



THE
HELLENIC
INITIATIVE
CANADA

εὐ τοπία

between myth
and reality

ART AUCTION • NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 15, 2021

from the curator

Eú Topia —

The term derives from the ancient Greek “Εύ” meaning “good”, and the noun “τόπος”, which translates to “place”. Our “Eftopia” depicts the ideal society as a possibility and not an unreachable goal. It symbolizes participating and contributing to one’s birthplace.

For the people of the Greek Diaspora, Greece is a place linked to myth, beloved people, as well as carefree days under the sun and by the Mediterranean Sea. This strong link between the Greek landscape and the ideal living conditions oftentimes is referred to as a “paradise on earth”. In English, “eftopia” is pronounced similarly to “utopia”, derived from the Greek “ou” (ού) meaning “no” and “topos” (τόπος) meaning place, with the extension -iā (-ία), characteristic of toponymy in the Greek language. The name is directly translated as “nowhere”, placing emphasis on its fantastical attributes. It was used for the first time in 1516 by English humanitarian philosopher and philhellene Thomas More, who used the term to describe “an ideal place and way of life”.

The «Εϋ» used in the title of the first philanthropic art auction of The Hellenic Initiative Canada is a double entendre for the scope of the fundraiser: On one hand, It provides an international platform to introduce a valuable aspect of the modern Greek art scene to foreign audiences, organizations, and collectors. Furthermore, the content and aesthetics of the collection does not only take inspiration from Greek topographical or archaeological themes, it also includes images taken from today’s reality. This signifies in turn the will to overcome the difficulties the Greek nation has been facing over the past few years, while motivating Greeks across the globe to join these efforts.

Leading this effort are ten distinguished Greek artists, who symbolically carry the torch from great artists of the past, such as Spyros Vasileiou, Giannis Moralis, Giorgos Vakirtzis, Panagiotis Tetsis, who had been assigned to produce works of art for the promotion of Greek art outside Greece. The Greek tourism poster continues to fascinate audiences as something that encompasses an ideal place: where the sun is always shining bright, the sea is peaceful, and the Aegean island houses stand out as if they emerged from a dream. The reality of today, which is deeply personal, is represented through the works of the leading Greek creators. The artwork that will be auctioned does not exclusively portray idyllic places where we seek to escape from reality, they also include memories of our collective consciousness; they reflect the Greece we all carry, the one we dream of, our very own “Arcadia”.



George Mylonas • Art Historian & Curator

about the auction

DATES

November 15 - December 15, 2021

GALLERY

Hotel Nelligan • 106 Saint-Paul St W, Montreal, Quebec

ONLINE EXHIBIT

ca.thehellenicinitiative.org/gallery/

For the first time ever, The Hellenic Initiative Canada in collaboration with 10 renowned contemporary Greek artists will be presenting and auctioning a selection of their most notable artwork for Charity. Our “Eú Topia” art exhibit will be available for viewing both virtually on The Hellenic Initiative Canada’s website, and in-person at the Hotel Nelligan in Montreal starting November 15th.

Proceeds from the auction will be dedicated to supporting our program with HOPEgenesis that helps families living in small communities who do not have access to basic medical treatment, by covering all medical expenses and providing them with the care they need during pregnancy. Families living in small remote communities usually do not have access to basic medical treatment, and the cost to move in order to receive proper care is usually out of their financial reach. Your generous bids will directly support those who would like to start or grow their families and do not have the means to do so on their own. The THI Canada and HOPEgenesis program provides an expanded network of professionals and the financial aid required to help these isolated communities, who often face abandonment, grow and prosper.

