



17 Greek artists participate in the London Art Biennale 2021 at the Chelsea Old Town Hall.



The launch event for the BITES OF GREECE pop-up store in Islington took place on 25 June 2021

Also in this issue

- His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas' 2nd anniversary
- Staellinika online learning platform
- Routes in Teaching Greek as a Second/ Foreign Language"
- Greek Primary School of London End-of-Year event
- St Cyprian's Academy – An inspiring school promoting the Greek language and culture
- Runciman Award 2021 by the Anglo-Hellenic League
- The Niki Marangou Prize 2021
- Notis Mitarachi - 18th Hellenic Observatory Annual Lecture
- Greece 2021 Events

London is the global art capital and the London Art Biennale is where the art of the world is given a platform. Artists from all traditions and lines of thought, emerging and established, are presented in a celebration of contemporary art.

The Official inauguration of the London Art Biennale 2021 took place on Wednesday 30th June 2021 by invitation only. The Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Ioannis Raptakis, and members of the Embassy were invited and attended the event to support the Greek participants. The London Art Biennale is free and open to the public on all other days.

From diverse and impressive applications for the 5th edition of the London Art Biennale, the organizers have narrowed down to 454 artists for this year's exhibition. The Greek artists, that their work has been selected for this year's Biennale, are:

Alexandros Reichenbach, Theofilos Papadopoulos, Anna Maria Papadimitriou, Elli, Angeliki Magkiosi, Christos Kontaroudis, Rita Komi, Laura Ganis, Gilda Frumkin, Michel Devanakis, Yiannis Stempilis, Petros Stragkas, Antinea Boletsi, Irimi Vazoukou, Eleni Tsotsorou, Rita Angelou, Olympia Zisi.

The artists chosen to be part of the exhibition will be awarded the prizes below. No artist can receive more than one award and no prize will be awarded to more than one artist

£5,000 GBP London Art Biennale Winner

£1,500 GBP London Art Biennale Award for Painting

£1,500 GBP London Art Biennale Award for Sculpture/Installation

£1,500 GBP London Art Biennale Award for Works on Paper

£1,500 GBP London Art Biennale Awards for Digital work/Video

25 artists to be selected for a 10-day exhibition at Gagliardi Gallery, King's Road, London

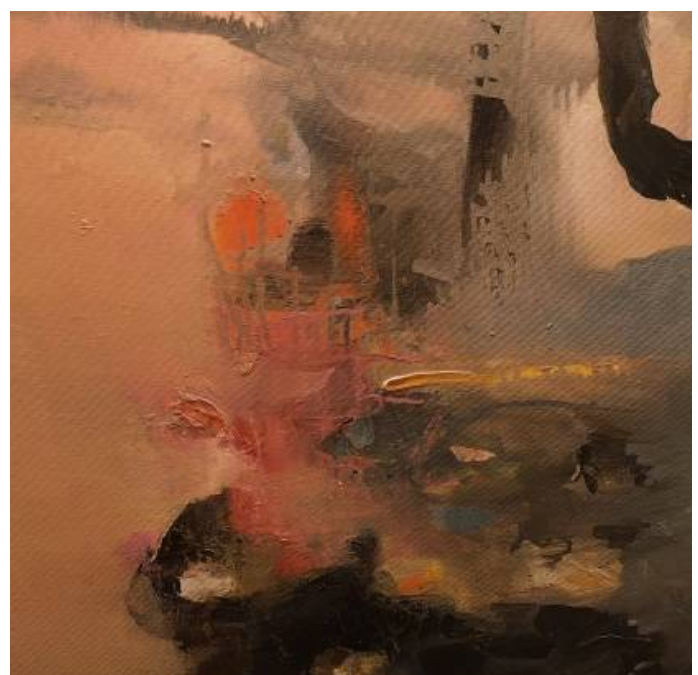
25 artists to be selected for month-long group show at the Chianciano Art Museum, Italy

25 artists to be selected for a month-long group show in the art galleries that surround the 12th Century Piazza of Chianciano Terme, Tuscany, Italy

5 artists will be selected by the International Confederation of Art Critics for an official critical analysis about their work

5 artists will be selected for a week-long art retreat in Tuscany

Paintings by Eleni Tsotsorou, Angeliki Magkiosi and Anna Maria Papadimitriou



“Bites of Greece” – new quality Greek products in London

Greek food and drinks exporters seek new ways to reach UK buyers

The launch event for the “Bites of Greece” deli pop-up Store in Islington, North London, took place on 24 June. Guests had the chance to discover and sample quality food and drinks from various Greek regions, from the finest organic olive oils and honeys, to Greek coffees, mountain teas, wines and craft beers. The Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Ioannis Raptakis, and the staff of the Embassy’s Economic and Commercial Affairs Section attended the event and spoke with the organisers, media representatives and visitors.

