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Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the International Group of P & I Clubs in London



Minister of Digital Governance, Mr Kyriakos Pierrakakis, during his speech in King's College, London, 20th of January 2023



On 12th of January 2023, a discussion was held at the Hellenic Residence with the lead curator of the Exhibition "Alexander the Great: The Making of a Myth", taking place at the British Library. The attendees had the pleasure to admire King Charles's first painting of Mount Athos since becoming monarch, specially exhibited for the event.

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Minister of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, Mr Giannis Plakiotakis in London



The Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Mr Giannis Plakiotakis, signed on the 16th of January 2023, in London a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy and the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (P & I Clubs). The International Group of P & I Clubs involves 13 of the largest P & I Clubs, which insure approximately 90% of the world's oceangoing tonnage. It ensures procedures for the coordinated response to major maritime accidents, especially those involving actual or potential wreck recovery or environmental damage.

The Memorandum does not seek to create legally binding obligations or to replace existing international, regional or local agreements in the field of maritime accident management, but only to establish a cooperative framework between the Group of P & I Clubs and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to optimally deal with such incidents.

After the signing of the Memorandum, the Minister Mr Giannis Plakiotakis said: «The Memorandum that we signed with the International Group of P&I Clubs is part of the framework of strengthening the Ministry's international cooperation with the largest shipping organizations worldwide. The role and expertise of insurers in major incidents at sea is crucial. For this reason, we proceeded to establish a cooperation framework with the Group representing the largest P&I Clubs, aiming to respond to such events in a coordinated way».

Photo Credit: Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy

Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Professor Angelos Syrigos, on Asia Minor Catastrophe



The Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Professor Angelos Syrigos, delivered a speech at the Long Room of the Honourable Artillery Company in Armoury House in London, on January 19th. The event was organised by the Delphi Economic Forum and Mr Apostolos Goutzinas (Milbank LLP), on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Asia Minor catastrophe.

In his speech, Mr Syrigos pointed out that, for the first time in 3,000 years, Greek civilisation stopped developing on one of the two axes on which it was built. He also tried to outline the causes that led to the tragic events of 1922. He spoke about the outbreak of national division, the enormous dilemmas of the political figures of the time, the attitude of the Great Powers and the consequences of the Asia Minor catastrophe.

The Greek Minister explained that the Greek forces landed in Smyrna on May 15th 1919. They advanced inland and took control of the western part of Anatolia. The Greek front collapsed in August 1922, and the war effectively ended with the recapture of Smyrna by Turkish forces. The great fire of Smyrna broke out in the afternoon of 13 September, destroying the Greek, Armenian, and Levantine quarters of the city. Approximately 1.5000.000 refugees arrived in Greece. Professor Syrigos pointed out that many of the refugees worked hard and contributed significantly in the intellectual, economic and commercial fields.

Photo Credit: Fb Angelos Syrigos

Minister of Digital Governance, Mr Kyriakos Pierrakakis, in London, 19-20 January 2023



The digital transformation of the Greek state was the main topic of Minister of Digital Governance, Mr Kyriakos Pierrakakis' speech at King's College in London on January 20, 2023, in an event titled «Institutions, Reforms and Leadership throughout the Greek 20th and 21st Century - 20 January 2023».

Mr Pierrakakis emphasized on the digital transformation of the Greek state, outlining that so far almost 1.500 public services have been digitized (out of the 5.000 existing public transactions), adding that in 2018 8.8 million digital transactions were made by citizens, whereas last year the transactions were increased to 1.2 billion.

On the seven lessons learnt from the digital transformation of the state, Mr Pierrakakis said that the first and most important step was the excellent preparation, one year before the elections taking place. The second was 'learning from others' and using best practices examples from other countries but with eclecticism and not 'copy – paste' manner. The third lesson had to do with the tangible results expected from the citizens 'the first 100 days of governance'. Specificity was another target and lesson learnt, since Mr Pierrakakis said that this kind of transformation demands specific tasks and results in the framework of a very targeted strategy.

Ability was another key word during this process, since for such a big project, one has to be flexible on strategic adaptation and be ready anytime to readjust your plans. The credibility of the project was another extremely important lesson learnt and step taken, since the relationship between the state and the citizen has been a fragile one. The trust towards the political system had to be earned and in order to generate trust, you have to have tangible results. Last but not least, stability and equilibrium

was another important value of this project and a lesson learnt for all of us.