We invite you to explore modern Greece through the eyes of the participating artists and join us in our philanthropic efforts at this charity auction. To bid, select the “Submit Bid” button under the painting of your choosing. If you are visiting our exhibit in person, you can scan the QR code next to each painting. If you have any questions, please feel free to submit them to info@ca.thehellenicinitiative.org

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SPONSORS





Io Angeli

Born in Mytilene, she studied Painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts (1981-1986). She was granted a scholarship by the Athens School of Fine Arts (1988-1989), as well as by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (1989-1991), in order to continue her studies in London: she attended the Royal College of Art (MA in Fine Arts, 1988-1990) and the Central St Martins College of Art and Design (Stage Design, 1990-1991). Works by her can be found in important private collections. She lives and works in Athens.

Io Angeli's workshop is located at Thiseio, on one of the most picturesque streets in central Athens. Under Acropolis, among apartment buildings, lies a "secret" garden. The division between cityscapes and nature transcends her paintings. Paradoxical images that remind the viewer of the melancholia of the city or, in contrast, the wild images of nature depict the grand microcosmos of Io Angeli. A blackbird "intruder" dissolves the concreteness of the natural surroundings that is characterized by a whisper of colour, almost esoteric. Respectively, for the smaller in scale night landscapes, we have a stadium that is lit by the track lines and the city's night skyline, while the next one radiates a cold beam. There, Angeli utilizes her directness and personal messaging to further develop her paintings, gracing us with visions of pure poetry.

Spring

MEDIUM:	Oil on canvas
SIZE:	150 x 80 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD):	\$11,600.00
STARTING BID:	\$7,050.00



Winter

MEDIUM:	Oil on canvas
SIZE:	35 x 35 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD):	\$4,350.00
STARTING BID:	\$3,400.00



Autumn

MEDIUM:	Oil on canvas
SIZE:	35 x 35 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD):	\$4,350.00
STARTING BID:	\$3,400.00





Kalliopi Asargiotaki

Kalliopi Asargiotaki was born in Ierapetra (Crete, Greece). She studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts under Giorgos Mavroidis and Ilias Dekoulakos (1979-1983) thanks to a Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) grant. She pursued her studies in Paris at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts (1985-1986) on a French State scholarship (CROUS), under Vladimir Veličković. Her first solo show in 1989 was followed by another ten personal exhibitions. Works by her can be found in important private collections and art foundations in Greece and abroad. She lives and works in Athens.

In her bio, Kalliopi introduces herself starting with the place she was born in, Crete. It feels like all the ancestral tapestries, made on the traditional loom, have made their way through to her art. The female figures seem ethereal, almost illusive. With extreme attention to detail present in her work, we also find links within them to our past. Similar to the woven tapestries that have been passed down for generations that we store with care, as if sacred. In soft red or blue ink, the archetypal figures present themselves as if they materialized from our dreams. Their expression presents a landscape beyond the conscious realm. They are symbols of our ancestral collective memories. In the words of the creator: “The artist must forget everything in order to remember what they do not know. They need to close their eyes for a moment, and re-open them abruptly, opening simultaneously their soul wide open”.

Blue Moon, 2019

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 80 x 100 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$10,150.00
STARTING BID: \$7,100.00



Desert Rose, 2017

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 80 x 100 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$10,150.00
STARTING BID: \$7,100.00



George Chadoulis



George Hadoulis (born 1966) lives and works in Athens. He studied at the École des Beaux-arts in Paris and has pursued a singular career with a love for painting and its intrinsic challenges. Working in a wide range of media, including painting, drawing and print-making, he has consistently explored the nature of perception and representation. From his early experiments with abstraction and expressionism, to his most recent, jewel-toned landscapes, vibrant rock paintings and studio views, Hadoulis has examined, probed, and questioned how to capture the perceived world of movement, space and time in two dimensions. With both intellectual rigour and sheer delight in the act of looking, Hadoulis evokes a world of spontaneous sensuality that radiates joy and optimism. George Hadoulis has exhibited widely in solo shows and has been included in many group exhibitions internationally.