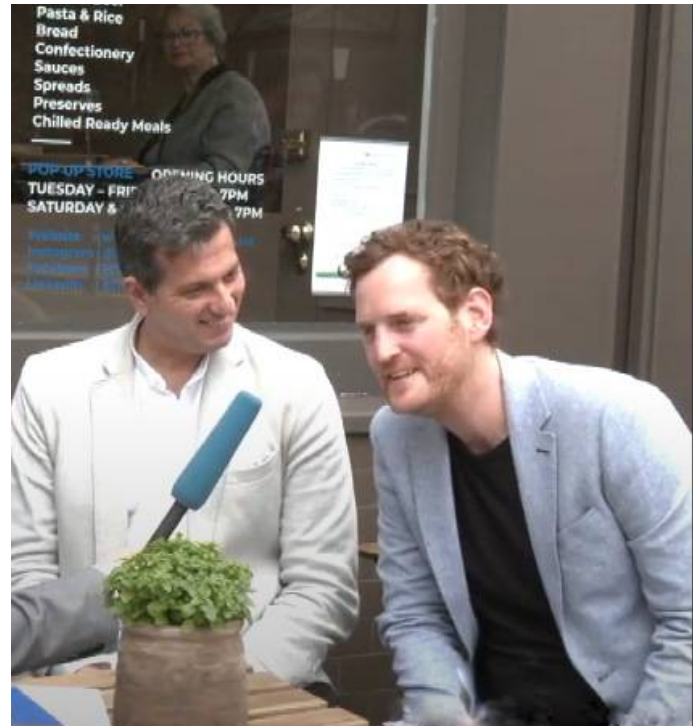
Ambassador Raptakis welcomed the chance to promote Greek products, stressing the products’ unique character and compatibility with British consumers’ wishes. Mr Yerasimos Lazaris, the head of the Embassy’s Economic and Commercial Affairs Section, said that Greek food and drinks represent about 40% of Greek exports to the United Kingdom. He highlighted the exceptional quality of Greek products, but admitted that more needs to be done in terms of their promotion. Antonis Sioulis of RECO Exports, who co-organised the event, explained that the launch event was designed to enable producers to showcase their products in a live retail environment where flavour, concepts, branding and pricing could all be tested. Many of the producers involved in the event had been unable to showcase their products to UK buyers for more than a year, due to cancellations of UK trade fairs and exhibitions which have been caused by the pandemic.

The “Bites of Greece” pop-up store in Islington was open from 16 June to 13 July to both the public and traders, and held a series of exclusive private tastings and events. It is part of a broader “Bites of Greece” business venture.

The “Bites of Greece” initiative aims to reconnect UK food and drinks professionals with organic and artisanal Greek food and drinks companies. From 1 June to 25 July, over 400 “Bites of Greece” products feature on display windows at Partridges of Sloane Square, in Chelsea. A “Bites of Greece” market stall is also present at the Truman Market’s food producers’ area, in East London, during four consecutive weekends starting on the 3rd of July.

“Bites of Greece” was organized by RECO Exports & Murphy London Communications, with the support of Enterprise Greece, the Embassy of Greece in the United Kingdom and the British Hellenic Chambers of Commerce.

