



*Embassy of Greece
“Murals of Athens”*



“Wasted love”, Street Art by Antonios Fikos

*Wednesday, 2nd of December 2015
Residence of Greece
Canberra*



*“Praying Hands”, Piraeus street district
Street Art by Pavlos Tsakonas
(based on Albrecht Dürer’s homonymous drawing)*

*A little farther
we will see the almond trees blossoming
the marbles gleaming in the sun
the sea breaking into waves*

*a little farther
let us rise a little higher*

*from "Mythistorema"
cycle of poems
by George Seferis
Dec. 1933- Dec. 1934*



Canberra, December 2015

Message from the Ambassador of Greece to Australia

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

At a time of departure from a country which has hosted us so graciously, Eva and I felt the need to combine our farewell reception with an exhibition expressing ourselves as an adieu to friends.

We are confident that the “Murals of Athens”, a Street Art repertory of the six years of the austerity and pauperization imposed on our country, will touch you and bring you closer as humans to the sufferings of a proud European nation.

Eva had the kindness to curate the exhibition with love, professionalism and sensibility, focusing not only on the aesthetics of the deepening crisis but mainly exposing the resilience and the strength of our collective psyche as a society to manage frustration brought by humiliation with an unprecedented expression of solidarity, togetherness, support from the global diaspora, decency, pride and hope for the future, together with faith and responsibility to our children and the future generations.

If this farewell event leaves you with sentiments that humanism is the way forward and that a country, cradle of the notion of democracy, undergoes unnecessary sufferings in order to be transformed into a market, then I think that it is indeed the best way to greet you at the end of our term of duty in Australia.

We seize the opportunity to express our thanks to those friends who in various ways facilitated Eva and me in exhibiting the artworks of contemporary known and unknown Athenian artists, to whom we are really paying tribute.

Haris D. Dafaranos
Ambassador



Canberra, December 2015

Message from the Curator

Excellencies, distinguished guests, dear friends,

“Murals of Athens” blossomed as an idea in the mind of both of us some time ago. We felt that it could be the best artistic expression of not only the impact of the crisis but also of the protest, dreams and aspirations of a society which received many wounds in an unequal struggle.

Anti-austerity street art has developed in Athens as well as in other Greek cities during the last six years of economic collapse and social hardship that shrunk the economy of the country by a quarter, increased unemployment up to 30 per cent and made two out of three of our youth unable to have the possibility to dream a better future.

The artworks of the urban street art you will have the opportunity to enjoy, are a testament of how artistic creativity can deliver in difficult times. A generalized expression of disappointment, triggered by the pitiless austerity measures for six years now, has evolved into a peaceful creative artistic movement which reclaims space and transmits a permanent and vivacious series of social messages, together with slogans, wall paintings and graffiti.

In Athens, this exceptional city, as in all the other Greek cities, the accumulated sufferings and the repression of protests, brought forward a widespread necessity for expression in a public and artistic way, opening as many fields as possible for collective action and communication.

It is not the art of loss of hope. It contains of course a deep agony about the future, about the decimation of the middle class and the continuing brain drain, the increase of the number of soup kitchens and mobile clinics, but it contains steadfast elements of a mature and cultured populace who knows what democracy is and dares to continue hoping, dreaming, having aspirations and the courage to continue discussing how to improve the narrative for a better Europe and received with humanity the wave of the Syrian refugees last summer.

As you will see, the subjects are numerous, touching on man, history, conformism, solidarity, spirituality, despair, the youth, love, the values of life, dilemmas, our love for courageous pets such as Loukanikos ("sausage" in Greek), the dog who was present in every demonstration at the Constitution Square and the anxiety for what comes next.

But you will agree with me that what transcends all the murals exhibited is humanism and faith in Divine Providence and in the higher self of man.

Allow me to express our respect to all these young Athenians artists, known and unknown, who have inspired and encouraged our courageous society during this arduous path and painful collective experience.

I felt that bringing you close to what my countrymen experience for the last six years with unprecedented dignity and togetherness, is the best way to greet you at the end of our stay and work in Australia, a philhellene by definition country which keeps very deep sentiments of sympathy for the Hellenes of the mainland despite the numerous stereotypes we came across during the last years.

Eva (Eyvah) T. Dafaranos
Art Curator

*We who set out on this pilgrimage
looked at the broken statues
became distracted and said that life is not easily lost
that death has unexplored paths
and its own particular justice;*

*that while we, still upright on our feet, are dying,
affiliated in stone
united in hardness and weakness,
the ancient dead have escaped the circle and risen again
and smile in a strange silence*

*from "Mythistorema"
cycle of poems
by George Seferis
Dec. 1933- Dec. 1934*



*"Wasted love"
Street Art by A. Fikos*



*“New future”
Street Art by INO*



"Access Control"
Gazi district
Street Art by Iva and INO



*“A female face on crushed paper”
Neos Kosmos District, Onassis Cultural Center
Street Art by INO*



