

# Eleven Views of Mount Ararat

- by Jalal Toufic

Referring in its title to the famous series « Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji » by the Japanese artist Hokusai, which was later augmented to forty-six prints and which was produced between 1826 and 1833, Gilbert Hage's *Eleven Views of Mount Ararat* (2009) depicts another preeminent mountain, one also viewed by many as sacred, this time it appears in the context of various houses of members of the Armenian community of Lebanon.

Could Hage have made a book with thirty-six views, if not forty-six views, of mount Ararat?

Not at this historical point; Hage's book implies, intertextually and symptomatically, an absence, one that cannot be alleviated simply by photographing additional appearances of the mountain (in paintings, drawings, postcards, etc...) by visiting more interiors (in fact, Hage did photograph more than eleven such instances, as is indicated on the acknowledgements page of his book, but he justly did not include them in the book).