For more information visit: www.bitesofgreece.co.uk



1. Antonis Sioulis and David Murphy, co-organisers of “Bites of Greece”, 2. “Bites of Greece” products at Partridges, 3. Tasting Greek food and drinks at the launch event for the “Bites of Greece” deli pop-up Store in Islington

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas' 2nd anniversary

On June 12, 2021, we celebrated the 2nd Anniversary since His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas' unanimous election by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Throne of the historic Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. During these past two years of his archiepiscopal tenure, our community has experienced the fruits of his visionary, dynamic, merciful and unifying efforts which consoled, united, and inspired so many people during these most difficult times. Furthermore, his dedication to religious education initiatives, philanthropic projects, and the promotion of the high ideals and values of our Hellenic legacy and tradition are truly exemplary. These endeavours prove for all of us very tangibly, the resilience, adaptability, and steadfastness of Hellenes in the face of challenges and difficulties through the centuries.

As we approach the second anniversary of his enthronement on July 27, 2021, we would like to convey our wholehearted congratulations, as well as the collective best wishes and prayers of the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in London for his health, longevity, peace, and honourable ministry to the people of the United Kingdom.

Many years, Your Eminence!

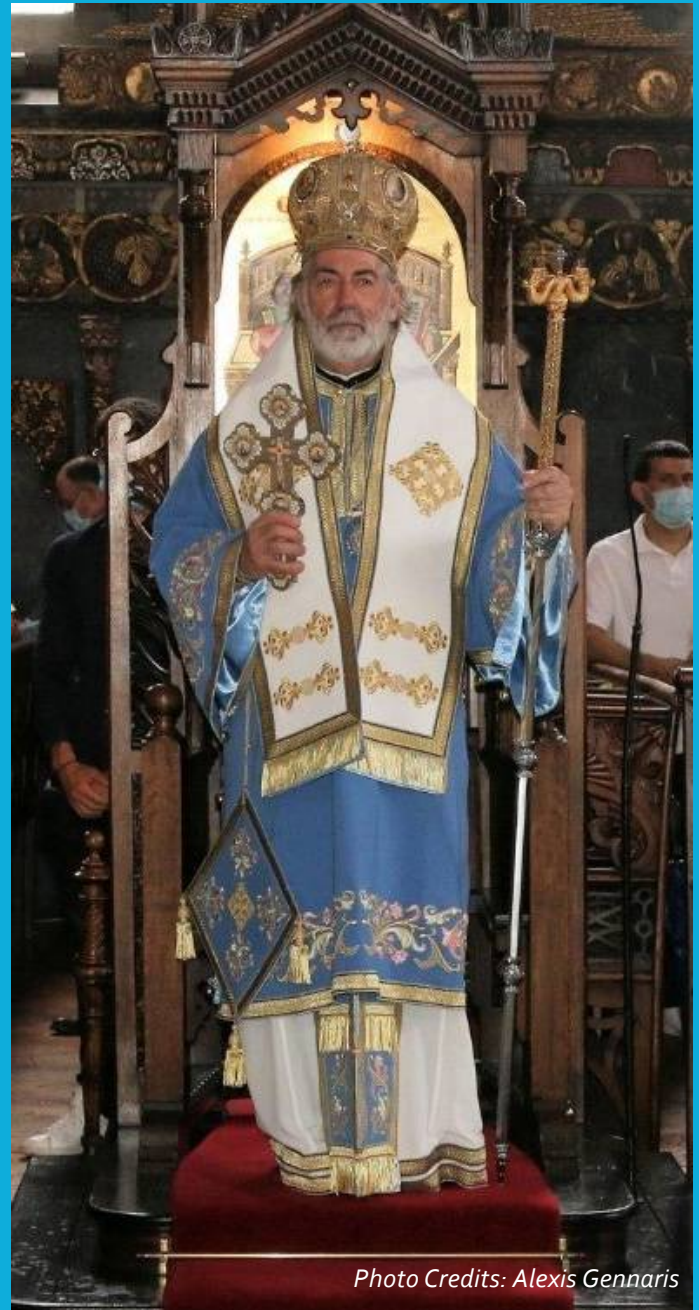


Photo Credits: Alexis Gennaris

New mythology courses added in Staellinika online learning platform

New Greek mythology courses will be offered to students through the online learning platform Staellinika. The courses will significantly enrich the platform, which is an initiative of the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Center for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University in Canada. The project was developed with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Konstantinos Vlasis stated that "The enrichment and continuous updates of the Staellinika platform contributes significantly to the success of our initiative by constantly attracting new users. Mr. Ioannis Chrysoulakis, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy stated that "Staellinika offers a bridge for young Greeks in the diaspora to reach the roots of their cultural heritage.

