

JIRAYR ZORTHIAN

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



Jirayr Zorthian was an Armenian-American artist, born on April 14, 1911, in Kutahya, Western Anatolia, Ottoman Empire, the oldest sibling of three boys. Zorthian and his family survived the Armenian Genocide and after the liberation they moved to Bursa (Ottoman Empire), later Constantinople (Istanbul) and finally to Italy. After living in Italy for a year, they immigrated to the United States in 1922 settling in New Haven, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University with a Master of Fine Arts degree. Jirayr died January 6, 2004 at 92 years old. He spent the last 57 years of his life working on his ranch. This interview took place on February 15, 1991 in the United States.