What does “u-topia” look like? The mythical, unobtainable paradise? George Chadoulis sees this as an “idyllic island” surrounded by sea, and this is how he chooses to present it to us. Vibrant and saturated colours produce a pop composition that transforms the Greek island into a visually pleasing prototype, being one with the sun, the sea and freedom. Under the same principle, Chadoulis reshapes another rock, the Acropolis’ one. With a minimalistic approach and following a black mono-tonal colour palette, he depicts the “eternal symbol” through a fresh perspective. Both artworks re-imagine places of retreat using contemporary painting techniques; places where Greeks can “rebuild” themselves.

Beach House, 2020

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 60 x 50 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$4,350.00
STARTING BID: \$4,300.00



Akropolis, 2020

MEDIUM: Ink, charcoal, pastel on paper
SIZE: 100 x 80 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$7,250.00
STARTING BID: \$5,300.00





Manolis Charos

Born in Kythira in 1960, he studied painting and printmaking at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris (1978-1982). Then he continued on to postgraduate studies in Image Communication at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (1982-1983). In 1981 he had his first solo exhibition in Athens (Polyplano), while in 1984 he was awarded for his lithographic works with the French prize Prix des Fondations (1984), followed by the Athens Academy Award for artists under 40, in 1988.

Charos has held more than thirty solo exhibitions at museums and galleries in Greece and abroad. He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions and international events in various cities worldwide. Charos is numbered among the most important representatives of his generation, works of his are kept in significant public and private collections around the world. He lives and works between Athens, Paris and Kithira islands.

“Painting is a matter of light”, says Manolis Charos and I think to myself how blessed he is to be born, literally, in it. His house and studio in Kythira, where he lives, is located on the best view point of the island’s Chora. It is flooded by light and has the sea at its feet. As he spends most of his time there, when obligations in Athens and Paris permit, he produces images of incredible transparency and simplicity. His interpretation of matter and light – the flowers, the sea, the horizon – resembles the unique feeling of being on a Greek island. The artist is best known for imagining and creating ideal places, and then surrounding them with his authentic painter’s aura.

The Cacti on the West Coast, 2020

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 100 x 80 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$11,600.00
STARTING BID: \$7,100.00



Seaside Garden, 2020

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 80 x 60 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$7,250.00
STARTING BID: \$6,200.00





Maria Giannakaki

Born in Athens in 1958, she studied Painting under Panayiotis Tetsis and Mosaic under Yannis Kolefas at the Athens School of Fine Arts (1977-1982). She furthered her education on a scholarship from the Greek State at the Hangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in China, where she received a postgraduate degree in the techniques of traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy (1983-1985). Her first solo exhibition was held in Beijing. Along with painting, she is also involved in book illustrations and book cover design. Works by her can be found in significant private collections. She lives and works in Athens.

Maria Giannakaki's "village" could be described as the "ef topia" of the Greek diaspora. The memories, the first love, the summers spent there, a condensed cinematic reel of everything that connects one with their respective motherland. Within the folk houses and the ruins – in the "incoherent countryside", as pointed out by Dionyssis Savvopoulos – the compassionate artist finds grounds to create scenes from our memories. The work itself serves its theme concisely. Similarly, the Acropolis is desecrated watching over the two lovers. Only the act of love is sanctioned and the surrounding Athenian landscape captures the spark of the moment through an explosion of colour.

The Village (To Chorio), 2018

MEDIUM:	Pastel Acrylic and Chinese ink on silk mounted canvas
SIZE:	80 x 100 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD):	\$10,150.00
STARTING BID:	\$7,100.00



The Ring of the Earth, 2020

MEDIUM:	Acrylic on canvas
SIZE:	74 x 52 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD):	\$4,350.00
STARTING BID:	\$4,300.00





Christos Kechagioglou

Christos Kechagioglou (KEX) was born in Thessaloniki in 1960. He studied civil engineering and painting in Thessaloniki, Film Direction in Athens, and Philosophy of Art in Paris, (postgraduate studies at Universite Paris I – Sorbonne, studying the connection between cinema and painting). He is the creator of many art videos and experimental films, presented in galleries in Greek and international festivals. He has done 40 individual painting exhibitions, starting 1981, and has participated in over 100 group exhibitions in Greece and abroad. His work has been featured in many books, catalogs, museum albums and covers of major publishing houses. His paintings can be viewed at galleries, museums and major collections in Greece and abroad.

