

IRS

Discovering Azerbaijan



Text by Sabina TUMANSKAYA,
Photos by Sergey KIVRIN and Sabina TUMANSKAYA

BAKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART





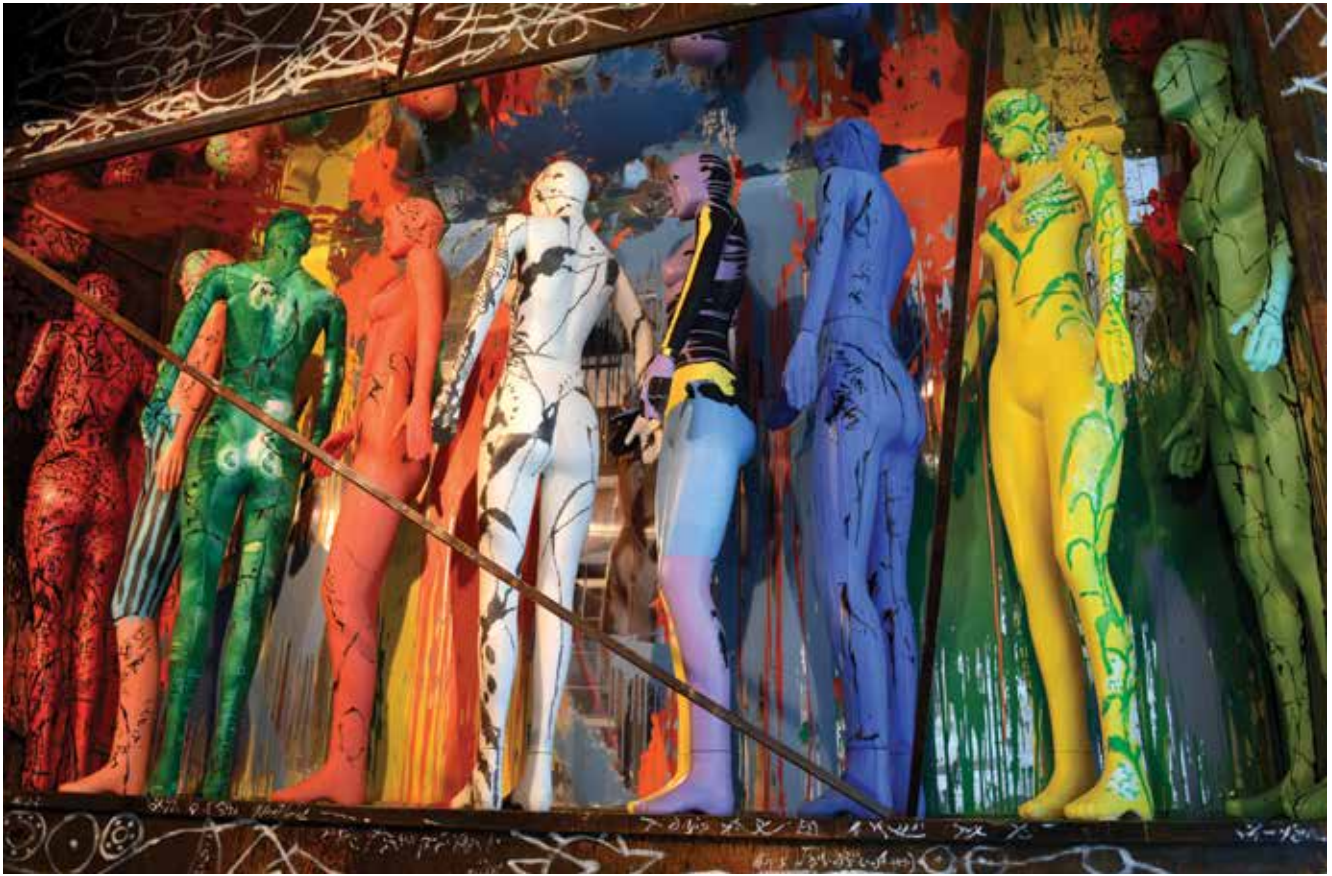
Sometimes it is difficult to describe human emotions as words are not enough to express a person's feelings. Amazement, curiosity, delight, rejection and immersion merely amount to a small part of people's experience when they come across contemporary art. In fact,