The Minister of Digital Governance highlighted that Greek history is full of examples of political willingness to move forward and to implement a fully reform agenda: Ioannis Kapodistrias who took over the newly established Greek State· Charilaos Trikoupis who was responsible for the modernization of the institutions and infrastructures in Greece· Eleftherios Venizelos who had to establish most of the territorial integration of our country in the midst of a reform wave in education, justice, health, public administration· Konstantinos Karamanlis who restored democracy and achieved our country's accession in the European family· In his conclusion, he said that Greece has managed to surpass expectations, our country has taken lessons from the history and metabolized them into present and move ahead, and that is a big achievement.

The event was hosted and organized by the Professor Gonda Van Steen at King's College London and Mahi Georgakopoulou, President at the Hellenic Female Leaders.



Earlier, Mr Pierrakakis met with Alex Burghart, Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office and Tom Read, CEO of Government Digital Service Gov.uk, which has been a reference point when designing the portal, gov.gr. They agreed that they are both inspired by a common goal: set the foundations of public services that are simpler, more effective and citizen-friendly. They shared best practices and talked about the challenges of the next decade. Also, Mr Pierrakakis, was invited by the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at UCL for a sit-down chat about the role of digital governance in increasing state capacity, presenting the basic principles for all gov.gr services.

Photo Credit: Chris Altakis / Fb Kyriakos Pierrakakis

Alexander the Great: The Making of a Myth | In discussion with the Curators



On 12th of January a discussion was held at the Hellenic residence with the lead curator of the Exhibition Alexander the Great: The Making of a Myth. The Exhibition, taking place at the British Library, is open to the public until Sunday 19 February. The event was attended by Greek Academics, representatives of Greek Associations and Unions, Greek Artists and cultural institutions with the aim to make the exhibition better known to the Greek Diaspora.

Honoured to welcome, amongst the guests, the award-winning historian and expert on Alexander the Great, Professor Robin Lane Fox, whose solid academic arguments on Alexander was a valuable, unexpected addition to the evening.

The Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic in his welcoming message spoke about the collaboration of the Embassy with the British Library during the preparation stage of the landmark exhibition on Alexander the Great, and our shared enthusiasm for this important project that led to its successful implementation. He, also, mentioned the Embassy's assistance regarding two loans from Instituto Ellenico in Venice, as well as the presence of the Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Andreas Katsaniotis, at the opening in October 2022. The spectacular loans come from the Museum of the Hellenic Institute for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice and are the Icon of Saint Sisoës finding Alexander's Tomb, 18th century and the The Venice Alexander Romance Trebizond, 14th century.

Mr. Raptakis said: "It is because of this Exhibition that we are aware of the different myths created

around Alexander the Great in so many different corners of the world. We realise now that his influence goes beyond the social & political aspect, to the culture and the traditions of almost every known place in the world...The two loans from the Instituto Ellenico in Venice complete and enrich the exhibition in a unique way, and contribute in a decisive way to the public's understanding of the legend of Alexander the Great".

Scot McKendrick, Head of Western Heritage Collection, spoke about the challenges of the Exhibition and urged all the attendees to visit the Exhibition. But it was the presentation of Lead curator, Adrian Edwards that really captured the attention of the audience. Mr Edwards explained the historical and the mythical figure of Alexander the Great before unfolding 2.300 years of storytelling around the world. The Exhibition contains items in 22 languages from 25 countries that belong to a period of time from Alexander's life time (4th BC) to today. He mentioned that every culture, from India, Vietnam and Ethiopia, to England and Germany, creates 'its own Alexander' and stories about him are told and re-invented in oral tradition, medieval romances, poetry, sculpture, paintings, opera, plays, novels, films, even comics and video games.

He then explained the structure of the story-led Exhibition consisted of 6 sections following in Alexander's footsteps (- The Man and the Myth, A Conqueror in the Making, Building an Empire, Alexander's Relationships, Mythical Quest and Journey's End). The book of the Exhibition, edited by Dr Richard Stoneman, is a fully illustrated colour catalogue of the objects on display and contains 9 essays from an international team of Alexander experts.

