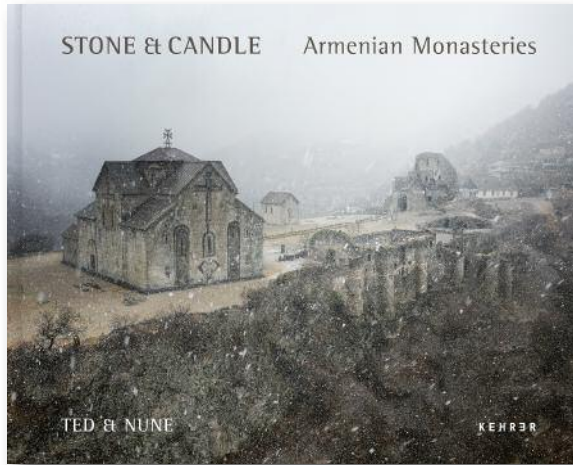


NEW PUBLICATION 2023



Ted & Nune
Stone & Candle
Armenian Monasteries

Texts by Ted & Nune, Arà Zarian
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Armenian monasteries—places of longing and timeless monuments of faith

Stone and Candle is a long-term photographic project examining the ancient monasteries of Armenia. The publication covers forty monastic structures, distributed over the whole of the country, and several in the disputed territory of Artsakh, with the majority dating from the 4th century to 13th century. These monasteries, some of the earliest of the Christian world, were centers of education, where art and science flourished. They stand here as timeless monuments of faith, devoid of crowds, open to the winds, and silent.

From the **Foreword by Arà Zarian:**

Stone and Candle, a photographic journey conceived by the couple Ted Andreasian and Nune Karamyan, is an ode to Armenian landscape, Christian architectural creations, and to the magnificent churches that were skillfully brought out of the rocks and assembled over the course of centuries. The Armenians crossed the Ararat Highlands, passed through valleys and plateaus, and climbed mountain peaks from which they observed the landscape and selected sanctuaries of their pagan ancestors for the building of their churches and monasteries. Setting their mark, they hewed stones and built walls with frescoes depicting their saints. Each architectural element clearly reflects the symbolism of both soul and faith, with the ultimate goal of building a Temple of God. This photographic book of Armenian churches imparts two key impressions: the harmonious synergy between these places of worship and the natural world, and the unique impression of the majestic white snow veil, which, like nshkhar (sacramental bread) and manna, descends from the milky sky to spread over the highlands and monasteries.

From the text *Stone is Our Fortitude and Candle our Light* by **Ted & Nune**

We fell in love on a hot summer day in 2010. Together in Yerevan, with the Golden Apricot Festival as backdrop, a series of seemingly insignificant, yet ultimately life-changing events changed us forever. Today, we are both diasporans returning to the land of our personal and generational memories. The seeds of this book were planted long ago.

Ted's grandfather, Manoug Exerjian, was an architect from Western Armenia. He fled the Genocide in 1914 and recreated himself on American soil, designing and building the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church in New York as part of his legacy. Nune's father, Vanik Karamyan, was an architect from Eastern Armenia, who had extensive knowledge of history and Armenian architecture. Our devotion to the architecture of Armenian monasteries as a photographic subject was an intergenerational step; a way for us to access collective memory. We searched for roots as anchors of our identities, ultimately finding them in the ancient stones of our ancestral land.

Ted & Nune are a photographic team whose images document the grandeur and scars of the man-made world. Seeking out the spiritual dimension in monumental human constructions, they journey to remote lands to make studies of architecture and industry, bringing a joint male-female point of view to their shared vision. Both photograph, edit, and print. They do not sign their works individually. Since 2015, their collaboration has produced several internationally recognized long-term projects. Their work has been exhibited in both solo and group exhibitions in Armenia, Japan, Russia and the United States. www.tedandnune.com

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