



**HAYP Pop Up Gallery**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE. October 20, 2016**

### **"New Illuminations"**

An artist residency, workshop and exhibition in Gyumri, Armenia by Suzi Banks Baum and HAYP Pop Up Gallery

**Workshop dates:** Nov 5-8, 2016, at APAGA technologies (Gyumri, AM)

**Exhibition dates:** Nov 18-28, 2016, in Gyumri, AM

**Opening Night:** Friday, Nov 18, 19:00 - 22:00

Live performance:

8:30pm- music by Sevana Tchakerian and Nairi Khatchadourian

on-going- make your own "toprak" with #toprakpetqchi

### **What is HAYP Pop Up Gallery?**

HAYP is a nomadic gallery that sets up temporary exhibitions in unexpected places like vacant storefronts, for-rent buildings, and abandoned factories. We hope to give more opportunities to emerging artists, and shift perspectives on the value of art and space.

### **Who is Suzi Banks Baum?**

An artist, writer, and teacher who makes hand bound books. Suzi Baum first visited Armenia in March, 2016 with National Geographic photographer, John Stanmeyer and the 4Plus Photography team, Anush Babajanyan and Nazik Armenakyan. Baum is the author of the "New Illuminations" project, and her key interest is to understand the status of women artists and the thresholds and challenges they face in their creative practice.

### **What is New Illuminations?**

"New Illuminations" is a project by Suzi Banks Baum in collaboration with HAYP Pop Up Gallery. It is a 3 part project that includes: 1) Research/interviews, 2) Workshop, and 3) Exhibition. The project aims to revive the historic art of hand bound books by introducing new tools of expression to a select group of Armenian women artists over a four-day intensive workshop. Fresh exciting work impressed with the story lines of contemporary artists will emerge. Following the workshop is an exhibition, curated by Anna K. Gargarian of HAYP Pop Up Gallery, to propose new ways of engagement with the book arts. The exhibit will feature the works produced during the workshop along with works on paper and in bookform by international contemporary Armenian women artists including: Dana Walrath (NY, USA), Marsha Odabashian (Boston, USA), and Nairi Khatchadourian (Paris, Fr). As per the HAYP Pop Up Gallery format, throughout the course of the exhibit there will be an "Event Week" with a program of discussions, presentations, and performance on cultural preservation, the book as an artform, and women's rights.

This project was sponsored in part by WAM Theatre of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. Other funding comes from private donations, the Yakemore Family Foundation, and the Moonlight Mile Fund of Berkshire County, MA.

Donations can be made at: [www.newilluminations.wordpress.com](http://www.newilluminations.wordpress.com).

