

Frontier land... elusive scriptures

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Visual Arts of Florina: short stories of everyday life

The endeavour to describe the artistic path of the visual arts in Florina is indicative and rudimentary, an adventure that lasts and gives a sense of artistic creation of a framed space-time canvas, highlighting reciprocal synergies and movements as well as reversions. The dimension of this artistic ascription is a personal choice of those memorized; accepting that the extent of this presentation may display omissions.

In the middle of the 19th century, the institutional abolition of the restrictions on rebuilding Christian churches of the Ottoman administration, defines the “incision” that differentiates previous centuries mainly of Byzantine and post-Byzantine church architecture and painting tradition and releases the dynamic creativity, which is drastically named contemporary and modern artistic creation. In other words, the inhabitants of Florina after 1850 show economic prosperity, population growth and abandon the sense of small dim post-Byzantine churches, choosing the brightness and vastness of new churches, introducing chromatic and plastic modernity. In 1871, the first reference to hagiography fills the gap of the salvation of secular art appointed to brothers George and Athanasius and his son Christodoulos, painters from Flambouro.

The presence and work of these painters differentiates our knowledge up to that point. By then, Florina and the surrounding region act as intermediaries in communication and the movement of people and ideas from east to west and north to south. In ecclesiastic painting, hagiographers mainly from Pindos and the neighboring regions Megarovo and Tirnovo, imprint their artistic stigma on numerous churches, introducing and evolving western influences in their work.

In 1840, the first inhabitation of Belkameni - Drosopigi and shortly afterwards Negovani - Flabouro moves stone masons which were considered legendary for their construction history since the Athonite monastery of Simonopetra is attributed to them, thus explaining the turning point of some masons towards hagiography. This activity of painters, which originated from Flambouro at first and then from Drosopigi, signify and define the onset of a workshop, which is based in Mount Athos and carries significant value from the wider Balkan Peninsula and the coreligionist Russians to northern Europe. The form of these workshops originated within families with the cooperation of relatives and adapted flexibly to the aesthetics of the times. Since then, members of local community of Drosopigi decisively contribute to artistic development.

In the beginning of the twentieth century a change in lifestyle of the locals is observed, since remittances of the first immigrants of America and Canada of the last decades, finance new homes, because consciously they are abandoning their Ottoman past and adopting the openness as in constructions of European residences. This change is viewed in a broader context as a dynamic which culminates during the Balkan wars and the First World War, and follows the movement of politics, which drastically alter the residential past, the

construction of houses and basically lifestyle.

The dimension of this change is of twofold luminance. The first is Monastiri, which stands out as an exemplar for the region. In the inscription of the Ottoman central military school, the main text is framed by a globe and a palette, which act as representative symbols of the world and arts. The second was the publication of the service of Tegos Sapountzis, the first mayor of liberated Florina, which documented all the initiatives taken and his work, aiming to the Europeanization of the city, which resulted to the contemporary city with minor variations.

In a city that drastically changes as far as urban development and population synthesis is concerned, a differentiation in the aesthetic assessment of decorative needs of residencies creates a market which timidly makes its first steps to fulfill this artistic need which will be covered by people of different origins and varied artistic roots. Evidence of this alteration in aesthetics is the collection of works of the accomplished Athenian artists of the time to the newly established Florina Municipality by the central administration.

Dimitrios Linaras, Dimitrios Boutzios, Ilias Vyzantis, Leonidas Pavlidis, Giprgos Bliankas, Pantelis Triantafyllou, Dimitrios Kroulis, Alekos Samsonidis and Goutzamanis are artists who emigrate to Florina after the newly set borders. Most of the aforementioned focus on photography, distinguishing the cases of Dimitrios Linaras, the only one with academic studies at the School of Fine Arts and Ilias Byzantis whose talent emerges during his secondary education in Istanbul. Ilias Byzantis' livelihood is encapsulated as a signboard painter blending all forms of art within the Association of “Aristotle”.

The groups of friends and the informal learning taking place in the environment of these painters are denatured during the Second World War in the Group of Fine Arts ‘Aristotle’. It is the first and perhaps the only workshop of visual arts of the Greek mainland. The aforementioned older generation is selected and studies alongside the new potential generation of artists, who are rightfully marked as the beginning of modern art of Florina. Added to the names previously mentioned are: Dimitris and Leonidas Kalamaras, Koulis Sterikas, Giorgos Koras, Neoptolemos Gerkas, Pandelis Zivonidis, Yorgos Kaltsounis, Vaggelis Baras etc.

In 1945, at the School of Fine Arts of Athens, Dimitris Kalamaras and Alice Hadji meet as the first students of a particularly long list of Florina's painters, who study visual arts, in the years to come until today. The choice of studies in the only school of Athens is the single criterion that differentiates the visual artists of Florina into two major categories, the self-taught and the “artfully progressive”.



Δημήτριος Μπούτζιος
Ειδυλλιακόν φίλημα επί των κυμάτων
[Dimitrios Boutzios, *Idyllic kissing on the waves*]



Δημήτριος Μπούτζιος, *Ουράνιος έρωτας*
[Dimitrios Boutzios, *Heavenly love*]



Λεωνίδας Παυλίδης
*Γυναίκα (Μούσα;) που καθρεπίζεται
στα νερά*
[Leonidas Pavlidis, *Mirrored woman (Muse?)*]



Λεωνίδας Παυλίδης, *Τοπίο ΙΙΙ*
[Leonidas Pavlidis, *Landscape III*]

The function of art in Florina has now acquired an internal structure within the city's edifice developing near the two artistic pillars, the Educational Association of "Aristotle" and the Pedagogical Academy through a nexus of individual workshops. Exhibitions are organized with a gradual rise after the 60s. Given the circumstances, the Municipality chooses to put forth the "placing" of contemporary art in Florina's everyday life. Simultaneously, the adornment of locals' houses with works of art becomes a trend. In parallel, new artists emerge such as Kostakis Loustas, Thanasis Minopoulos, Nikolaos Dogoulis, Yannis Antoniadis, as well as emigrated artists such as Kostas Kontoyannis and Kostas Evrigenis. During these times many more artists arose but due to the vastness of the number they are impossible to be mentioned.

In the city of Florina, locals become familiar with contemporary art and are truly a crowd of people artistically engaged with the form of self-taught artists or artists who emigrated to study but always return to their birthplace occasionally or permanently, actively participating in the artistic life. Indicatively, teachers who have graduated from the Schools of Fine Arts occupy positions in primary and secondary education. By the mid-70s, local artists are approximately forty, defining the city of Florina from then on as an international and European paradox due to artist-resident ratio uniqueness.

During these times, there is a weakness in supporting art education by the government and an absence of the necessary cultural structures, which is remedied by the establishment of the association "Shelter of Art Lovers" in Florina. This association aspires to unite and activate all art lovers, artists or ordinary locals with similar interests aiming to create foundations and promote artistic education. The peak of this movement is the establishment of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Florina. The first exhibition at the grounds of the Gymnasium of Florina with historical value, which was supported by the teachers of the School of Fine Arts of Athens, induced the collection of art for the Museum donated by artists as well as the concession of works by the Greek National Gallery. Once this building was chosen to house this exhibition, immediately afterwards the building was demolished two days before it was declared a monument of architectural heritage. The Shelter of Art Lovers in Florina as the main institution of the art events in the region has been supporting and preserving the urban past of the city, from the development of "shelters" of architectural heritage for more than thirty years to their final housing in the Exarchos mansion, creating mechanisms of art education with pinnacle the establishment of the Art Library. In the same spirit, the desire to distinguish the specific nature of the artistic production of Florina sets the foundation for the Gallery of Florina's Artists in a building near the Railway Station.

The artistic production in the region of Florina, the creation of conditions, and the desired visual literacy over time have now developed an acknowledged art center of the national body having conditions and practices that transformed the city into a landmark.

With the same audacity the Museum of Contemporary Art of Florina was founded, at the time when there was no corresponding body at national level, the first references to the need to establish the School of Fine Arts in the city, were documented in the meetings' minutes by the Board of Directors. It has taken more than three decades until the establishment of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the University of Western Macedonia. For almost a decade, it determines the dynamics and perspective of art lovers' dreams made reality in the tri-state of arts. This epigrammatic ad hoc report may be the afterword of this presentation, as well as an indication of our city's artistic flourishing expected in future.