major cities around the world are famed for their galleries that dazzle viewers with their extraordinary art samples. The main facility featuring such artworks in Azerbaijan is Baku Museum of Modern Art, although

such samples are also available at some other exhibition halls in the country. The museum became one of the most remarkable attractions in the Azerbaijani capital immediately after its opening in 2009. Like expensive wine, it improved over the years, having accu-

mulated a host of new collections and images. Having entered the museum, a visitor cannot imagine either the scale of the exhibited samples or its collections. Initially, the visitors of this unique facility feel childish excitement and a desire to fathom the scope of the exhibited items. People tend to run around these illuminated areas, which are followed by emerging new ones again and again...When you still cannot believe what you have seen and feel your passionate heartbeat, the voice of reason tells you, "Just stop, you will still have time." Indeed, you should pause a little to realize that you are witnessing real treasures here and now and you are fabulously wealthy before you leave the museum. Hundreds of faces look on from the paintings, permeating your soul, while the sculptures literally further one's own "self". That is the fullness of life, the perception of people's spiritual nature and the concept of their relationship with the outside world. About 1,000 artworks are showcased in the museum and none of them could barely be reviewed separately, despite the fact that each of these samples is a masterpiece in its own right. Regardless of whether this idea was conceived purposefully or this is a sheer coincidence, the samples





that had been put together made up a single breathing and thriving organism communicating with visitors in plain language, asking questions and exchanging views with them. It talks to you through the creative work of Tahir Salahov, Mikayil Abdullayev, Togrul Narimanbayov, Sattar Bahlulzade, Taghi Taghiyev, Nadir Abdurakhmanov, Tokay Mammadov, Rasim Babayev, Ashraf Murad, Farhad Khalilov, Elmira Shakhtakhtinskaya, Huseyn Haqverdiyev, Ujal Haqverdiyev and Yelena

Haqverdiyeva, Museyib Amirov, Gennady Brizhatyuk, Eliyar Alimirzayev, Zakir Huseynov, Niyaz Najafov and many others. All these artists are known well both in and far beyond Azerbaijan. They are outstanding painters of their era who have created a huge cultural layer. Their works coexist coherently with those of great European representatives of the avant-garde style, including Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall. In a nutshell, a visitor continues to discover new facets of visual





art at the museum. Inevitably, you start thinking that some magic was involved when all of these samples were created. It is hard to believe that this could have been done by a single person even if he or she was incredibly talented. Altay Sadykhzade, a successful artist, had realized in due time that expressing yourself was insufficient and it was necessary to share your world with others and reach out through multiple discoveries and feelings. Thus, Sadykhzade paved his way in this museum step-by-step and one building block at a time. The artist created an innovative concept of space and compiled a relevant collection of artworks. But first and foremost, this was done very competently.

The museum's design does not limit visibility, but on the contrary, opens up unexpected angles of view for a visitor. The exhibition space gradually shifts from the main exhibition halls into public areas, such as an art cafe, a restaurant, children's area, a library and a video gallery. Certainly, there is also an exhibition facility slated for private shows, as well as a bookstore with a wide variety of publications on the history of world art, architecture and sculpture. Thus, stopping by to look through the exhibits is definitely not a good idea and reviewing them more thoroughly would take at least a few hours. It is never boring in the museum; the whole family may enjoy visiting it and even children would find it interesting. As for art connoisseurs, they cannot get enough when they visit Baku Museum of Modern Art. Once you have left it, it feels like a part of yourself remained inside. At times, a person's inner world seems so unexplored and he or she begins to comprehend its secrets in the museum. This, in fact, is the paramount task of art, which has been hidden behind the "modernity" concept at all times... ✨



Discovering Azerbaijan







