

## Sarkis Stays Together

25 NOVEMBER 2025–10 JANUARY 2026

DIRIMART LONDON



*Arc-en-ciel comme mesure n°5, 2022*  
Fine art print fixed on aluminium, neon  
120 x 159 cm

Dirimart is pleased to announce *Stays Together*, Sarkis's first gallery exhibition in London. The exhibition brings together twenty-four works created by the artist at different time periods, employing diverse techniques and gestures. Rich in imagery, the works offer a cycle of questions and responses that probe what keeps us together.

In his practice, Sarkis personifies each of his works and seeks their approval for inclusion in an exhibition display. Produced in his studio in Villejuif, Paris, he ensures that each work carries its own context with them, while simultaneously engaging in continuous dialogue with one another and with its surroundings. The convoluted relationships among his works generate a silent multivocality.

At the centre of the exhibition is *In the beginning, candle (to Christian Bernard)* (2023), an installation that brings together artworks from between 1969 – the same year Sarkis created a piece for the Institute of Contemporary Arts' (ICA) exhibition *When Attitudes Become Form* – and 2023, in one composition. The installation offers a visual narrative of how these works have gathered over time: candle holders, a piece of lead resting on water, seven colours evaporating in white cups, Sarkis's glass bust as a cosmonaut, a Curtis photo transformed into stained glass and mirrors awash with rainbow hues. The entangled conversation between these works from the different periods of Sarkis's journey creates a chorus that resonates across times, spaces, and beliefs. All these pieces are being observed by his other recent series, *85 Screams: After Munch* (2023). Drawn from the figure in Munch's *The Scream*, a fascination which has engaged Sarkis since his first encounter with the work in a newspaper – the swiftly executed oil paintings, made without a brush and applied directly onto paper, can be perceived as the artist's auto-portraits. He then transforms these artworks into stained glass by zooming in on the floating faces, which are dispersed around the exhibition space.

The date of Sarkis's works is always 'today'. Artifacts drawn from different centuries – such as the image of a female figure from the Neolithic era, a stone face from the sixteenth or seventeenth century, and a Leica camera from 1941 – are all interpreted using techniques that Sarkis has adopted or invented and juxtaposed with everyday scenes. In doing so, he initiates a subtle conversation about contemporary experience and its underlying psyche. Many overlooked experiences are pulled out and resurfaced from personal memory, while the hardships humanity face are dispersed across the vast expanse of time.

The exhibition marks the first solo show of the renowned Turkey-born Armenian artist in London; with the last piece he created for the city being in 1969 for the ICA. Yet, as Sarkis himself maintains, in his world there is no notion of departure or return, as his homeland resides in his memory.

*Stays Together* by Sarkis will be on view at Dirimart London from 25 November 2025 to 10 January 2026.



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**Sarkis** (b. 1938, Istanbul) graduated from the State Academy of Fine Arts. He held his first solo exhibition at Istanbul Art Gallery in 1960. He moved to Paris in 1964. Sarkis' works have been exhibited at prestigious institutions, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; Guggenheim, New York; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle, Bonn; Louvre Museum, Paris; Bode Museum, Berlin; Fondazione MAXXI and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf. In 2015, he represented Turkey at the Turkey Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale. His recent solo exhibitions include *Five Icons Framed in Edirne-style Wooden Ornamentation*, Dirimart, Istanbul (2025); *Future Lies Ahead 1993–2023*, Daejeon Museum of Art, Daejeon (2023); *85 Screams: After Munch*, Dirimart, Istanbul (2023); *7 Tage 7 Nächte*, Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Baden-Baden (2023); *ENDLESS*, Arter, Istanbul (2023); *Çaylak Sokak*, Arter, Istanbul (2019); *Mirror*, Dirimart, Istanbul (2017) and *L'ouverture*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul (2009). Among the significant exhibitions and biennials he participated in are the 6th Mardin Biennial, Mardin (2024); the 2nd, 4th, and the 14th Istanbul Biennials, Istanbul (1989, 1995, 2015); the 10th Lyon Biennial, Lyon (2010); the 2nd Moscow Biennial, Moscow (2007); the 3rd Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai (2000); the 4th and 8th Sydney Biennials, Sydney (1982, 1990); *documenta VI* and *VII*, Kassel (1977, 1982) and *When Attitudes Become Form*, Kunsthalle Bern (1969). Additionally, in 2015, he participated in the group exhibition at the Armenian Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale. Sarkis' works are part of major collections, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; MAMCO, Switzerland; and Istanbul Modern, as well as various private collections. Sarkis lives and works in Paris.

For more information, please contact the gallery at [press@dirimart.com](mailto:press@dirimart.com) or +90 212 232 66 66.  
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