Photo Credit: Alexios Gennaris



2023 Eleusis : European capital of Culture



Delivering a sculpture “born” on the occasion of the myth of Europe, the 2022 European Capitals of Culture, Kaunas (Lithuania), Novi Sad (Serbia) and Es Sir Alzet (Luxembourg) officially handed over their titles to the cities and regions that will be representing the European Capitals of Culture in 2023, namely Eleusis (Greece), Timisoara (Romania) and Vesprem (Hungary).

The ceremony, marked by a multitude of speeches and artistic performances, was hosted in Athens, on January 9th, 2023, at the Acropolis Museum and after its successful outcome it was proposed to take place every year in Athens from 2023 onwards, an idea that was positively welcomed by the European Commission. The Official Handover 2023 was also an opportunity for Official Representatives to remind of the meaning and purpose of the European Capitals of Culture as unique projects which aim at celebrating European cultures. Their mission is to connect people, cities and countries through culture, and therefore contribute to strengthening Europe in a sustainable way. “The European Capitals of Culture represent what Europe is known and appreciated for, even far beyond its diverse culture: Our principles of freedom, peace, justice and human rights. Culture is Europe and Europe is all of us”, said Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission.

Athens was the first city to be designated as European Capital of Culture in 1985, on the initiative of former Greek Minister of Culture Melina Mercouri, along with her French counterpart, Jack Lang. The objective of the initiative was to gather European citizens closer together by highlighting the wealth and diversity of European cultures and raising awareness of their common history and values.

Photo credit: <https://2023eleusis.eu/en/>



Doomed companions, unsubstantial shades: A discussion with the curator Akis Kokkinos



Curator Akis Kokkinos discussed with the dilettante public his recent exhibition *Doomed companions, unsubstantial shades* at the Hellenic Residence in London, organised and produced by NEON Organisation. The exhibition brought together the legacy of Nobel laureate Greek poet and diplomat Giorgos Seferis with the work of twelve Greek-speaking migrant contemporary artists reflecting on the themes of identity, nostalgia and trauma in the current socio-political condition.

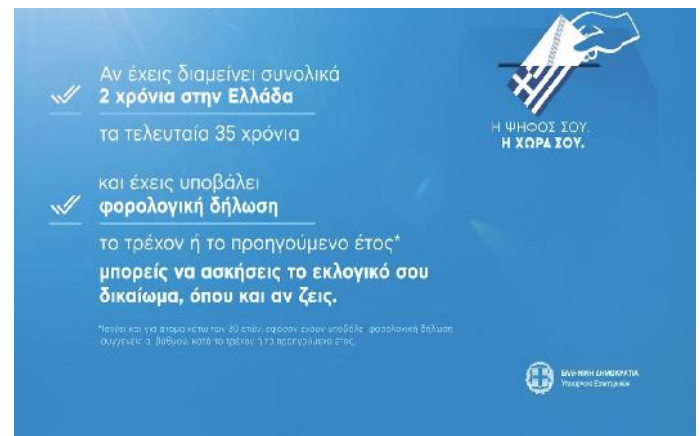
In a very relaxed and informal event, Akis, explained his interpretation strategy for the project, as well as the many challenges he faced when asked to join this ambitious project; Challenges that had to do with the concept of the Exhibition, resisting patriarchal and monocultural structures embedded in the context, searching for his own voice along with Seferis' voice and the selection of the artists. Also, challenges that had to do with the complexities embedded in such venue that was at the same time a domestic space as well as an Embassy's premises, functional and open for other events.

Akis explained how he studied Seferis legacy and cosmology, his personal and professional experiences, his modern past, the different objects and symbols of the house as well as the triptych-homeland, religion, family. He touched the migration challenge as “we are the last of our generation of Europeans privileged to live and work in the UK” in order to talk about national identity based on language, diaspora, trauma, memory and the complexity of identity.

Akis' curatorial practice is focused on ways to disrupt the 'objective' and institutional by introducing or supporting other less appreciated and recognised forms of knowledge. Through multidisciplinary discourses, eco-feminist, non-western approaches, and other non-rational thoughts and philosophies, his practice focuses on the less spoken, invisible or liminal.

