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PAGE 5

Sonia Balassanian Exhibit Is Now at The Franklin Furnace, NYC Gallery

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Franklin Furnace is presenting Black Black Days, a display by Sonia Balassanian, November 17th - December 18th. Black Black Days is Balassanian's angry response to years of revolutionary upheaval in the Middle East (her homeland), in Latin America, and in other war-torn countries. This work vividly and relentlessly recreates the horror of death, killing, and the senseless loss of young and innocent lives.

An empty baby carriage is suspended in the front window of Franklin Furnace. Books which cannot be read but remain permanently open are strewn throughout the gallery to symbolize lives abruptly cut short. Seven empty coffins stand together and, in the tradi-

tion of cemeteries in the Middle East, photos mounted on sticks mark 25 graves. The photographs are all of Sonia Balassanian. A blue ceramic pool with two goldfish offers the hope of life, but it is silent and still. Black Black Days is political, deeply emotional and shocking. As William Zimer described a previous Balassanian installation "her untamable work is convincingly heartfelt." (*Soho Weekly News*).

Sonia Balassanian is an Armenian artist living in New York City. She has a background as an abstract painter and poet but since 1980, her work has become a direct expression of her outrage at the human suffering caused by political revolutions. In New York City she has exhibited work at Elise Meyer Gallery.