Andreas N. Tsokas
Chairman of the Board

Shelter of Art Lovers in Florina – Museum of Contemporary Art of Florina



Λεωνίδας Παυλίδης, *Λουλούδια*
[Leonidas Pavlidis, *Flowers*]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1890 - 1900

! Keep in mind

- Oil painting
- Aquarelle
- Photography



DIMITRIS LINARAS (1895 - 1977)

Dimitris Lanaras was born in Monastiri (FYROM), where he attended the Greek primary school and continued his studies in a Turkish High school. In 1914, during the population exchange, his family moved to Florina. He studied at the School of Fine Arts in Athens. The close relationship he developed with Angelos Yiallinas as well as the discussions which followed fired excitement about the art of aquarelle. In 1920, Mr Linaras returned to Florina and opened a photography studio. In 1956, the studio was closed and he immigrated to Detroit, USA. He is considered the most noteworthy artist of the prewar period in Florina. His paintings consist of oil paintings and aquarelles. His paintings mostly depicted replicas of portraits and postcards and rarely countryside themes.



Antonio Rotta, *La morte del pulcino* [Replica]



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, *Beggar Boys Eating Grapes and Melon* [Replica]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1910 - 1920

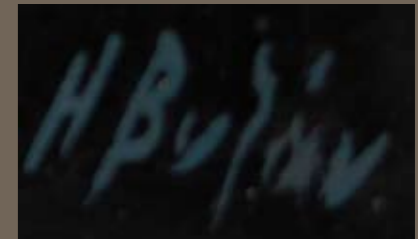
! Keep in mind

- Sign
- Fresco
- Artistic style of writing



ILIAS BYZANTIS (1910 - 1980)

Ilias Byzantis was born in Istanbul in 1910. In 1922 his family moved to Florina. He was a founding member of the FSF "Aristotle" and an active member of the artistic department during the 40s. In 1932 he established an artistic workshop, where all the latter artists of Florina studied. His work includes two types of art: sign-making and painting. In Florina, hundreds of signs are evident at local shops, which were characterized by his personal artistic style of writing. Byzantis' paintings also consist of frescos with religious themes.



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1920 - 1930

! Keep in mind

- Self-taught
- Impressionism
- Fauvism



STERIKAS KOULIS (1921 - 1995)

Sterikas Koulis. Painter. Born in Korca in 1921, this self-taught painter acquired no academic education. The painter was influenced by Impressionism and later on he turned to Fauvism. In the 80s his artwork often focused on areas concerning society and peace. After his death in 1995, his atelier, including his works, was maintained as a museum.



Δέντρα I [Trees III]



Δέντρα III [Trees III]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1920 - 1930

! Keep in mind

- Monumental sculpting
- Marble



ALIKI CHATZI (1923 - 1997)

Sculptor. She studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts and in the Faculty of Law, University of Thessaloniki. She was awarded the First Prize in sculpting by the Municipality of Thessaloniki, as well as awards in competitions organized by the Greek Ministry of Interior and Culture. Her works are exhibited in public and private collections in Greece and abroad. She died at the age of 74, passing on invaluable amount of works.



Στον άγνωστο κληρο [To the unknown clergy]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1920 - 1930

! Keep in mind

- Expressionist elements
- Geometric volumes
- Harmony
- Symmetry

DIMITRIS KALAMARAS (1924 - 1997)



Sculptor. He was born in Florina and studied sculpting in the atelier of M. Tombros in Athens. He continued his studies at the Academies of Fine Arts in Florence and Rome. In 1958, he established the first bronze casting workshop in the Athens School of Fine Arts. From 1969 to 1985 he worked as a professor at the Department of sculpting, where he launched courses of sculpting theory. His work does not include a variety of subjects, since he focused on refining the human figure and the horse.



Άννα [Anna]



Θνήσκων πολεμιστής [Dying warrior]



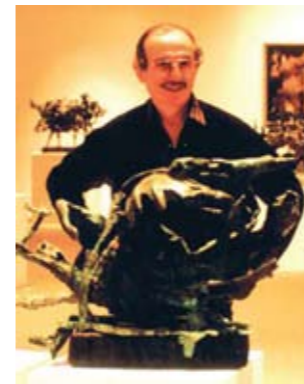
Σπουδή μέτρον και ποσοτικής τάξης για τον έφιππο ανδριάντα του Μ. Αλεξάνδρου [Study for the equestrian statue of Alexander the Great]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1920 - 1930

! Keep in mind

- Impressionistic forms
- Metal
- Casting techniques

GEORGE KORRAS (1925)



George Koras was born in Florina, Greece, and graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Athens. He immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1955, where he worked for the sculptor Jacques Lipchitz. At the same time, he learned metal casting techniques at the Modern Art Foundry in NY. In 1975, he studied in Italy and Spain with a grant. Furthermore, he taught sculpture at the New York State University. His work is influenced by impressionistic forms.



Bronze of Ravens



Sculptural study



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1920 - 1930

! Keep in mind

- Expressionism
- Abstraction
- Human figure
- Nature

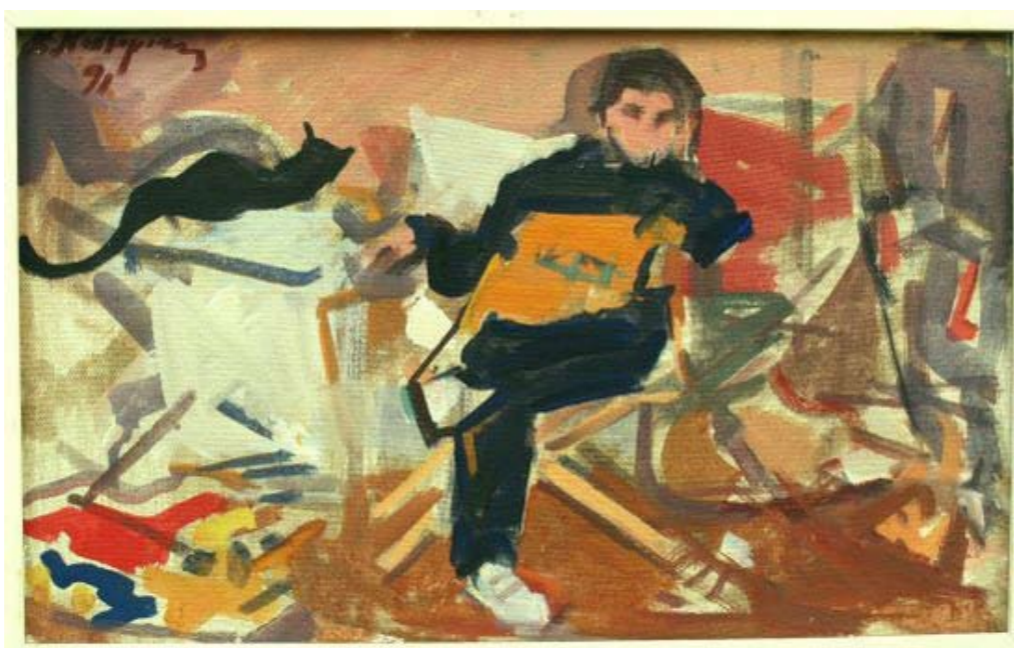


KOSTAS KONTOYANNIS (1926 - 2000)

Kostas Kontoyannis studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts. From 1956 to 1963 he continued his painting and sculpting studies in the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, Italy. His expressionist work stands out for its vivid depiction of nature and the human form. Nevertheless, he never wanted to be expressed through abstract representations, nor remained steady to a particular style.



Κοριτσάκι [Little girl]



Αγόρι και γάτος [A boy and a cat]

In 2002, the artist was honoured by the Athens Academy for his moral values as a "silent" artist of the country.