StaEllinika has now reached over 30,000 learners across multiple platforms after being adopted last year by the Greek State as the official tool for teaching the Greek language, mythology culture in the Greek Diaspora.

<https://staellinika.com/home>

Program “Routes in Teaching Greek as a Second/Foreign Language” for teachers in Greece and abroad

The program Routes in teaching Modern Greek as a second/foreign language is a distance training course for teachers of Greek to children and adults in Greece and abroad. The program is implemented entirely on distance mode and consists of eight modules that focus on the broader and on the more specialized fields of knowledge required for teaching Greek as L2.

The new cycle of Routes will be implemented from mid-September 2021, its duration will be 9 months and the tuition fees for participation in the program are 1,000 Euro.

Aims of the program

The program aims mainly at providing teachers with the knowledge necessary for the development of their skills in teaching Greek as L2 and at training them in the relevant teaching methodology that is appropriate for all levels and ages of students. For this purpose, a number of distinguished and experienced applied and theoretical linguists, philologists, educators, specialized associates of the CGL and computer scientists cooperate and contribute to the program.

Modules of the program

The program consists of eight modules and is implemented entirely on distance mode making also use of videoconferences and webinars. Trainees must successfully complete all eight modules.

The Centre for the Greek Language announces the new period of the distance training program “Routes in Teaching Greek as a Second/Foreign Language” for teachers in Greece and abroad . The course begins on Monday, 6 September 2021 and lasts 10

months. Registrations are submitted from 12 April 2021 until 02 September 2021.

The program, which was first implemented in 2007, was awarded with the European Language Label. It is constantly updated and improved, while it offers flexibility in participation, since it is implemented entirely by distance learning and asynchronous teaching. The participants enjoy 24-hour access to the material and discussion forums, in order to communicate with instructors and fellow participants, to exchange ideas, and engage in constructive dialogue.

One or two webinars take place in each unit, in real time, offering immediate live communication with the team of instructors.

Innovative features of the program:

Three, at least, specialized instructors in each unit, who possess years of experience in the field, teach and supervise the participants and provide answers to their questions.

Implementation of the principles of distance learning.

The participants write essay papers in each unit under the guidance and support of the team of instructors.

Upon completion of the program, trainees are invited to an online teacher community, offering opportunities for continuous cooperation and exchange of information.

For all relevant information, such as registration and cost, please visit the registration website: www.greek-language.gr/routes

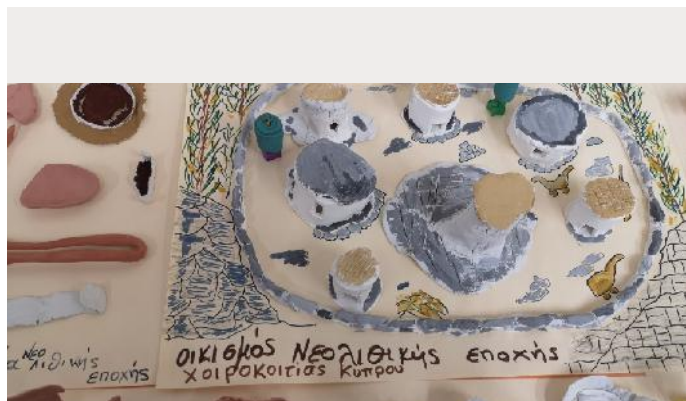


Greek Primary School of London End-of-Year event

On Friday 18 June 2021 took place the End-of-Year event of the Greek Primary School of London. The Head teacher Mrs Despoina Kyriakidou said that the Greek Primary School of London is in West Acton since 1983 and follows the Greek National Curriculum, while it represents the Greek language, culture and civilization not only to the Greeks of London but also to the British authorities.

The aim of the Greek Primary School of London is to strengthen and deepen the understanding of the Greek culture and language, to keep the students in touch with their roots and identity, as well as preparing them for their life in Great Britain. One of the most important aspects of the school is that it offers support to Greek families coming to the UK. Students from the Greek Primary School can then further their studies at the Greek Secondary School of London

The great protagonists of the event were the students of Year 6 who narrated their experiences during primary school, while the rest of the children performed Greek traditional dances and songs under the instructions of their teachers.