Christos Kechagioglou's paintings are filled with clearly defined images that are creatively imagined and show vivid emotions. Houses, flowers, the sea, everything comes together to pay homage to the “everlasting Greek summer”. His work could stand next to classic posters of the Greek Tourism Organization (EOT), that defined the expectations of tourists visiting Greece as well as the way Greeks viewed their country. Similar to the promotional posters, the artist's paintings leave an immediate impression on the viewer, and invite them to participate in a colourful festival. His work is a representation in itself of a Greek ef topia.

Harmony Land

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 100 x100 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$8,700.00
STARTING BID: \$5,300.00



Sand Flowers

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 100 x100 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$8,700.00
STARTING BID: \$5,300.00



The Coming of Light

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 50 x 50 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$4,350.00
STARTING BID: \$3,400.00



The Courtyard of Dionysus

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 50 x 50 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$4,350.00
STARTING BID: \$3,400.00





Michalis Madenis

Michalis Madenis was born in Komotini in 1960. He studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts (1985-1990), where he received a scholarship from IKY. His teacher in the first year was Triantafillos Patraskidis and later Panagiotis Tetsis, he graduated with honors from his laboratory. He continued his postgraduate studies at the Free Academy of Arts in Hague (De Vrije Akademie voor Beeldende Kunste). In the first year, he studied with a Royal Scholarship of the Dutch Government, with professor Bob Bonis, where he excelled, and for the next two years, with a scholarship from State Scholarship Foundation (I.K.Y). He worked for the educational program of the National Gallery (2006-2017), as the head of the children's laboratory. His artworks are in the National Gallery, Greek Parliament, Bank of Greece, as well as public and private collections in Greece and abroad. From 1990 until today, he has taken part in many group and solo exhibitions.

With his flowing and voluptuous strokes, Michalis Madenis' work is linked to the great painters of the past century, and he is often referred to as a worthy successor to Nikos Lytras. A master of colour, he can transform simple weeds to exquisite art that would not go unnoticed even to an artist with little knowledge or appreciation for visual art elements. His fluid writing provides movement to the image and it expands it. The piece of land at the edge of the cliff brings to mind the saying of the great Greek poster artist George Vakirtzi "From a single point on Earth we could capture the whole world. And from a place, all the other places of our planet... I also suspect that the more we seek to learn in depth about our planet, the more we will understand the Universe. Therefore, this is the Universe. Learn about your place, your Earth, your Sky and you will find yourself, who will tell you everything".

Beach in Lavrio, 2020

MEDIUM:	Oil on canvas
SIZE:	80 x 40 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD):	\$7,400.00
STARTING BID:	\$5,300.00





Tasos Matzavinos

Born in Athens in 1958, he was an Athens School of Fine Arts student (1979-1985). Between 1986 and 1996 he taught free-hand drawing at the Vakalo School of Arts. He has also illustrated the following books: “Anti tis Siopis” by Lefteris Poullos (instead of silence) 1993, “O afanis thriamvos tis omorfias” by Argyris Chionis (the unseen triumph of beauty) 1995, “Mikri Zoologia” collective work (the little book of zoology) 1998, “I naftilia kyklous kanei” by Philippos Begleris (shipping goes around in circles) 2011, “Ta Rebetika” (the rebetika songs, 5 copperplate engraving prints, 60 copies, Mnimermos Publications) 2012, “Idanikoi Aftocheires” (ideal suicides, K.G. Kariotakis, 12 lithographs, 50 copies, Mnimermos Publications) 2013, “Adam kai Eva” (Adam and Eve, T. Mantzavinos, lithographs, 60 copies, Mnimermos Publications) 2015, “To Koraki” (The Raven, Edgar Allan Poe, T. Mantzavinos, lithographs, 40 copies, Mnimermos Publications) 2016. His works can be found in private and public collections both in Greece and abroad. He lives and works in Athens.

