

# GALLERY TALK @

WITH Armen T. Marsoobian



Co-Sponsored by Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives  
and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

## MARCH 4, 3:00 PM

# THE PRESENCE OF ABSENCE: THE ROLE OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE LIVES OF OTTOMAN ARMENIANS



*Dildilian Family, 1890*

Photography was introduced into the Anatolian interior and the Armenian plateau in the 1870s. This was at the beginning of a period that would mark great demographic change for the region, especially among its non-Muslim communities. As was the case throughout the Ottoman Empire, professional photography in these regions was dominated by Armenian and, to a lesser extent, Greek photographers. Yet, the historically dominant view of Ottoman photography is based upon the over-sized role played by the famous photography studios of Constantinople's Pera district. In contrast, if we look at vernacular photography of the interior, we can learn much about how families used this

new medium to maintain cohesion during long periods of separation. Additionally, photography would play an important role in the relief and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.



**Held In Conjunction With**  
**REIMAGINING A  
LOST HOMELAND**

ON VIEW  
THROUGH  
**APRIL 2**