



# Vangelis Pliarides: *The Bandaged Shoulder*

Private View & Reception

Thursday 21 March 2019, 6-8 pm

Exhibition

22 March - 27 April 2019

Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 6pm & by appointment

CHRISTINE  
PARK  
GALLERY

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515 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10011

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Christine Park Gallery is pleased to present *The Bandaged Shoulder*, a solo exhibition by London/Thessaloniki based artist Vangelis Pliarides. It is Pliarides's third solo exhibition with the gallery. This exhibition showcases Pliarides's most recent works following his previous presentation of his signature 'traveling watercolors' series with the gallery.

*In his most-recent large-scale paintings, Vangelis Pliarides once again takes us to far-flung places in the world. The rich greenery and storm-swept skies of the tropics become the backdrop for disjointed scenes conveying vulnerability and fragmentation. Unsettling and lush at the same time, his works are monumental picture postcards from places where reality has taken an alternate course.*

*Each canvas is dedicated to a large human figure. Most of the works are inspired by the artist's recent trips to Sri Lanka and Myanmar. However, *Death in Malyvos* draws on a true story from closer to home, it shows a tourist who slipped and died from a fall in a place of breathtaking natural beauty on the Greek island of Lesbos. With his stick-like body a man, naked except for a single sock and shoe, balances precariously before a backdrop of darkened skies. The figure of the tourist is a reoccurring theme in Pliarides's works, who is often shown acting on carnal desires or in a state of injury or isolation. Although Pliarides's tourist does draw on elements of the "ugly" and inappropriate western traveler, above all it negotiates an encounter with the self, whereby the age-old trope of travel as a path to self-understanding is turned inside out by the ambiguities and ironic undertones of his paintings, where dream, memory, and harsh reality meet.*

*This solitary male figure appears in a number of other paintings as a huge, almost sculptural bust balancing on large feet—a disturbing mish-mash of body parts and odd colorations of skin hinting at wounds. Titles such as *The Blind Poet* or *The Bandaged Shoulder* (taken from a poem by Constantine P. Cavafy) hint at a certain pathos, at creativity driven by eros, by blind desire. This is underscored by their diptych structure; each large head is paired with a floral theme: either a single red flower set against an ocean backdrop or a more virginal white bouquet in a muted interior. Here the incongruity of the pairing has a particularly post-modern feel, with the white bouquet seeming to reference deep-rooted traditions of painting, the studio still life, whereas its partner image, the "portrait" has undergone complete fragmentation.*

*Mawlamyine and Dawei Dream offer brilliant contrasts to the dusky palette of the other works. Despite a "naive" quality unabashedly borrowed from Henri Rousseau, Pliarides's works never forgo an ironic bite. In *Mawlamyine* a man seems to be taking a devil out for a walk on a leash, but it could be the devil who is actually calling the shots, from the driver's seat of a small red car. And while the sinuous erotic appeal of *Dawei Dream* appears to be offering a harmonic erotic respite from the conflict and contradictions of the other images, a dab of green paint on the woman's back seems to hint that it is all illusion—not even a dream, just a painting after all.*

Laura Schelenssner, Art Historian & Curator  
Berlin, 2019



*Death in Malyvos*  
2018  
Signed and dated on verso  
Oil on canvas  
72 7/8h x 78 3/4w in  
185h x 200w cm  
VP054



Death in Malyvos, 2018  
(Details)



*Death of Sugar Daddy*  
2018  
Signed and dated on verso  
Oil on canvas  
72 7/8h x 78 3/4w in  
185h x 200w cm  
VP053



Death of Sugar Daddy, 2018  
VP053  
(Details)



*Dawei Dream*  
2017-18  
Signed and dated on verso  
Oil on canvas  
72 7/8h x 55 1/8w in  
185h x 140w cm  
VP051



Dawei Dream, 2017-18  
VP051  
(Details)



*Mawlamyine*  
2018  
Signed and dated on verso  
Oil on canvas  
47 1/4 x 39 3/8 in  
120h x 100w cm  
VP055



Mawlamyine, 2018  
VP055  
(Details)



*The Bandaged Shoulder (Diptych)*  
2019

Signed on verso  
Oil on linen  
23 5/8h x 39 3/8w in  
60h x 100w cm  
VP056



*The Bandaged Shoulder (Dptych), 2019*  
VP056  
(Details)



*The Blind Poet (Diptych)*  
2019  
Signed on verso  
Oil on linen  
23 5/8h x 39 3/8w in  
60h x 100w cm  
(VP057)



The Blind Poet (Diptych), 2019  
VP057  
(Details)

## VANGELIS PLIARIDES

Born in 1964 in Thessaloniki, Greece, he graduated from the Aristotle University, School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki in 1989. He finished his studies in London at the Royal College of Art by obtaining a Post Experience Diploma (PED) in Painting (1992) and a Master of Fine Arts in Painting (1994).