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1920 - 1930

! Keep in mind

- Self-taught
- Naif
- Landscape painting
- Oil paint



DIMITRIS DOSTIS (1928 - 2014)

Dimitris Dostis was born in Skopia, a village in Florina, Greece. He is a self-taught painter. The thematic choices of his artwork include staged narratives of his childhood memories and the historical events of the times. His landscape paintings capture images of the countryside, detailed narrations of everyday life and local tradition. The dominant material he used was oil paints, which limited the visual result of his works. The prevalent figure in his work is the woman, which is depicted with intense sensual elements, highlighting the exotic beauty of the human body.



Κόρι [Kori]



Παζάρι [Open-air market]

As long as I live, I will paint

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Statue
- Monument
- Heroic symbolism
- National history



THANASIS MINOPOULOS (1931 - 1982)

Thanasis Minopoulos was born in Florina, Greece. He started painting inspired by the landscape of northern Greece. He studied at the School of Fine Arts in Athens, majoring in sculpting. He furthered his studies in Istanbul, Zurich and Vienna. The main focus of his work is on memorial sculptures, blended with heroic symbolisms.



Μνημείο πεσόντων (Ανταρτικό)
[War memorial (Antartiko, Florina, Greece)]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Human figure
- Expressionism
- Sculpting



LEONIDAS KALAMARAS (1932 - 2014)

Leonidas Kalamaras was born in the city of Florina, Greece. In 1950, he immigrated to Perth, Western Australia. He studied sculpting at the School of Fine Arts, Athens, for a year. He continued his studies in Perth, where he got his degree in sculpting. In 1968, he started teaching at the Claremont School of Arts, where he established the department of sculpting. His artwork is influenced by ancient Greek sculptures, his hometown and Greek art, which is clearly visible and pervasive in his work. The use of these particular expressionistic elements is what prevails in his artworks.



Ιάσων [Jason]



Τοπίο και ψυχή [Landscape and soul]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Expressionistic trends
- Portrait
- Still life
- Seascapes
- Transparent colors



KOSTAKIS LOUSTAS (1933 - 2014)

Kostakis Loustas was born in Florina (Greece), a painter with expressionistic features, focusing on landscape paintings and portraits. He studied at the School of Fine Arts, Athens, in the atelier of Giannis Moralis and Michalis Tompros from 1953 to 1958. His talent is characterized as sui generis, since his artworks depict a personal expressionism. Portraits, still life, everyday objects, musical instruments and seascapes are only few of the subjects in his work.



The artist's wife



Florina's River

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Self-taught
- Oil painting
- Three-dimensional relief



VAGGELIS MPARAS (1933 - 2007)

Vaggelis Mparas was born in Florina, Greece. At the age of 12 he started painting and developed a special technique in which he combined oil painting with three-dimensional relief. He is a self-taught painter, whose subject is mainly inspired by his hometown Florina, and Greece in general.



Πρέσπα [Prespa]



Φθινόπωρο στη Φλώρινα [Autumn in Florina]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Frieze
- Human dimension
- Realistic precision

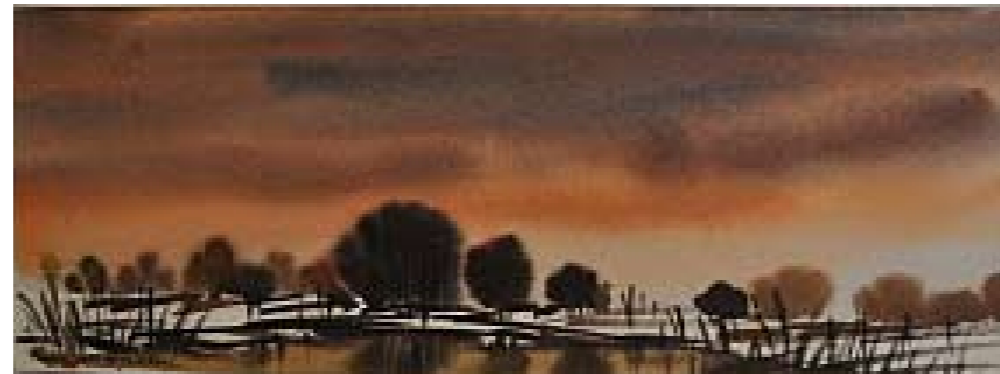


YANNIS ANTONIADIS (1935 - 2001)

Yannis Antoniadis was born in Kratero, a village in Florina, Greece. He studied at the School of Fine Arts in Athens at the atelier of M. Tompros. He completed his master degree in Florence, Italy. He moved on and studied local architecture and sculpting, inspired by Florina. He focused on the study of the frieze, which resulted in a series of designs with realistic precision and clarity, and the addition of the human form made them complete. His artworks are included in many exhibitions in Greece.



Άτιτλο [Untitled]



Άτιτλο [Untitled]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Color volume
- Geometric movement
- Florina's scenery
- Technique of spatula



VAGGELIS TAMOUTSELIS (1935)

Vaggelis Tamoutselis was born in Drosopigi, Florina, Greece. He was taught religious painting art by the iconographers of Vitsi, Florina from 1954 to 1957, but after 1967, he altered his focus towards paintings. The artist uses the technique of spatula and his themes derived from Florina's scenery.



Ο Βιολιστής [The Fiddler]



Ξενοδοχείο Χαν Πατέρα [Han Patera Hotel]

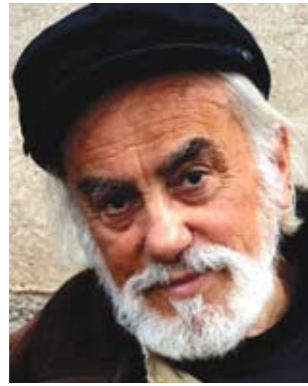


Φλώρινα, στη Γεωργική Σχολή [Florina, at the School of Agriculture]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1930 - 1940

! Keep in mind

- Sculpture
- Simplicity
- Traditional culture
- Rough style



NICHOLAS DOGOULIS (1937 - 2013)

Nicholas Dogoulis was born in Florina, Greece. He studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Athens in the atelier of Y. Pappas and at the Academy of Fine Arts, Rome. His works is inspired by everyday life and local landscape. His sculptures stand out for the simplicity of their form. The artist is particularly interested in giving form to his works with rough around the edges and lack of expressions.



Αγάλμα της Ελευθερίας [Statue of Liberty]



Αγορά [Market]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

! Keep in mind

- Paper
- Wood
- Stone
- Transparency
- Canvas



ARIS IOANNOU (1940)

Aris Ioannou was born in the village Lemos of Prespa, Greece, by refugee parents. He is a self-taught painter, who strives to satisfy his love for painting, and uses his art to depict human emotions. Oil paintings and lac dye are the materials most commonly used in his works, while among his most popular techniques one can find the brush, the spatula, and finger painting.

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

! Keep in mind

- Expressionism
- Minimalism
- Landscape
- Artistic movements



VASSILIS KYRKOS (1942)

Vassilis Kyrkos was born in the village of Neohoraki, Florina, Greece. He studied in the School of Fine Arts, Athens. He studied contemporary artistic movements in Paris. Perhaps the most captivating characteristic in his paintings is that his landscapes are not depicted realistically. Sometimes expressionistic, other times minimal, his paintings are renderings of landscapes with the use of multiple techniques, expressed through a wide variety of artistic movements.