Photo Credit: Hellenic Center

Registration on Electoral Lists of Greeks Residing Abroad



For the first time, Greek voters can exercise their right to vote from abroad. In view of the 2023 National Elections, Greek voters, if they wish so, could exercise their right to vote in the United Kingdom, after registering in the special electoral lists of Greeks Residing abroad.

Voters who are temporarily or permanently abroad on the day of the elections, can vote provided they have met submitted an application on the platform of the Ministry of the Interior. The voters should meet the following criteria:

- They are over the age of 17
- They have lived in Greece for at least two (2) years, in the last 35 years, from the date of submission of the registration application
- They have submitted a tax declaration in 2021 or 2022

In case you cannot complete and submit the online registration application, you may book an appointment with the Consular Office of the Embassy, via email at grcon.lon@mfa.gr. Afterwards, together with the necessary documents – your VAT number and your passport or your identity card - and with the assistance of an accredited employee of the Embassy you will complete and submit your application.

It is noted that in order to exercise their right to vote in the 2023 National Elections, it is necessary for voters to have registered in the special electoral rolls twelve (12) days before the announcement of the elections. Also, for the establishment of polling stations, it is necessary that the number of registered voters should be no less than 40 people.

The Greek citizens, who wish to exercise their right to vote in the United Kingdom during the 2023 National Elections, can declare on the platform of the Ministry of the Interior (apodimoi.gov.gr) that they wish to vote in one of the following cities:

- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Leeds
- London
- Belfast
- Birmingham

In case that they have already registered and they wish to change the city they have chosen as the place of voting, they can do so by making a request to change their data through the above platform.

For any clarifications, you can send an e-mail at apodimoi-support@ypes.gr of the Ministry of Interior, or contact the Consular Office of the Embassy of Greece in London via their email address grcon.lon@mfa.gr

If you do qualify, please visit the official website in order to register:

<https://apodimoi.gov.gr/login?returnUrl=%2Fhome>

For more information you can visit the website of the Ministry of Interior:

<https://www.ypes.gr/ekloges/aitiseis-eklogeon-eksoterikou>

'Re-touching Memory' an exhibition by Greek artist Konstantinos Argyroglou in London

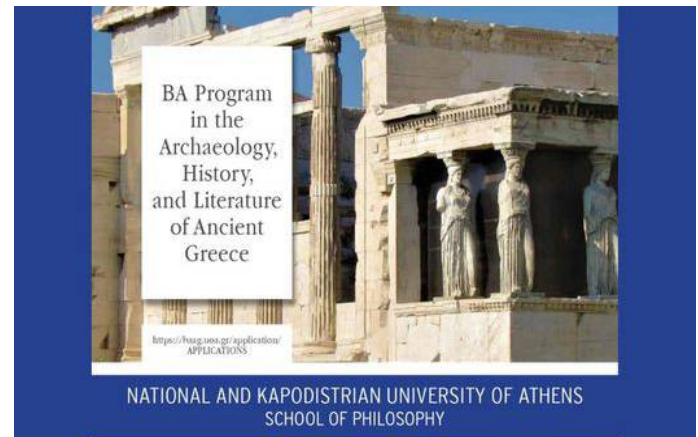


London-based Greek artist Konstantinos Argyroglou explores in the works that make up his 'Re-touching Memory' exhibition at Projektraum London the world of his childhood and the palpable sense of impalpable memories. Alluding to John Keats' beautiful poem "What can I do to drive away ..." and the phrase "Touch has a memory", the exhibition makes clear right from its title that remembered moments and their haptic perception and sense is what unites the works on display at Projektraum London.

As Matt Carey-Williams writes in the essay accompanying the exhibition: "Touch and memory make up the foundations of Konstantinos Argyroglou's temple of painting. His is a practice that seeks to feel remembered moments from his childhood: some clear, others foggy; some comforting, others challenging with such moments offering a condensation of sensation; physically, psychologically and painterly. Touch and memory propose themselves as binary antagonists in a delicious oxymoron. One cannot touch impalpable memories. Haptics betray different truths to those evoked by anamnesis; memory being that tapestry of essence and sentiment wittingly recalled yet inexorably imagined". ... "Argyroglou's surfaces throb with this tension between the desire to remember but also to invent, and, in so doing, unearth the artist's quest for the truth - sailed on seas of time - of his matter, mater and meaning as a painter, once child, now man, but ever son. ...".

