

ASHGABAT LITHO PRESS

What is it?

Ashgabat Litho Press is a community bank account.

It was set up in 2002 when English artist Bridget Tempest brought a stone lithography press to Turkmenistan for the purpose of giving Turkmen artists the possibility of exchange exhibitions of work on paper abroad.

Funds were raised to send this one tonne piece of machinery and ancillary printmaking equipment the 5000 mile journey to Ashgabat. Sponsorship was given by Lufthansa Cargo.

It has been installed in the State Art Academy prior to being moved to a Graphics Centre for the use of all artists in Turkmenistan, not exclusively students studying at the Academy.

In the time that followed the successful installation of the press, Ashgabat Litho Press has been extended to include "A Cultural Directory for Turkmenistan", a project commissioned by the British Embassy and researched by Bridget Tempest to provide reference for cultural dialogue between Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom.

There is an honorary administrator, Bridget Tempest and three directors:

Mary Rose O'Neill (art historian)

Steven Beesley (website designer)

Richard Rusby (lawyer)

What are its aims?

Ashgabat Litho Press is not a business.

Its aim is to promote understanding of Turkmenistan through its culture.

Participants should help each other to this end.

Ashgabat Litho Press provides the possibility of cultural exchange through the website www.turkmen.co.uk and facilitates opportunities thus generated.

Whom does it benefit?

Ashgabat Litho Press benefits any Turkmen citizen working in the cultural field who abides by the spirit of mutual cooperation.

How is it funded?

Ashgabat Litho Press was started with an initial donation from Sloane Robinson Foundation and fundraising activities by Bridget Tempest (slide talks, sales of prints etc)

Now it is funded by the activities it generates.

A percentage of sales from exhibitions, textiles and concerts are retained by Ashgabat Litho Press for future projects. This way it is entirely independent.

The Cultural Directory website was funded by The British Embassy, the British Council and is now run in Ashgabat with the help of a grant from the American Embassy.

Affiliated Projects

Project Cheper

What is it

Project Cheper is a community of women entrepreneur-craftspeople involved in making traditional handicrafts. The promotion of Turkmen handicrafts will create an economic opportunity for the Turkmen women involved in this activity. Project Cheper hopes to increase the access of craft makers to the appropriate markets.

It was set up in 2002 by former OSI/Chevening Scholar Gulshat Amandurdiyeva after her visit to the Women's Institute Celebration Anniversary at Lord Chancellor's Residence in London. She was invited there by her Supervisor Janet Vietch, Director of the Women's National Commission under the Cabinet Office when she was working for them as an intern. She became acquainted with the work of WI and saw it as an opportunity at that time to empower women in Turkmenistan. After meeting Bridget Tempest in 2003, Project Cheper was included in The Cultural Directory for Turkmenistan. Gulshat joined UNICEF in 2004 and the Project was delivered to the group of participants and is being successfully run by them with some sales opportunities at Cultural Directory generated events abroad.

Who runs it

The project is run by a group of women who also work with women from Velayats and etraps.

It is managed by following people:

Gyzylgul Meretmukhamedova

Guncha Akyeva

Ludmila Kiseleva

Aynabat Meredova

Gulnar Orazgeldiyeva

The aim of this project will be to upgrade the social and economic status of these women who will be able to produce high quality objects using raw materials that are widely available. It provides an opportunity to women enterpreners-craftsmakers to exchange experience through networking.

How it is funded?

It is funded by the articles it produces. 50% of the price from the sales of textiles goes to the craftsmakers, 50% retained by Project Cheper for marketing, raw materials and administrative expenses.

A Cultural Directory for Turkmenistan www.turkmen.co.uk

In 2004 the British Embassy commissioned a Cultural Directory for Turkmenistan. There is a printed version and now a website regularly updated in Ashgabat to enable anyone involved in Turkmen cultural life to have a place.

Concrete Projects already initiated through Ashgabat Litho Press and The Cultural Directory Programme.

1. 2003

The first exhibition of Turkmen Graphics in Ashgabat at Hotel Nisa including lithographic work by students at the State Art Academy.
Funded by The British Embassy and Lufthansa Cargo.

2. 2004

Exhibition of prints by Henry Moore from the British Council Collection at The Artists Union, Ashgabat
Lecture by David Mitchinson, Director of the Henry Moore Foundation.
Funded by The British Council.

3. 2004

Visit to UK by Alexandr Kinyakin, lithography tutor at State Art Academy.
One month in UK learning colour printing techniques for stone lithography.
Participates in exhibition "Printlink" with local Yorkshire artists at Skipton Castle Gallery.

4. 2004

Travelling exhibition "Works on Paper" at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.
Textile work from Project Cheper.

Travelling exhibition "Works on Paper" at Swan Mead Gallery, Bermondsey, London.

Visit by five Turkmen artists to London for one week to see museums in London.
Visit to Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford.

5. 2004

Concert of piano music by Turkmen composers at Broughton Hall, Yorkshire played by Vladimir Mkrtumov.
Exhibition of textiles by Project Cheper.

Concert of piano and cello music by Turkmen composers by Vladimir Mkrtumov and Baymurad Kutlimuradov at Broughton Hall.
Recording made.

Follow up invitation for Vladimir Mkrtumov and Baymurad Kutlimuradov at Sledmere House, Yorkshire

6. 2005

Travelling Exhibition “Works on Paper” at the Mercer Gallery, Harrogate.
Visit by Chairmen of the Artist’s Union, Ashgabat and Mary to represent Turkmenistan at the Private View.
Exhibition of textiles by Project Cheper.

7. 2005

Concert of Chamber works by Turkmen composers by Quintet Nurana at Broughton Hall.

8. 2005

Visit by Project Cheper embroideress Aynabat Meredov to teach a workshop in Turkmen embroidery techniques and motifs at The Mercer Gallery, Harrogate.
Gulshat Amandurdieva gave a talk on Project Cheper.

9. 2005

Concert of traditional Turkmen music by Lale and Maksat Begnazarov, voice, dutar and gyjak and Rovshen Nepesov and Serdar Haydarov on piano and balaman at Broughton Hall.

Future Events

1. 2006

Visit by Yorkshire based knitware designer Joan Murray and weaving specialist Freylin Smith to Ashgabat to teach knitting machine techniques with local sustainable yarns at the House of Fashion, Ashgabat. Participating members of Project Cheper.
Funded by The British Embassy.

2. 2006

Possible participation of Turkmen musicians at Pennine Spring Music Festival at Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire.

What Ashgabat Litho Press is not

Ashgabat Litho Press is not a business.

It exists solely for the purposes of promotion.

As soon as any beneficiaries are deemed to be taking advantage of it for their own personal gain, any financial support will be no longer valid.

It is entirely non – political and independent.

The administrator and directors will have the final decision in any controversy.

Assets

Press for Stone Lithography.

All printmaking equipment connected with its operation

Computer equipment for website www.turkmen.co.uk

Scanner

Website www.turkmen.co.uk

Camera

Recording machine

Microphone

All enquiries to Bridget Tempest

bridgettempest@hotmail.com

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