Male Head



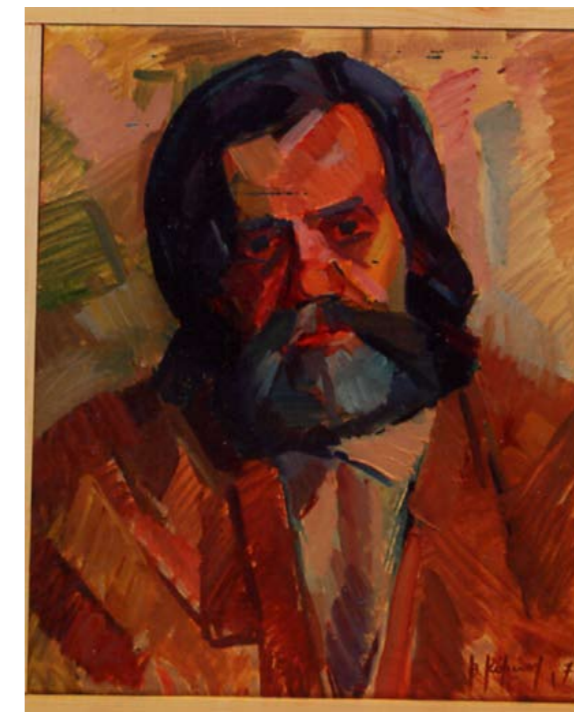
Brother trees



Prespian world



Σαντορίνη. Τοπίο I
[Santorini. Landscape I]



Στερίκας Κούλης
[Sterikas Koulis]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

! Keep in mind

- Watercolor
- Acrylics
- Landscape
- Traditional houses



THANASIS KONSTANTINIDIS (1942)

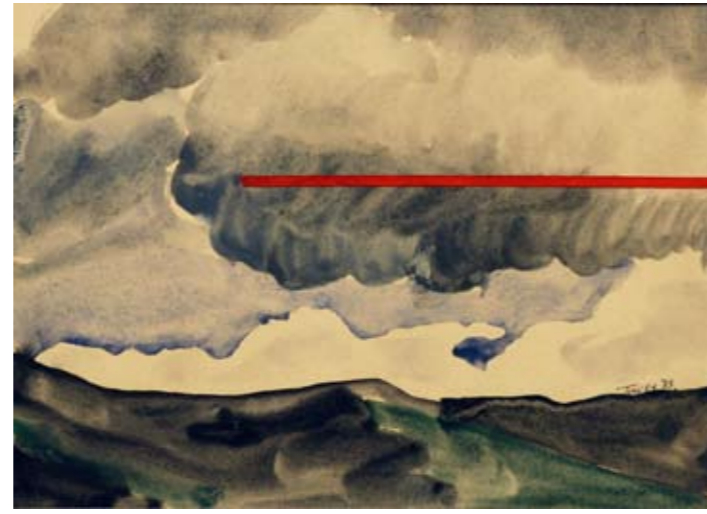
Thanasis Konstantinidis was born in Prespes, Greece. He studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts at the atelier of Y. Moralis. At the same time, he studied decoration and scenography. He worked for the Ministry of Culture as a painter and art conservator. He chose solitary landscapes and traditional houses to construct his artistic world aiming to arouse past memories



Ημίγυμνο
[Partial nudity]



Σπίτι στην Πρέσπα [House in Prespa]



Άπειλο [Untitled]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

! Keep in mind

- Landscape
- Colour
- Composition



GRIGORIS CHATZILAMPROU (1946)

Grigoris Chatzilamprou was born in Florina, Greece. At a young age he studied next painters of his city. During his university studies at the Dental School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, he participated in the artistic team of the University and took part in two exhibitions held in Thessaloniki. In 1980 he presented his artwork in Toronto and in 2006 in Istanbul along with other painters from Florina. His artistic compositions are inspired from the nature and the colourful seasonal changes of Florina.



Υπαιθρια αγορά [Flea market]



Φθινόπωρο στα βουνά της Φλώρινας
[Autumn on the mountains of Florina]



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

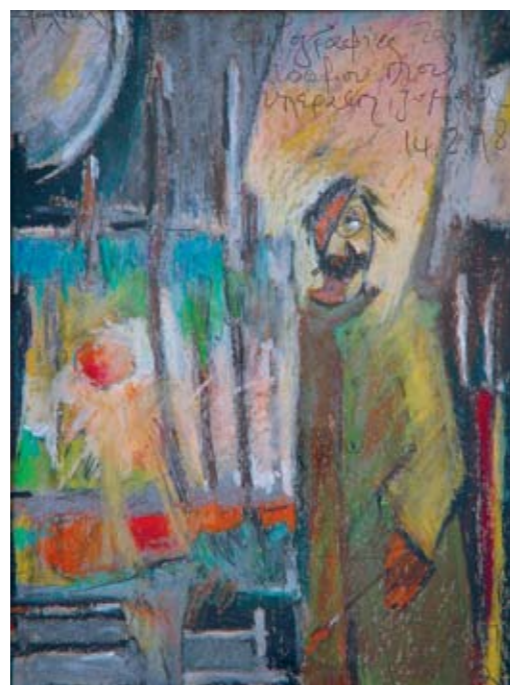
THEMIS MILOSIS (1942 - 2003)



Themis Milosis was born in Florina, Greece. He was a self-taught painter. The themes of his work are landscapes of Florina, still life, portraits and instances of everyday life. In his early years, his art was reflected by an abstract geometrism, and later on his work shifted towards an expressionist mood, working with pastels and watercolors. Sometimes in his paintings the artist himself appears as part of the composition depicted on his art. Themis Milosis is considered a painter who mainly uses light colors to synthesise the harmony of Florina's charming spring and autumn sceneries, though expressive simplicity and color sensitivity.



Η Ρήνα μου [My Rina]



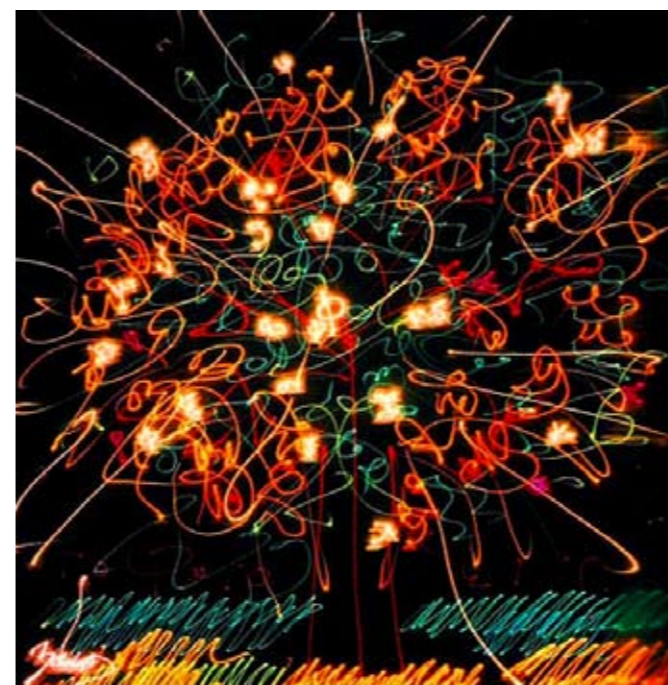
Φωτογραφίζοντας τον κόσμο που υπερασπίζομαι [Capturing the world I defend]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

XANTHIPPOS VYSSIOS (1947)



Xanthippos Vyssios was born in Florina, Greece, and grew up in Melbourne, Australia. He studied Physics in Thessaloniki, where he still lives and works. He is a self-taught painter and started painting in 1969. Vyssios recommends photo design, the "writing with light". This is a relationship between science and art, which the artist names as "Photo designs", "Painting in space", "Holon", "Hologram" etc. His artworks were first exhibited to the Greek public in 1971, then became holistic and lately, transformed to holograms.



Φωτόδεντρο [Photo tree]



Φωτοσχέδιο II [Photo design II]

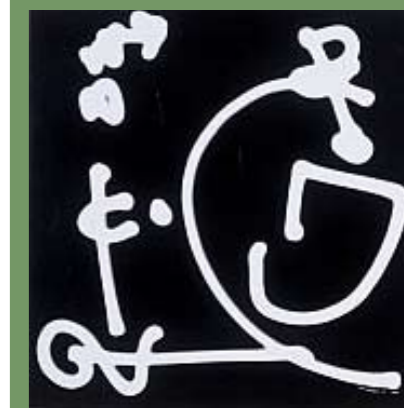
! Keep in mind

- Pastel
- Watercolor
- Abstract geometrism
- Expressionism
- Harmony

"... My art is nothing more than the way I feel things, a way to love you, a way to live"

! Keep in mind

- Photo designs
- Writing with light
- Hologram



Φωτοσχέδιο [Photo design]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1940 - 1950

! Keep in mind

- Morphic elements
- Composition
- Abstract expressionism



Η Ακρόπολη
[The Acropolis]



TAKIS BESSAS (1947)

Takis Bessas was born in Florina, Greece, and studied at the Fine Arts School of Athens in the atelier of Dimitris Kalamaras. He taught at the Faculty of Education and contributed to the establishment and the organisation of the Department of Applied and Visual Arts, University of West Macedonia (2012). He entered the artistic world in 1965 with landscapes of Florina, designs, oil paintings and aquarelles. From 1962 to 2000 his artistic interest moved towards abstract expressionism with blended techniques. The main features of his artwork are lightweight materials with a simple palette; focus on composition, to extol hidden morphic elements. Currently his atelier is situated in Florina. His artwork has taken part in many exhibitions in Greece and abroad.



