

EPF CEO Gevorg Ter-Gabrielyan's opening speech

“Consequence: Artefact” film screening and exhibition opening

Moscow Cinema

Yerevan

February 8, 2020

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear guests,

I would like to welcome you at the presentation of this unprecedented project on behalf of Eurasia Partnership Foundation. For years now, the EPF has been continuously addressing the need for peace-building in the region. We have been supported by a number of states, including the missions present here. The support we have enjoyed in the recent years came from the European Union, as a unified body, that is interested in achieving peace and stability in the region. Thanks to all our supporters.

Our partners have implemented a number of remarkable projects. Back last winter, the Armenian Center of Innovative Experimental Art hosted the exhibition of Nelli Shishmanyanyan's and her Azerbaijani colleague's photos that was devoted to the routine of Armenians and Azerbaijanis living peacefully side by side in Georgia. Jointly with the National Academy of Science, we have published a book on the Azerbaijani culture in Armenia, led by Lusine Kharatyan. The multi-ethnic and multi-cultural habitat in Firdusi district in Yerevan was also presented with an impressive publication. We will soon enjoy another unique piece of work, namely a comparison of the Armenian and Azerbaijani literatures and music. There are many other projects, too, which I will not enumerate now for the sake of time.

Our activity addresses a controversy that our societies have inherited because of the unresolved conflict, that is – the misleading controversy between peace-building and patriotism. This project that you will soon watch is a brilliant example to prove the controversy fake and fictitious.

All our projects, including this one, have been presented in Tbilisi and Brussels, international community and our colleagues in the neighboring country. And, certainly, this and similar projects charge our relations with humanism which is necessary for the restoration of civilized relationships. In Stepanakert, the presentation of this project, as well as our presence today, once again testify to overriding another controversy, i.e. the controversy between the approaches of the civil society and the government towards such difficult topics as war and peace.

All this would have been impossible without our talented colleagues. Not afraid of being a spoiler, I would like to predict only one thing about the impressions awaiting you: now you are going to

experience a phenomenon, which can be described in no other way than as a classical catharsis in the true sense of the word.

We have made an emotional project which, however, emphasize the emotional aspect and do not render additional meaning. There are many post-modernist and other types of projects, too, which, in the spirit of Bertolt Brecht allege that catharsis is an obsolete phenomenon, and on the contrary, it takes an estranged glance to urge the public to action.

I am convinced and have felt this conviction on many occasions that as a result of this project, film and exhibition, the audience will experience classical catharsis, that is to say, a wave of emotions will come to purify their souls, and this is the true meaning of both genuine creativity and peace-building which has been crafted due to the talent and diligence of our epic heroes.

Please let me know, should you fail to experience the catharsis.

Thank you very much and enjoy the film.