Using an internal landscape that could also be described as an idiosyncratic self portrait, Tasos Matzavinos presents the essence of his world and not a mere description of space. A figure seems to reflect on unspecified constructions of the psyche. This is the “internal gaze” of the painter. The self-portrait of the artist has found its own rhythm, as it moves towards the origins of childhood and maturity, finding the memories and their transcendence into consciousness. Product of a personal Eftopia is “Mandradoras”, a work that reflects the personal messaging and mysticism of the painter. Planted in the soil of urban legends, this humanoid plant represents the act of painting for the artist. The painter is born from the plant and with it, he blooms.

In My Atelier, 2021

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 80 x 60 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$10,150.00
STARTING BID: \$7,100.00



Mandrake, 2020

MEDIUM: Acrylic on canvas
SIZE: 25 x 120 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$7,250.00
STARTING BID: \$5,300.00



Christos Palantzas



He was born in Larissa, Greece, in 1962. From 1983 until 1989 he studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts in Greece under professors D. Mitaras, D. Kokkinidis, N. Kessanlis and M. Lambrakis-Plaka. In 1990 with a scholarship from the French Government he continued his post-graduate studies at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris, Atelier de la Peinture with the professor Mr Pierre Carron. His first exhibition took place in Paris. He worked at the National Archaeological Museum, as an artist and museum pedagogue for the educational programs of the Greek Ministry of Culture, entitled “The birth of writing”. He worked and contributed to restoring the frescoes of the ancient city of Akrotiri at Santorini island in Greece. In addition, his work was selected as representative of the Greek Contemporary Art during the Olympic Games of 2004. His work can be found in the Greek National Gallery, the Benaki Museum and other private museums and collections in Greece and abroad.

Christos Pallantzas finds inspiration in one of the most vibrant areas of Athens, Metaxourgio. Very close to his studio one can find the ancient cemetery of Kerameikos, an area full of artifacts from once great buildings. It is where the ancient times meet the modern pulse of the city. The time of day that is most inspirational to Christos, is when the light begins to fade, when the sun goes down. It is a light that announces the beginning of the night and the descent to darkness. The creator directs our gaze upwards and recommends a different, inward view of the city. The reflection of the city in the clouds and sky is the standstill of time through the seasons. This representation of the Athenian sky in the artist’s work provides for a painting with spirituality.

Kerameikos, Iera Odos, 2021

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 150 x100 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$21,750.00
STARTING BID: \$7,100.00



Piraeus, 2021

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 75 x 65 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$6,525.00
STARTING BID: \$5,300.00



Make a Wish, 2021

MEDIUM: Oil on canvas
SIZE: 80 x 70 cm
APPRAISAL (CAD): \$8,700.00
STARTING BID: \$6,200.00