"I love life"
Street Art by STMTS



"A human tear"
Street Art by Achilles



*“Ancestors Wonder”
Street Art by unknown artist*



*"Clockwork"
Gazi district
Street Art by INO*



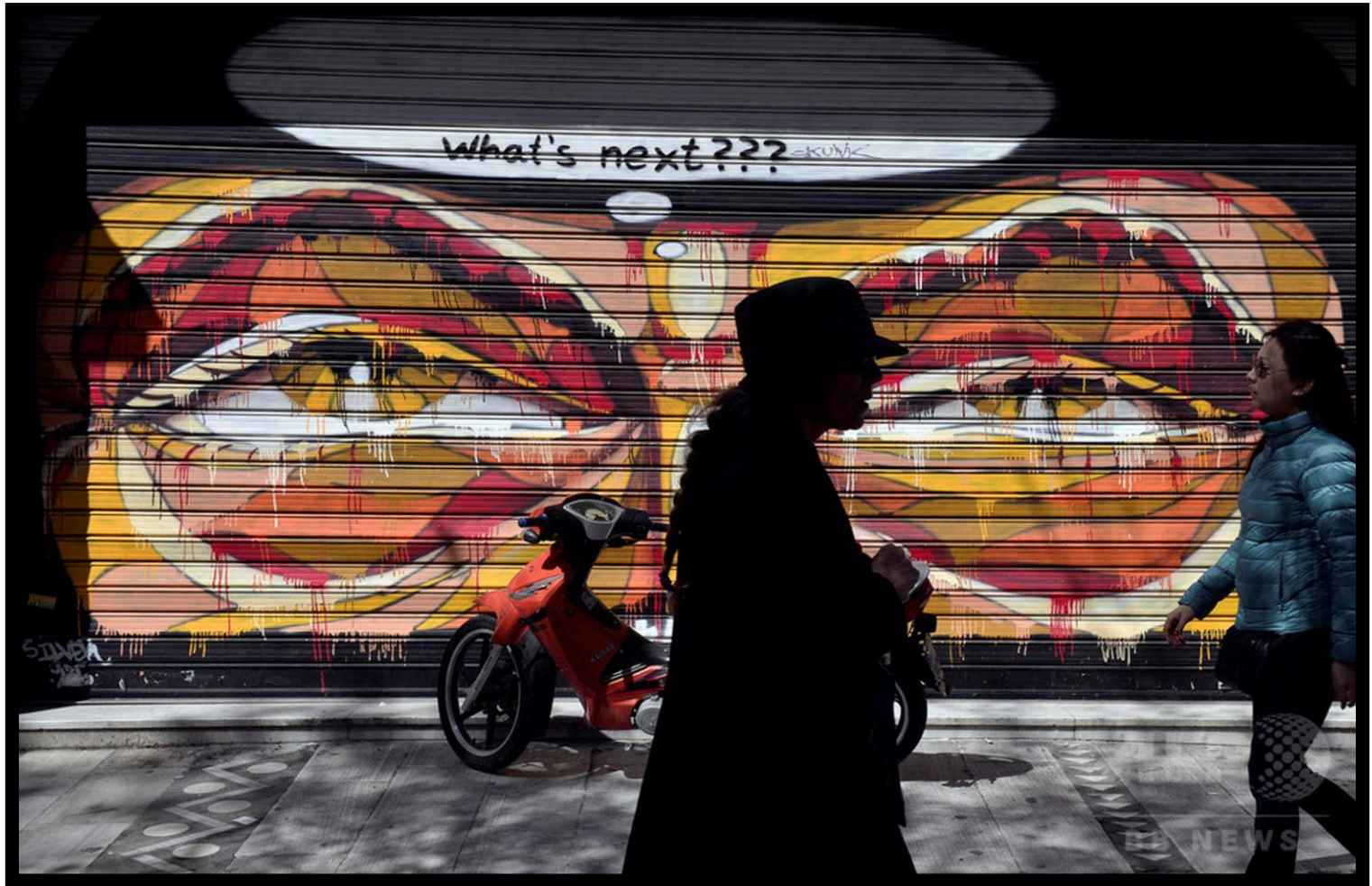
*"Venus"
Resist vs Submit
Street Art by French Artist Goin*



*"All dogs go to Heaven - We ate together the tear gas"
Street Art by SMART N. GRAMS MARTINEZ*



*“Village women’s faces of a recent past”
Metaxourgeio district
Street Art Portraits by Borondo*



*"What's next???"
Street Art by unknown artist*



*“5 Euros”
Exarchia district
Street Art by WD (Wild Drawing)*



*"No Land for the Poor"
Street Art by WD (Wild Drawing)*



*“Death of Euros”
by French artist Goïn*



*“Untitled”
Plato’s Academy Park
Street Art by WD (Wild Drawing)*



"Last Hope"
Street Art by INO



*“An Angelic figure”
Street Art by WD (Wild Drawing)*

Thermopylae

*Honor to those who in the life they lead
define and guard a Thermopylae.
Never betraying what is right,
consistent and just in all they do
but showing pity also, and compassion;
generous when they are rich, and when they are poor,
still generous in small ways,
still helping as much as they can;
always speaking the truth,
yet without hating those who lie.*

*And even more honor is due to them
when they foresee (as many do foresee)
that in the end Ephialtis will make his appearance,
that the Medes will break through after all.*

*by Constantinos Cavafis
Alexandria, 1903-1911*



*“Wake up”
Exarchia district
Street Art by INO*



*“System of fraud”
Metaxourgeio district
Street Art by INO*

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- **Brochure's artistic preparation and supervision:** Mrs. Eva (Eyvah) T. Dafaranos
 - **Technical layout:** Mr. Konstantinos Koutsopoulos
 - **Installation of the artworks:** Mr. Berend Kaak