

IMAGE

## The Artist and His Mother by Arshile Gorky



CREDIT: Arshile Gorky, <http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2002/mar/30/art>

This image, which is on the cover of Facing History's publication *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians* was painted by the artist Arshile Gorky. It is based on a photograph of Gorky and his mother, Sushan der Marderosian, taken in 1912. Although Gorky is generally identified as an American artist, he was born Vosdanig Adoian near the city of Van in what was then the Ottoman Empire. A few years after the photograph was taken, Gorky and his mother were victims of the Armenian Genocide. While he survived, Gorky remembers his mother dying in his arms. As an artist Gorky returned to the subject of the 1912 photograph many times throughout his career.