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The Embassy of Greece in Washington, DC presents the exhibition

Smyrna: Longings for a Lost Motherland

by artist **Annee Spileos Scott**

Introduction on Smyrna by **Despina Skenderis-Fourniades**,
Editor of the Mediterranean Quarterly Journal

dates

OPENING: WEDNESDAY, **APRIL 10** AT 7:00 PM

DURATION: UNTIL **MAY 9, 2013**

location

Embassy of Greece

2217 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington DC, 20008

“Longings for a Lost Motherland” is a series of multi-media collages which illuminate the history of three thousand years of Hellenic culture in Asia Minor (Turkey today). The title refers to the Asia Minor Catastrophe of 1922 and the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, as we acknowledge the Ninetieth Anniversary of both historical events.

The main thesis of the exhibition is the unfulfilled universal longing which forever remains in the hearts of the people of all cultures which have been separated from their source of origin, their mother country. There is a universal feeling of attachment to a place which reflects the true cultural identity of an individual.

This history is passed down through generations via language, religion, daily rituals and oral histories, forming a collective cultural identity in generations of families. An incurable nostalgia develops when there is a sudden and tragic uprooting from the ancestral home. Deep rooted emotions are further intensified if the survivors are exiled.

One can perceive the similarities in many of the major peace accords which were written in the twentieth century. They include the grand solution prescribed in the Lausanne agreement, to exchange populations based on one factor alone, religion. The Lausanne Treaty became the model for most conflict resolution in the twentieth century. It was first treaty to forcibly exchange populations in such immense number.

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