Μουσικοί [Musicians]



Καφενείο "Το Διεθνές"
[Cafe "The International"]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Rhythmic model
- Mathematical model
- Environmental architecture
- Composition
- Dimension of time
- Volume
- Reflection of the light



Prespes 2000



VASSILIOS MICHAIL (1950)

Vassilios Michail was born in Kottas, Florina, Greece. He studied painting at the atelier of Nikos Nikolaou and sculpture with Dimitris Kalamaras at the Athens School of Fine Arts. He lives and works in France since 1982. Michail's work is based on an assimilation of complementary exchanges, expressed through rhythmic and mathematical models that are repeated within an environmental architecture or in the natural environment itself - this forms an integral role in the composition of the artist's work. He has an awareness of the human body in space, of the dimensions of time, the relationship between volumes and colour, and the reflection of the light produced by the surfaces of the sculptures.



Bijections



Installation

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Visual distortions
- Multi-prismatic representations
- Anthropocentrism



MANOLIS POLYMERIS (1951)

Manolis Polymeris is a self-taught painter and his first contact with art was close to his father, who illustrated signs and posters for movie theaters. His work is mainly anthropocentric, but never remains accurate to the visual reality. He uses optical distortion, free gestures or multi-prismatic representations in order to express the infinite versions of humanity focusing on the profound essence and not on humans as the main subject of his paintings.



Διάθλαση προσώπου
[Face Refraction]



Πρέσπα
[Prespa]

"Where Bacon meets Greco, Polymeris' distorting mirror of virtual reality comes"

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

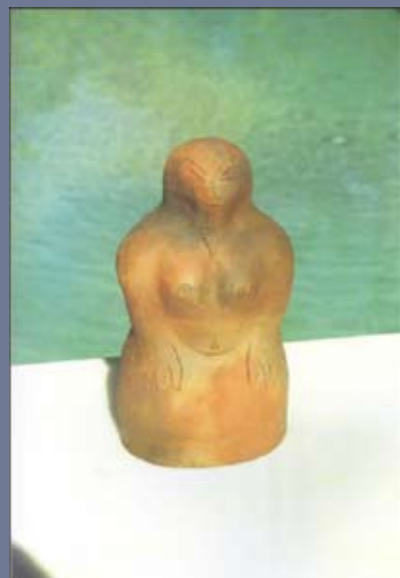
! Keep in mind

- Classical sculpture
- Principals of ancient art
- Classical form
- Frieze
- Archaic simplicity

THANASIS KALAMARAS (1951)



Thanasis Kalamaras is a sculptor and painter. Born in Florina (Greece), and his father is the noted sculptor Leonidas Kalamaras. He completed his studies in sculpture in the Australian Institute of Technology, concurrently with a Diploma of Education. He commenced teaching sculpture in 1976 at the Claremont School of Art, specializing in classical sculpture (clay, copper, marble, wood and stone). Kalamaras work reflects the Greek spirit and a dedication to the principals of ancient art. His compositions are the result of a specific, methodological approach, and the projection of an anthropocentric sculpture, full of characters reminiscent of the Greek past. The emphasis is placed on classical forms, the way these are incorporated in relief in friezes, with archaic simplicity.



Γαία [Gaia]



Υπνος [Sleep]



Σκέψη [Meditation]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Free drawing
- Originality
- Nature

STELLA GOLITSI (1952)



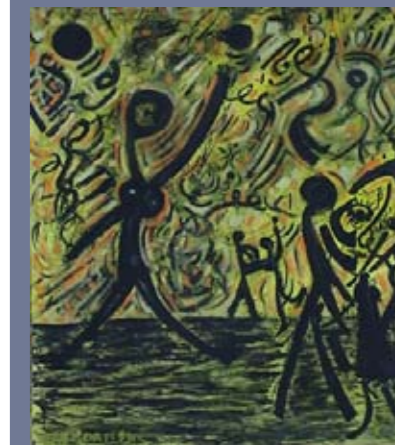
Stella Golitsi was born in Legnitsa, Poland by Greek parents. He studied at the atelier of Christopoulos in Thessaloniki. She moved to Florina and worked by the painter Sterikas Koulis in Florina, Greece, in the early 80's. Her work is characterized by boldness and originality, passion for nature and its constant transformations.



Τοπίο [Landscape]



Τοπίο [Landscape]



Τοπίο [Landscape]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Self-taught
- Primary materials
- Visual performance

YANNIS MOULELIS (1954)



Yannis Moulelis was born in Florina, Greece. He is a self-taught painter. He replaces the embossed copper with the spatula, enriched with primary materials, such as sand, stone, wood. The artist mainly takes photographs of people and landscapes and then implements the artistic creation.



Αγορά [Market]



Καθημερινότητα I
[Everyday life I]



Καθημερινότητα II
[Everyday life II]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Primitive style

FLOEL (GIORGOS GAZEAS) (1955-2007)



Floel (Giorgos Gazeas) was born in the village Papagiannis of Florina, Greece. Although he was an outcast of the artistic world for many years, he created a unique personal primitive style that made a great impact in Greece as well as abroad. After winning the First Prize at the Montenegro Art Biennale of 2006, Floel passed away in 2007, at the peak of his career. His artworks can be found at the School of Fine Arts in Florina, Greece and at the "Flame of Art" Cultural Institution in Kavala (Greece).



Μοναζιά [Loneliness]



Κάτω Υδρούσα Φλώρινας [Kato Idrousa, Florina, Greece]



Γυμνό [Nude]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

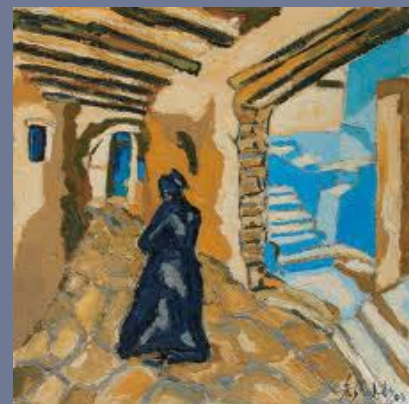
! Keep in mind

- Expressionistic script
- Complementary colors
- Byzantine painting
- Harmony
- Genre

GIORGOS PASTAKAS (1956)



Giorgos Pastakas was born in Florina, Greece, and studied at the London Royal Academy of Fine Arts. Through expressionistic features, extreme visual points and bold uses of complementary colors, he transfers his emotions on his art. His knowledge of Byzantine painting renders simplicity in his art excluding hyperbole in his compositions. Pastakas seems to manage harmony in his work, showcasing his personal style.



Ατιτλο [Untitled]



Ο κύκλος των 76 ημερών
[The circle of 76 days]



Τηνιακοί εσπερινοί
[Tinian vespers]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Sculpture
- Painting
- Antiquity
- Ratio

LAZAROS SPYROU (1958)



Lazaros Spyrou was born in Florina. He graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts in 1985. His teachers in painting included K. Loustas, V. Vlachopoulos, and D. Mitaras while his teachers in sculpture were Th. Panourgias and D. Kalamaras. Inspired by the aesthetics of classical antiquity, the artist creates works focusing on the classical ratios of human body. Drawings, paintings and sculptures, his artwork constitute an artistic exploration of the Greek Mythology and the concept of Sea, showing at the same moment his artistic path.



