



Gorky, ca. 1940  
Photograph: Gjon Mili

[Arshile Gorky Foundation](#)

[Gorky at the National Gallery of Art](#)

[Gorky at MoMA](#)

In 1995, *Arshile Gorky: The Breakthrough Years* was on display at the [National Gallery of Art](#), the [Buffalo AKG Art Gallery](#) and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.

*Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective* was the first major retrospective of the artist's work since 1981. With a wide selection of paintings, drawings, and sculpture spanning Gorky's career, the exhibition was organized by the [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#) and traveled to the [Tate Modern](#) and the [Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles](#) in 2009-2010.

The Arshile Gorky Foundation produced the documentary *Without Gorky* in 2011. The film explores the artist's life through the eyes of Agnes "Mougouch" Gorky (his wife), Maro and Natasha Gorky (his daughters), and Cosima Spender (his granddaughter, the filmmaker). Watch on [YouTube](#) and read a [review in Hyperallergic](#) by Hrag Vartanian, "In *Without Gorky*, the Artist's Family Opens Up About Their Pain."

The 2019 exhibition [Arshile Gorky: 1904-1948](#) at Ca'Pesaro International Gallery of Modern Art in Venice was the first display of Gorky's work in Italy. The installation was accompanied by the first screening of the short documentary [The Eye-Spring](#), directed by Gorky's granddaughter, Cosima Spender.

[Watch a discussion](#) between Saskia Spender (President of the Arshile Gorky Foundation) and Ellen Roberts (Harold and Anne Berkley Smith Curator of American Art at the Norton Museum of Art) when Gorky's painting, *Child Companions* (1945) was on loan to the museum via the Art Bridges program in 2021.

[Arshile Gorky: Beyond the Limit](#) was on display at Hauser & Wirth New York in 2021. The exhibition featured the newly discovered painting, *Untitled (Virginia Summer)*, which was [uncovered during conservation](#) on *The Limit* (1947).

In 2021, the Arshile Gorky Foundation published a [catalogue raisonné](#) as a fully-searchable database of Gorky's known paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures, and textiles. The catalogue is available for free with registration.

View a Hauser & Wirth [online exhibition](#), *Arshile Gorky & Jack Whitten*, presenting the two artists' works side-by-side. The exhibition was inspired by a 2017 speech Whitten gave, which described experiencing Gorky's work as "witnessing something that comes from the deep soul of an artist."



Gorky working on Newark Airport's *Aviation* mural, 1936  
Photograph: unknown



Arshile Gorky (Armenian-American, 1904-1948)

**Untitled (Pastoral)**, c. 1947

Oil and graphite on canvas

Private Collection; L2023:74.9

Born and raised in the Ottoman Empire, Arshile Gorky escaped to the United States during the Armenian genocide in 1920. His exploration of Post-Impressionist, Cubist, and Surrealist styles greatly influenced the development of Abstract Expressionism. As the artist once said: "Abstraction allows man to see with his mind what he cannot see physically with his eyes." **Untitled (Pastoral)** was painted at the height of Gorky's career, just one year before his untimely death. The painting was re-discovered in 2010, when it was found behind another work from the *Pastoral* series during reframing. Because it was covered for sixty-four years, the painting is especially vibrant and almost appears new.

*On view October 25, 2023 – January 28, 2024*

Arshile Gorky (Armenian-American, 1904-1948)

**The Limit**, 1947

Oil on paper on canvas

Private Collection; L2022:75.8

Arshile Gorky narrowly escaped the Armenian genocide during World War I and emigrated to the United States in 1920. He enrolled in the New England School of Art in Boston, exploring a wide range of Post-Impressionist, Cubist, and Surrealist styles that greatly influenced the development of Abstract Expressionism. **The Limit** was painted at the height of Gorky's career, just one year before his untimely death. During COVID-19 lockdowns, Swiss conservators took on a project investigating signs of bright paint oozing to the surface of the painting. They soon found a missing work from Gorky's oeuvre, *Untitled (Virginia Summer)*, hidden underneath **The Limit**'s canvas. Art historians believe Gorky affixed **The Limit** on top of the earlier painting himself, leaving *Untitled (Virginia Summer)* concealed for 70 years after his death. Both paintings were displayed together for the first time in the exhibition *Arshile Gorky: Beyond the Limit* at New York's Hauser & Wirth last year.



Arshile Gorky  
*Untitled (Virginia Summer)*, ca. 1946-1947  
Oil on canvas



**Extra Resources:** Read more about finding a hidden painting underneath **The Limit** in [Smithsonian Magazine](#).

On view November 30, 2022 – March 5, 2023