Arshile Gorky Foundation

In 1995, *Arshile Gorky: The Breakthrough Years* was on display at the [National Gallery of Art](https://www.nga.gov), the [Buffalo AKG Art Gallery](https://www.buffalogallery.org) and the [Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth](https://www.momaftw.org).

*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](https://www.philamuseum.org) and traveled to the [Tate Modern](https://www.tate.org.uk) and the [Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles](https://www.moca.org) 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](https://www.youtube.com) 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.”
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.

On view November 30, 2022 – March 5, 2023

Extra Resources: Read more about finding a hidden painting underneath The Limit in Smithsonian Magazine.