Κατασκευή Ι [Construction I]



Πήγασος [Pegasus]



Ρόδια [Pomegranates]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1950 - 1960

! Keep in mind

- Architectural design
- Painting
- Canvas



Νηριδες [Nereids]



LITSA PAPADIMITRIOU

Litsa Papadimitriou was born in Florina, Greece, where she still lives as a painter and writer. She graduated from the Ecole Ave De Paris, and she continued her studies in architectural design and painting. She has a significant presence in Greece and abroad. As the artist mentions "what my sight captures in the crowd, the environment, or anywhere, I am in anguish to imprint it on my canvas...".



Μέδουσα [Medusa]



Θέμιδα [Themis]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

! Keep in mind

- Photography
- Experimentation
- Sensitivity



GIORGOS RAKOVALIS (1962 - 1988)

Giorgos Rakovalis. Painter. Born in Florina, Greece, he studied at the School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki. During his studies he starts photography and teaches courses on sketch and painting to groups of children. Despite his brief presence in the artistic world, his artistic legacy clearly depicts his sensitivity and tendency to experiment. In 1986 he creates a dark room in his atelier and focuses on artistic photography, while studying courses by G. Katsaggelos. In 1987 he has his first personal photography exhibition. His genres extol softness and his viewpoint embraces what he loved and whatever shook his world. His work expresses his anxiety to get to know his psyche and interpret the world around him.



Γάμος [Marriage]



Άπειλο [Untitled]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

! Keep in mind

- Figure
- Shadow
- Space
- Landscape



SOTIRIS LIOUKRAS (1962)

Sotiris Lioukras was born in Florina, Greece. He studied at the School of Fine Arts in Athens. His artworks illustrate the reality of the senses, the dream world, memory and imagination or the representations of the unconscious. He paints landscapes of Florina, the city in which he lives and works, without any attempt for descriptive mapping of external characteristics. The human figure, which is implied as a shadow, is incorporated into the space. However, he does not reflect the simple passage of the shadow, but drastically modifies the sense of the landscape as perceived by the viewer.



Νυχτερινό τοπίο [Night landscape]



Christmas Eve, 2010



Άπειλο [Untitled]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

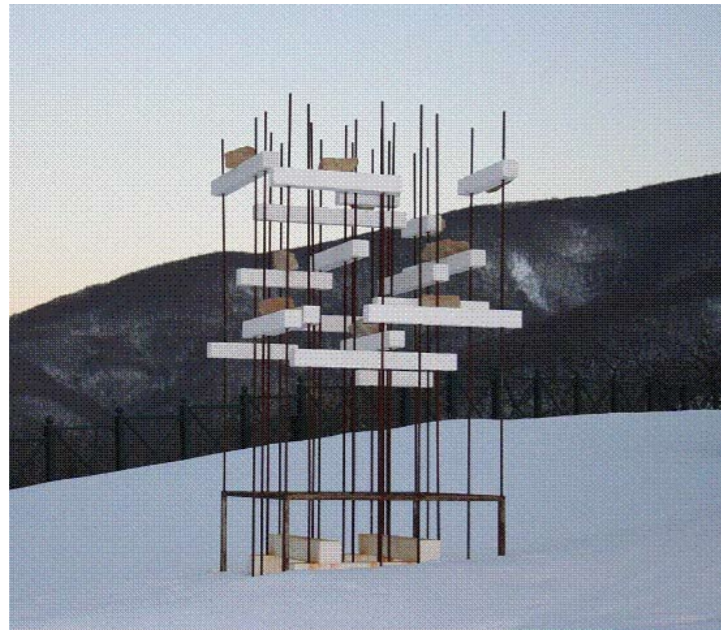
! Keep in mind

- Architectural structure
- Monumentality
- Space



THOMAS ZOGRAFOS (1963)

Thomas Zografos was born in Drosopigi of Florina, Greece. He studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts (1981-1986). His works reflect his intention to erect an architectural structure that exudes monumentality as well as a mark in space. The artist, through his work, expresses his desire to create a new entity, which will not only present reality, but will also depict his personal experiences of life.



Αρχιτεκτονικά τοπία [Architectural landscapes]



Εσωτερικό I [Interior I]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

! Keep in mind

- Anthropocentric composition
- Body
- Harmony
- Golden analogy
- Hagiography
- Iconography



ZOI TYRPENOU (1963)

Zoi Tyrpenou was born in Florina, Greece, and studied sculpture in School of Fine Arts. Her art is influenced by the painters Piero de la Francesca, Vermeer, Cezanne and the sculptors Roden, Marini, Chalepss and Kalamaras. Her anthropocentric art focuses on the study of the body, harmony and the "golden analogy" with expressionistic and abstract elements. Also, her work includes hagiography, iconography and relief. She is influenced by painters and hagiographers such as Panselinos, Papaloukas, Kontoglou and the reverent Lucas Xenofontinos. Her genres are influenced by Orthodox patristic tradition and her main aim of her art is not only to recall incidents and people but also to create the sense of presence.



Σκηνές από την Παλαιά & την Καινή Διαθήκη [Scenes from the Old and New Testament]



Καθιστές φιγούρες [Seated figures]



Κεφαλή [Head]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

ANNA TSOULFIDOU (1963)



Anna Tsoulfidou studied at the School of Fine Arts in Rome, at the atelier of Trotti. She started art courses for children in 1996 and Art workshops in Kozani until 1999. She works in Florina as an Art teacher in Secondary Education. She participated in personal and group exhibitions and teaches Wax courses at the School of Fine Arts of the University of West Macedonia in Florina.

! Keep in mind

- Landscape



Νεκρή φύση [Still life]



Τοπίο [Landscape]



Ατιτλο [Untitled]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

CHRISTOS TSOTSOS (1965)



Sculptor. Born in Florina, Greece. He studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts at the atelier of Giorgos Lappas. He has had three personal exhibitions and participated in group artistic events. His work focuses on the human figure using clay, plaster and metals and his forms are recognized by the gradual abstraction of volume. Currently, he teaches sculpture at the Department of Applied and Visual Arts (Florina) of the University of West Macedonia.

! Keep in mind

- Human figure
- Plaster
- Clay
- Abstract
- Volume
- Form



Η Γη μαλώνει [Earth scolds]



Φιγούρες [Figures]



Φιγούρα [Figure]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

! Keep in mind

- Painting
- Free drawing
- Engraving

NIKOS TAMOUTSELIS (1967)



Nikos Tamoutselis was born in Florina, Greece. He studied at the School of Fine and Visual Arts at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at the atelier of Vrasidas Vlachopoulos, where he focused on sketch and painting. He also studied at the studio of Dimitris Kontos and Xenis Sachinis. He attended engraving courses by George Milios and photography courses by George Katsangelos.



Αυτοκίνητο II [Car II]



Ρωμανός [Romanos]



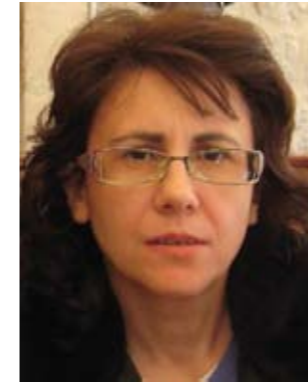
Αντιπαραθέσεις [Confrontations]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

! Keep in mind

- Painting
- Engraving
- Photography

KONSTANTINA ZOGRAFΟΥ (1969)



Konstantina Zografou was born in Florina, Greece, and studied at the School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki at the atelier of D. Kontos and she attended photography and engraving courses. She graduated at 1996 and is now working as an Arts High School teacher. She has participated in exhibitions of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Florina and her work is exhibited in the gallery of Florina.



Σύνθεση [Composition]



Τρεις σπουδές [Three studies]



Νεκρή φύση [Still life]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1960 - 1970

! Keep in mind

- Perspective
- Space
- Reflection
- Curve
- Synthetic material



Ακουαρέλα [Aquarelle]



PANTELIS TAMOUTSELIS (1969)

Pantelis Tamoutselis was born in Florina, Greece. He studied at the Fine and Applied Arts Department of U.W.M. with John Kastritsi. His work emphasizes on performance-image painting, which reflects environmental elements and presents a distorted view of the existent space. At the same time he creates colored reflections on curved surfaces, formed as a result of the synthetic material of the object itself.