Pottery and Art from Year 3 (Teacher Ms Magda Papanastasiou)

St Cyprian's Academy – An inspiring school promoting the Greek language and culture

On 2 June, the Ambassador of Greece to the UK, Ioannis Raptakis, visited St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Academy. He was warmly welcomed by students and staff and was offered a tour around the school by the Headteacher, Mr Christopher Vradis, and the school's Press Officer, Mrs Nikoleta Tsiamas. Mr Vradis spoke to the Ambassador about the school's curriculum, philosophy and values, emphasizing creativity and independent thinking, inclusivity, cooperation and pursuit of excellence.

Greek language and culture have a prominent role in the school's curriculum. St Cyprian's has a dedicated department of Greek teachers who teach Greek as a modern foreign language from nursery to Year 6. Children are also provided with a broad, coherent and rewarding study of Greek culture, which encompasses elements of classical Greek civilisation, mythology, philosophy, dance, drama and art. At the same time, the Greek Orthodox ethos of respect, kindness and responsibility underpins the school's nurturing and supportive environment.

By visiting the school's classes — each of which is named after a Greek island — and having been shown some of the pupils' impressive artwork and projects, Ambassador Raptakis witnessed, first hand, the exceptional education that the school offers. In thanking the Ambassador for his support, two Year 5 pupils (Manna Michael and Georgina Halkias) prepared a card for him, inspired by the Greek Independence Day Anniversary.

St. Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy is a state funded primary school, founded in 2000 under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas and the Greek Orthodox Church. It is the only Greek Orthodox primary school in the United Kingdom. The school is located in Thornton Heath, Croydon. It is a multicultural school, currently educating 375 pupils from diverse backgrounds.



Students of St. Cyprians School holding a card for the Greek Ambassador

Runciman Award 2021 by the Anglo-Hellenic League

Roderick Beaton was awarded the Anglo-Hellenic League's Runciman Award 2021 for his book *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation* (London: Allen Lane 2019). In winning the Runciman Award for a fourth time, Prof. Beaton has set a new record of achievement.

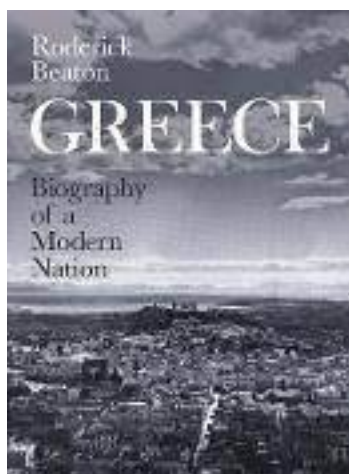
Announcing the result of this year's competition, Prof. Peter Frankopan, the chair of judges, said:

'What makes Beaton's book stand out above all, however, is that just as Sir Steven Runciman's books opened doors through which new generations of readers and scholars have since walked, so too will *Greece: Biography of a Modern Nation*. As a jury, we felt that this wonderful book captured the spirit of the Runciman Award perfectly.'

John Kittmer, chair of the Council of The Anglo-Hellenic League, said:

'On behalf of the League I warmly congratulate Roddy Beaton for winning this year's Runciman Award. In its 35-year history Roddy is the only person to have won the award four times: a tremendous achievement. In relaunching the award under new sponsors in this year of the bicentenary of the Greek revolution, we are delighted that the judges have chosen to acknowledge the timely relevance of this great book.'

The announcement of the winner of the Anglo-Hellenic League Runciman Award 2021 was made on Thursday 17 June, 7pm at an event held (because of Covid-19 restrictions) by Zoom webinar. Prof. Stathis Kalyvas (University of Oxford) gave the keynote address on 'Why the Greek Revolution still matters today'. Peter Frankopan surveyed the field of longlisted and shortlisted books on behalf of the panel of judges. The event closed with an acceptance speech by the winner.



Roddy Beaton and his book on Greece

The Niki Marangou Prize 2021

The Society for Modern Greek Studies awarded the inaugural Niki Marangou PhD Dissertation Prize jointly to John Kittmer and Ioannis Stamos.

The winners were announced at the Society's online lecture "The Greek War of Independence in Greek Cinema" (<https://21in21.co.uk/events/past-events/>) on 28 May 2021.