'Re-touching Memory' is the first solo exhibition of Konstantinos Argyroglou after his recent graduation with MA Painting from Royal College of Art in London. The exhibition, which opened on January 19th, will run until 4 March 2023 at Projektraum London at Claas Reiss.

BA Program in the Archaeology, History, & Literature of Ancient Greece"



Following three successful years since its launch and having welcomed students from 24 countries, last year, the "BA Program in the Archaeology, History, & Literature of Ancient Greece" is accepting new applications for the academic year 2023-2024. Since its launch in 2020 as the first English-language Bachelor Program offered by a Greek University, the BA Program in the Archaeology, History, and Literature of Ancient Greece has welcomed numerous students from all over the world wishing to study Ancient Greece's history and culture in the place of its birth.

Aimed at international students, the program is offered by the Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών - University of Athens (based in its School of Philosophy) and offers a unique opportunity to study the culture of ancient Greece while acquiring first-hand knowledge of some of Greece's most important archaeological monuments and sites, such as the Athenian Acropolis and the Parthenon, Delphi and Olympia. The program includes courses in Greek archaeology, ancient Greek history and literature, and modern Greek. With an academic tradition of more than 180 years, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens guarantees a high quality undergraduate program, based on experiential learning and offering both the systematic disciplinary knowledge and critical and creative thinking skills.

The program is available to international citizens, and is suitable for high school graduates with an interest in the ancient world and its cultural and intellectual achievements; and philology.

<https://baag.uoa.gr/>

Labyrinth: Knossos, Myth & Reality

When: 10/02/2023- 30/07/2023

Where: The Ashmolean Museum, Cambridge

<https://www.ashmolean.org/exhibition/labyrinth-knossos-myth-reality>**Old Stories in New Ways: Using the TV documentary form to revisit national history**

When: 22/02/2023, 5.00-6.45pm

Where: SEESOX, Seminar Room, European Studies Centre (also online)

<https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/events/old-stories-new-ways-using-tv-documentary-form-revisit-national-history>**Leonidas Kavakos violin & Enrico Pace piano, Bartók, Beethoven, Franck and Ravel**

When: 22/02/2023, 7.30pm

Where: Wigmore Hall

<https://wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/leonidas-kavakos-enrico-pace-202302221930>**Contemporary Art and Archaeology: History and Material Culture**

When: 23/02/2023, 7.00 pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/contemporary-art-and-archaeology-history-and-material-culture/>**Family Carnival Celebration**

When: 25/02/2023, 3.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/family-carnival-celebration/>**Celebrate Greek Carnival**

When: 25/02/2023, 7.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/celebrate-greek-carnival/>**Hellenic Engineers Society of Great Britain Dinner Dance**

When: 25/02/2023, 6.30pm

Where: Grosvenor House Hotel

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/hellenic-engineers-society-of-great-britain-dinner-dance/>**Intergenerational mobility in education in Greece**

When: 28/02/2023, 6.00-7.30pm

Where: London School of Economics, Sumeet Valrani lecture theatre, centre building, LSE campus

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/Hellenic-Observatory/Events/Research-Seminar-Series/2022-2023/mobility-in-education/mobility-in-education>**Quartet for the End of Time**

When: 02/03/2023, 7.00pm

Where: The Hellenic Centre

<https://helleniccentre.org/event/quartet-for-the-end-of-time/>**Greek Dialogues - Anthologising the Muse of the Greeks: Poetry Anthologies and the Cultural Transfer of Modern Greece in Britain (1821-1900)**

When: 02/03/2023, 6.30pm

Where: St. John's College, Cambridge, Arthur Quiller Couch Room (and Streaming)

<https://www.cgs.csah.cam.ac.uk/events/greek-dialogues-anthologising-muse-greeks-poetry-anthologies-and-cultural-transfer-modern>**West, anti-West and the geopolitical balancing: Deciphering Turkey's Russia policy**

When: 08/03/2023, 5.00-6.45pm

Where: SEESOX, Seminar Room, European Studies Centre

<https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/events/west-anti-west-and-geopolitical-balancing-deciphering-turkey%E2%80%99s-russia-policy>**Embassy of Greece in London**

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