and textile companies. The cooperation of the FDC with public and private, as well as international organizations to build capacity and support modernization, market penetration, networking and partnerships to enhance sustainable and green production will be surveyed. The presentation will also highlight successful Armenian fashion designers both in Armenia and the US, who have spearheaded successful brands, fashion events, collection exhibitions, fairs, pop-up stores, presentations, showrooms, and campaigns.

**Vahan Khachatryan:** Founder and President of the FDC, and the designer of Vahan Khachatryan brand, received his professional education in Academia Italiana, Florence. He then worked in the Dolce & Gabbana, Alta Moda, Arti Minori srl, Sesto Fiorentino companies. Vahan loves to study culture, art, traditions, heritage and is enthusiastic in supporting the creative industry of Armenia.

**Elen Manukyan:** Co-Founder and Team Leader of the FDC, as well as Co-founder of the 5Concept store and the Loom Weaving knitwear, showcasing Armenian brands. Elen received her Master’s degree in Political Science and International Relations at the American University of Armenia, then worked for over 15 years supporting small and medium enterprises, leading educational, consulting, information and analytical programs.

ARPA INSTITUTE, 18106 Miranda St, Tarzana CA 91356, USA . Phone (818) 453-0618

Մասնագետների ԱՐՓԱ Հասարակական Կազմակերպություն, Verin Antarayin 186/14 apt #7, Երևան 0009, հեռ (+374) 98 403 995



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**Gevorg Baghdasaryan**: Senior Manager of the Investment Promotion and Foreign Relations. Gevorg's professional experience includes leading Armenian and French companies and public institutions in the fields of Marketing, Communication, Investment and Export Promotion. Gevorg obtained a Master's in Arts on European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe, a Master's degree in Marketing at IAE Lyon 3 School of Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Marketing at the French University in Armenia.

**Talar Bilemjan**: Founder and designer of Talar Nina fashion brand. Born in Los Angeles, California, Talar moved to London at a young age to pursue her education in the arts, where she became infatuated with the city's historic museums and small haberdasheries. After relocating to Dubai the Armenian designer graduated from École Supérieure des Arts et Techniques de la Mode (ESMOD) in 2014 and obtained her degree in fashion design, which allowed her to build a platform to launch her label Talar Nina. She pulls her inspiration from a diverse cultural Armenian background and experiences for her contemporary RTW label, founded in Dubai in 2016. The designer's love of streetwear and intricate textiles led her to her first collection focusing on her favorite piece: the bomber jacket. Created from luxurious lightweight fabrics, Talar Nina designs translate from day to night due to their unique embellishment and superb tailoring.

**Aida Gharakhani**: World-renowned designer of the fashion brand Nicole Bakti, Aida is a third-generation designer and a true artist at heart. Aida graduated from Otis Parsons in 1986. Through a remarkable series of opportunities and her innate talent, Aida built a fashion design house under the name Nicole Bakti in 1996. Her collection can be found in fine department and specialty stores globally with shipping worldwide. Her clothes have been endorsed and worn by many celebrities. Aida believes that women want to look sexy and feminine, especially when it comes to evening wear, and that is what she does best. All gowns are handcrafted with the finest materials including silk, satins and charmeuse.

For more information please contact Dr. Hagop Panossian at (818) 453-0618 or [info@ARPAInstitute.org](mailto:info@ARPAInstitute.org)

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