The panel of judges consisted of: Professor Georgia Farinou-Malamatari (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), Professor Georgia (Zeta) Gotsi (University of Patras), and Professor David Holton (University of Cambridge).

John Kittmer was awarded the Prize for his thesis "Ritsos as Reader: The Poetics of Eclecticism in the Mature Work of Yannis Ritsos" (King's College London, 2019), which, according to the judges, is "an exemplary study of Ritsos's intertextual poetics, which at once illuminates the central role creative and critical reading played in the construction of his work as well as his self-positioning in relation to other poets."

Ioannis Stamos's winning thesis, "From Literary Criticism to Propaganda: Intellectuals, Culture, and Politics during the Metaxas Dictatorship (1936-1940)" (University of Birmingham, 2019), was described as "an enterprising thesis which explores complex issues showing facile assumptions to be partial or misleading and offers its readers a comprehensive account of this important period of Greek history as well as of the ideological shifts that followed the German invasion."



The inspirational Cypriot poet, novelist, and painter Niki Marangou



The 18th Hellenic Observatory Annual Lecture was delivered by Notis Mitarachi, Greece's Minister of Migration & Asylum on Tuesday 22 June 2021

Notis Mitarachi,
Minister of

Migration & Asylum of the Hellenic Republic said that "migration is and will remain a challenge for Europe and the Western world. He distinguished between legal and irregular migration and stated that "Greece supports legal migration" but "Europe needs to work more in providing legal pathways".

He underlined that "we cannot leave international migration to be managed by smuggling networks that make fortunes from people's misfortunes" and said that "what we see in Europe today is that most of the irregular arrivals are not direct, as the Geneva Convention says in article 31". He mentioned that illegal migration and the "inability of member states to return home with safety and dignity those not entitled to international protection, has led European public opinion becoming more cautious with regards to migration in the recent years".

"Greece follows a strict but fair migration policy. We clearly provide asylum to those entitled to but we do not want to be the gateway to Europe for smuggling networks nor can we allow smugglers to decide who will migrate to Europe. Over the years our country has faced considerable pressure in particular at five Greek islands (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Leros) that endure most of the pressure not only for Greece but for the entire European continent. Obviously we cannot allow those islands to become overcrowded buffer zones ever again. The success of our policy will be measured against the easing of the pressure on the Aegean islands and the protection of the rights of migrants and islanders alike", he said.

He also noted that "we don't talk enough about the impact of migration on local population, on the

fundamental rights of the citizens of the Aegean islands" while mentioning that "thanks to our strict but fair migration policy we've seen results over the last two years and we observe a stabilization of low arrival rates".

Additionally, he stressed that "migration is not a national challenge; it is a common European one. ... No member state should bare this proportionate responsibility and all member states should contribute to solidarity on a mandatory and consistent basis".

He summed up mentioning three basic pillars for the new European migration policy: a strategic partnership with non EU countries, bringing down the human smugglers business and the enhancing of the legal pathways of migration

You can watch the event recorded on [YouTube](#)

Greece 2021 Events

*British School at Athens continues the initiatives to mark the bicentenary of the Greek Revolution, and launches 21 objects for 21, a podcast series celebrating Greece through objects – ranging from ancient to modern – chosen by curators, authors, and academics in the UK, Greece, and beyond. [More](#)

*The Greek National Opera presents a double bill of opera and dance, two remarkable works of the Ionian and the National Schools of Music, as part of the celebration of the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution, featuring the Orchestra, Chorus, Ballet and Soloists of the GNO. [More](#)

*A National Historical Museum exhibition, named "Revolution '21 Reframed," celebrating the 200 years since the beginning of the Greek Revolution, will travel to 12 cities across Greece this year. [More](#)

*The Greek Revolution "came to life" as a major event of the Greece2021 Committee. "DESIRE FOR FREEDOM" was screened on iconic buildings of 18 cities, using the technique of projection mapping. It is a visual narrative of the Struggle of 1821 through relevant works of art. Watch the Athens video «Επιθυμία Ελευθερίας». [More](#)

*Listen to the third part of the Greece2021 Committee's commemorative podcasts with Dionysis Savvopoulos, entitled "200 years in pieces". [More](#)