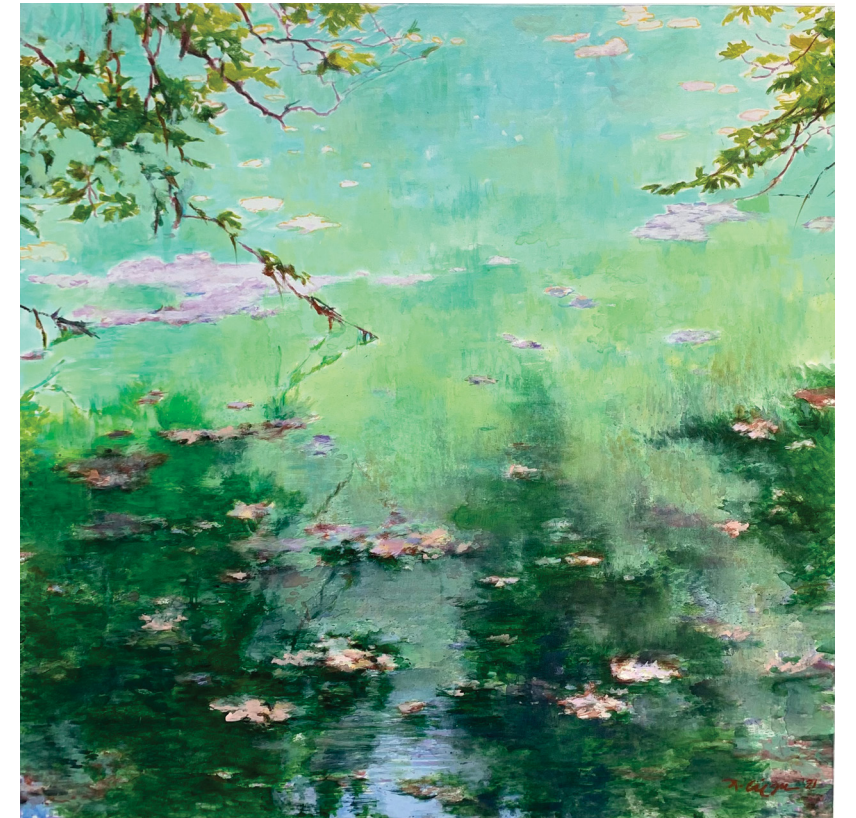
Chryssa Verghi

Chryssa Verghi was born in Athens. She studied painting at the School of Fine Arts in Athens, Greece under D. Mytaras, L. Kanakakis, N. Kessanlis . From 1980 to 1983, she continued studying Interior Designing at the Fine Arts School of California State University of Long Beach, USA. From 1990 to 1992, on the Greek State Scholarship, she continued her studies in Painting at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, France, under Pierre Carron. Her works can be in public and other private museums and collections in Greece and abroad.

Chryssa Verghi describes her paintings as “Journal entries”, similar to a writer’s notes that in the end become a chapter. “They are images of my experiences, most of them in Ipiros, in Louros and its creeks. I am interested in retaining my emotional memory”, says Chryssa. Her artistry is filled with personal experiences imprinted on the surface of the water, the tree branches and all the natural elements she chooses to immortalize on her canvases. Her fascination with nature and the particular landscapes is linked to her belief that humans are part of nature, a nature that reminds us, today more than ever, of our “limits and limitations”. Looking at Verghi’s work all our senses come to life and we are transported back to our roots.

Lake Fragment

MEDIUM: Mixed media on canvas
 SIZE: 100 x 100 cm
 APPRAISAL (CAD): \$14,500.00
 STARTING BID: \$7,100.00



Light Forest

MEDIUM: Mixed media on canvas
 SIZE: 73,5 x 73,5 cm
 APPRAISAL (CAD): \$8,700.00
 STARTING BID: \$6,200.00





The Hellenic Initiative Canada is the latest addition to The Hellenic Initiative Worldwide. The Hellenic Initiative was founded in 2012 by members of the global Greek and philhellene communities who were moved to respond to the worsening economic crisis, Greece's short-term needs and long term recovery. Primary objectives include feeding and caring for the most vulnerable children and the elderly. THI Canada was federally incorporated in July of 2016 and is a registered charity under the Canada Income Tax Act.

Virtually all funds raised in Canada will be directed to the relief agencies we have partnered with in Greece without any overhead expense as THI's local representative will be monitoring our programs without additional cost. We vet every application for support, for compliance with our objectives, for immediate impact, reporting and financial transparency. Since our first program with the well recognized SOS Villages Greece we have worked with Prolepsis Diatrofi to provide meals to impoverished students faced with food insecurity, the Giannitsa and St. George temple Soup Kitchen and the Doctors of the World on several programs focused on providing access to healthcare services for vulnerable groups, including seniors with our 60+ during the Pandemic program.

THI Canada aims to marshall the well known generosity of Canadians to help families, including the elderly, in this time of crisis.

LEARN MORE:
ca.thehellenicinitiative.org



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