Βιομηχανικό τοπίο [Industrial landscape]



Σαπουνόφουσκες [Soap bubbles]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

! Keep in mind

- Facade
- Building materials
- Spolia
- Collage
- Papier collé



CHRISTOS KOUNTOURAS (1974)

Christos Kountouras was born in Athens, Greece. He studied plastic arts at the Saint-Etienne School of Fine Arts in France. He participated in the Young Artists meeting at the Art Gallery of Florina (September 1999) and in the Laboratorio di Scultura Europea 2000 at the Mogliano-Veneto in Italy (June-September 2000). The artist creates facades-witnesses of a historic route underlined through the emergence of material decay. His means of expression in his work include "spolia" (parts of building remains). His artistic images are formed with the collage technique and more accurately utilizes the technique of papier collé.



Spolia



Ροτόντα, εξωτερική όψη I
[Rotonta, external view I]



Ροτόντα, εσωτερική όψη III
[Rotonta, interior view III]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

! Keep in mind

- Visual arts
- Cultural studies



HARALAMPOS CHRISOCHOIDIS (1974)

Haralampos Chrisochoidis was born in Florina, Greece and studied at the School of Fine Arts at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, majoring in visual arts. He graduated in 1993 with a scholarship held by the State Scholarship Foundation under the "Socrates" program to study at the Utrecht School of Arts, Netherlands. He completed his master degree at the Faculty of Education, University of West Macedonia, on Cultural Studies and New Technologies (2005). He participated in group exhibitions.



Ατιτλο, Ενότητα δύο έργων [Untitled, Union of two artworks]



Fischer

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

MARIA CHATZILAMPOU (1975)



Maria Chatzilampou was born in Florina (Greece), a town with an artistic tradition. In 1998, she graduated from the University of Central Lancashire in G. Britain, where she studied visual arts (AB Honours FINE ART). Her artwork focuses on human figure, motherhood, children's tales, western religions, mythology and trees. Her work is influenced by artists, such as Susan Hiller, Marie Kell and Wayne Thiebaud.



Δέντρο Σύμβολο ευημερίας, γονιμότητας και ευφορίας
[Tree Symbol of prosperity, fertility and euphoria]



One goddess for each woman

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

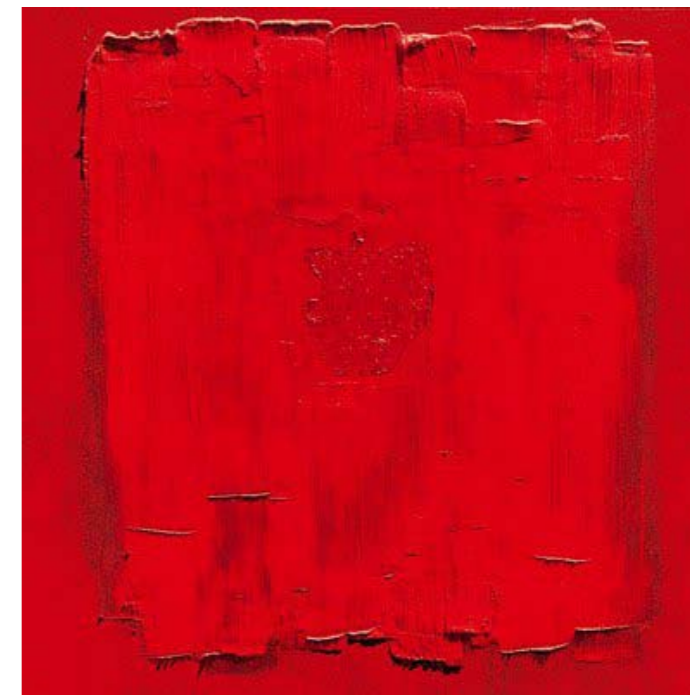
MELINA GIALAMA (1977)



Melina Gialama was born in Florina, Greece. She studied at the School of Fine Arts of Thessaloniki and works at the Aristotle Private School as an Art teacher. She has participated in many group exhibitions in Thessaloniki and three in Florina. Her artwork presents children, using colour pencils in a realistic way, while the rest of the scenery of the painting is abstract. Her main focus is on the representation of the form of children, since through their expressions the human psyche is exposed.



Ατιτλο [Untitled]



Αδάμ & Εύα [Adam & Eve]



! Keep in mind

- Human figure
- Children's tales
- Mythology
- Trees



Ολοκλήρωση (Moon)
[Completion (Moon)]

! Keep in mind

- Child form
- Colour pencils
- Realism
- Abstract

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

NATASHA RACHOVITSA (1977)



Natasha Rachovitsa comes from Florina, Greece, and graduated in 2004 with honors from the School of Fine Arts, of the Aristotle University Thessaloniki, where she studied sculpture by Fotis Chatziioannidis. Despite her young age, she has already created a thoroughly mature work in her field. She has participated in many group exhibitions.



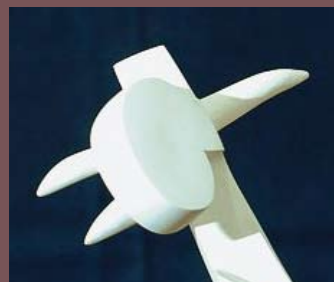
Άτιτλο [Untitled]



Golden

! Keep in mind

Sculpture



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

FILIPPOS KALAMARAS (1978)



Filippos Kalamaras was born in Athens, Greece. He studied sculpture in Loughborough Art School of England and continued his postgraduate studies in Scotland on the History and Theory of Art in the School of Fine Arts of Edinburgh. He counts a great number of participations in exhibitions in Greece and abroad, while it should be noted that in 2002 his work titled "Female figure" was placed in a public place, in the community of Arp, in England. Apart from his artistic creation, which concentrates mostly on sculpture, he teaches 3D Applications and Decorative Arts, and Multimedia, in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the University of Western Macedonia, Greece, and he participates as an instructor at seminars teaching animation applications to Union Art Teachers. He is a member of the Board in the Foundation "Demetrios Kalamaras", which is a National Endowment, and the only institution in Greece that its main purpose is to promote art education and research in Teaching Methodology of Art.



Σχέδιο στο χώρο, γυναικεία μορφή
[Drawing in space, female figure]



Γλυπτική εγκατάσταση
[Sculptural installation]

