

## JULIETA RUKHADZE

### THE GEORGIAN FOKL FESTIVAL

The *Berikaoba-Qeenoba* is a festival dedicated to the revival of nature and agricultural cult. Lasting for many days and consisting of various episodes, the festival involves both purely religious rites and layers of the winter New Year spring universal mythos and of complex historical-ethnographic events.

The development of the pot was influenced by the fifteen centuries of the Christian tradition, preserving deep traces of pre-Christian notions.

The *Berikaoba-Qeenoba* features various means and beliefs and notions ensuring fertility, and increased harvest and livestock, as well as rich agricultural traditions, manifested diversely from region to region.

Characteristic elements of the festival are various masks of animals and human beings, dress, ritual dances, various erotic scenes, marriage and basic features of reviving deities. The festival illustrates the manifestation of various aspects of rituals reflecting fertility.