! Keep in mind

- Sculpture
- 3D Applications
- Decorative Arts and Multimedia
- Animation



Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1970 - 1980

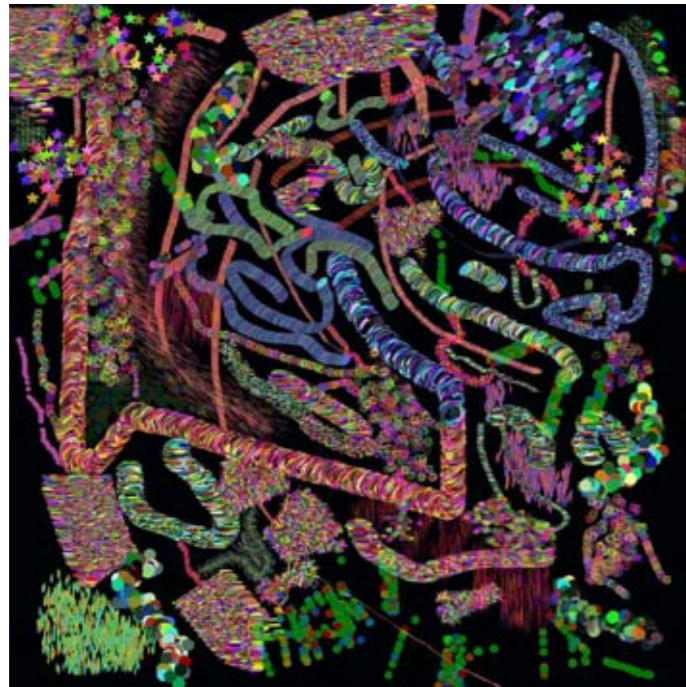
! Keep in mind

- Landscape architecture
- Multimedia narratives
- Landscapes
- Formations

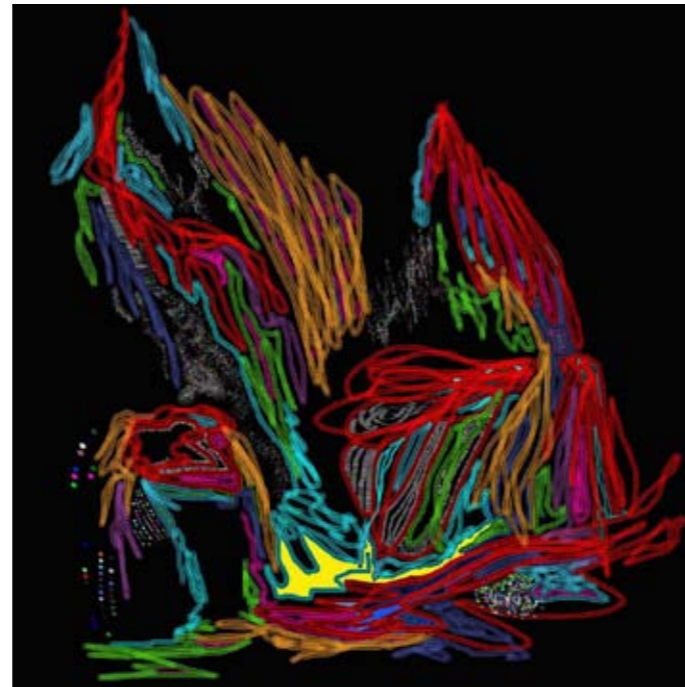
ANASTASIOS THOMOOU (1978)



Anastasios Thomou was born in Florina, Greece. From 1995 to 1997 he attended courses on classic academic design, in Thessaloniki and Athens. Until 2002 he continued his studies in painting and history of modern art at the Brera School of Modern Arts (Milan, Italy), where he also acquired his MA on landscape architecture (2003-2004). From 2002 till today he has participated in many group exhibitions in Italy and Greece. The area of his work includes the daily routine, which he captures on images and multimedia narratives. Each project is printed on shiny surfaces so as to resemble a computer screen, which is an original and main way of his artistic expression. As the artist mentions "My work is not didactic for the viewer. The creation and power of the image is an essential motivation. It is a walk on the screen, with alternating shots, landscapes and formations, where the images rise above the desires. A one-way journey and a promenader, whose only companion is a computer, which captures the views".



Traffic



Deeper n' deeper

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1980 - 1990

! Keep in mind

- Landscape
- Nature
- Wood

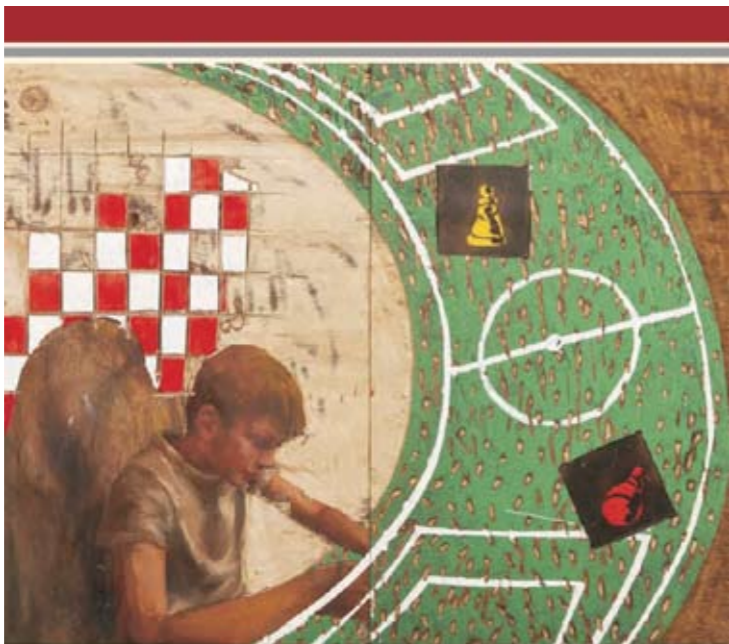
VAGGELIS THEODORIDIS (1980)



Vaggelis Theodoridis comes from Drosopigi, Florina, Greece. He studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts in the ateliers of Yannis Psychopedis and Marios Spiliopoulos. His art stimuli derived from landscapes of his hometown, nature and everyday life. His childhood experiences are still evident in his artworks. Having advanced his work, currently the main material he uses is wood, because his interest focused on wood as means of inspiration combined in a playful way.



"Root", 2.42 x 1.22, 2005, Mixed media on wood



"...And I'm Playing Pro"
49cm x 40cm | Mixed Media on Wood, 2013



"Scissors & Glue"
49cm x 40cm | Mixed Media on Wood, 2013

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / 1980 - 1990

! Keep in mind

- Expressionism
- Human figure
- Simplicity

ANTONIS MPALAKAS (1981)



Antonis Mpalakas was born in Florina, Greece and studied at the School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki at the atelier of Vaggelis Dimitreas and Makis Theofylaktopoulos. Influenced by the movement of expressionism and specifically by the artists Frank Auerbach and George Bouziani he begins his artistic journey. The insistence on human figure as a composition within space instilled his personal artistic style in his work. Also, the representation of the human in everyday emotional situations, sketched on paper by pencil or charcoal furthered the artists' work. He seeks for the simplicity of the form, inspired by written texts or poems.



Ανθρώπινες φιγούρες
[Human figures]



Άτιτλο
[Untitled]



Χαρακτικό σε ξύλο και τύπωμα
[Engraving on wood and impression]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / ICONOGRAPHERS

! Keep in mind
- Iconography

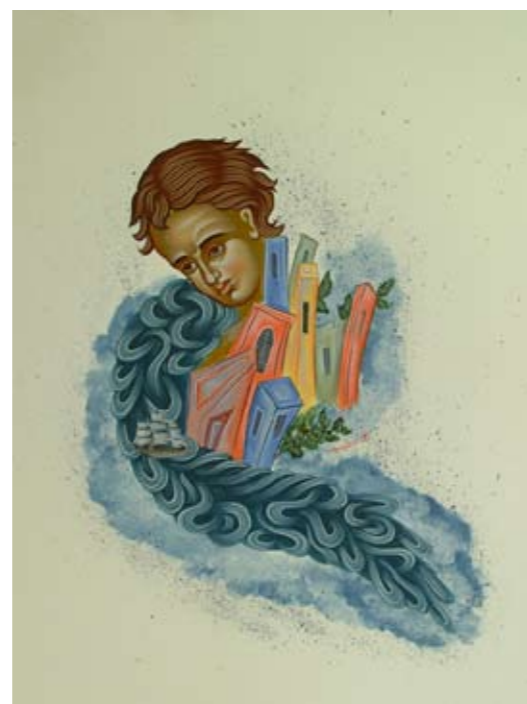


NIKOLAOS BONAS (1963)

Nikolaos Bonas was born in Florina, Greece, and lives and works in Amyntaio. He studied by Monk Michael of the Holy Monastery of Archangel Michael in Pella, where he was taught basic rules of lines and colours. Working with precision and accuracy on Byzantine Hagiography, he painted temples and icons. He also teaches in the School of Byzantine Hagiography of the church of St. Constantine and Helen. In times, he exhibited his art in various parts of Greece. He is a member of the Panhellenic Hagiography Association.



Αιτωλο [Untitled]



Αιτωλο [Untitled]

Frontier land... elusive scriptures / ICONOGRAPHERS

! Keep in mind
- Iconography



GEORGIOS HATZIS

Georgios Hatzis was born in Florina. He has been practicing iconography since 1990. His main artistic concern is about the Orthodox Icon as an integrated language for the expression of concepts, together with its relevance with the folk art. He is investigating ways and means to render iconography as a creative expression rather than a copy-paste of old archetypes. But this has to be achieved without harming the Orthodox character or the worship function nor the theological content of the icon. His recent work is orientated towards the iconising of neo-martyrs and other relevant figures for which we have no former archetypes to copy.



Του Νεκρού αδερφού [For the dead brother]



Αγία Σοφία [Hagia Sophia]



Ροδιά [Pomegranate tree]

The book
Frontier land... elusive scriptures

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