He received awards and fellowships from the British Council, the Fulbright Foundation and the RTZ plc, his artworks are included in various public collections such as Astra Zeneca

(Sweden), Alfa Laval (Sweden), Scania (Sweden), Södertälje Konsthall (Sweden), Union of Swedish Artists (Sweden), Royal College of Art (UK), British Council (UK), Fulbright Foundation in Greece, Frissiras Museum (Greece), Foundation Sana-Huja (Spain), and Musée d'art moderne et contemporain (MAMCO) (Switzerland). He is currently a Professor of Painting at Aristotle University, School of Fine Arts. He lives and works in Thessaloniki and London.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS & ART FAIRS

2019 *Dallas Art Fair* presented by Christine Park Gallery, Dallas (April)  
*Vangelis Pliarides: The Bandaged Shoulder*, Christine Park Gallery, New York  
*ZONAMACO* presented by Christine Park Gallery, Mexico City

2018 *Vangelis Pliarides: Traveling Watercolors 2007-2017*,  
Christine Park Gallery, New York  
*Paradise Islands*, Ypsilon, Thessaloniki

2017 *Vangelis Pliarides – The Last Ten Years*,  
Museum of Ptolemaida, Ptolemaida

2014 *Vangelis Pliarides*, Christine Park Gallery, London  
*Recent Paintings*, Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens

2012 *Café Bar: The Last Days of Your Life*, Donopoulos Fine Arts, Thessaloniki

2009 Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens

2007 *Sani Festival*, Tsatsis Projects- Artforum, Chalkidiki

2006 *Same same but different*, Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens

2005 Tsatsis Projects, Thessaloniki

*Love Dreams*, MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto

2004 *ARCO* (Tsatsis Projects), Madrid  
*Art Athina* (Tsatsis Projects), Athens  
Andre Zarre Gallery, New York  
Artforum Berlin (Tsatsis Projects), Berlin  
Diaspro Art Center, Nicosia

2002 Galerie Pohlhammer, Steyr  
Rocket Shop, Berlin  
Statement Gallery, Athens

2001 Artforum, Thessaloniki

2000 Galerie Pohlhammer, Steyr

1999 Gallery Foka, Thessaloniki

1998 Artforum, Thessaloniki

1996 Strand Galeri, Södertälje

1989 Strand Galeri, Södertälje

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Prints of memory, Museum of Macedonian Struggle, Thessaloniki  
New Look, Christine Park Gallery, New York  
All Idea Di Quel Mettalo (curated by Peter Ungeheuer),  
Verband Deutscher Burgschaftsbanken, Berlin
- 2016 I Shot the Deputy, (curated by Vangelis Pliarides), Tabya, Thessaloniki  
Apologetics to Aristotle, (curated by Regina Argiraki), Megaron,  
The Athens Concert Hall, Athens  
Artists-Professors, School of Fine Arts, Novicad
- 2015 Professors-Artists, State Museum of Contemporary Arts, Thessaloniki  
Art and Politics (curated by Regina Argiraki), The Loft, Athens  
Art Busan 15, Christine Park Gallery, Busan
- 2014 Art Project 35 x 35, Copelouzou Family Art Museum, Athens  
Painting III, Frissiras Museum, Athens
- 2012 Art-Athina, Donopoulos International Fine Arts, Athens
- 2011 Art-Athina, Donopoulos International Fine Arts, Athens  
Works on Paper, Donopoulos International Fine Arts, Thessaloniki  
Art Supports Education, Fulbright Foundation Alumni, Benaki Museum, Athens  
Summer Show, Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens  
Alumni of Aristotle School of Fine Arts- Archive,  
Collection of G. Melikis, Imathia  
Art Supports Education, Fulbright Foundation Alumni, Hotel Excelsior, Thessaloniki  
Espacio Atlantico, MCO Contemporanea, Vigo
- 2010 G. Kittis Collection, Vafopoulio Cultural Centre, Thessaloniki  
G. Kittis Collection, Teloglion Foundation of Art, Thessaloniki  
Naked Truth, Frissiras Museum, Athens  
Artists of the Gallery, Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens  
Art-Athina (Tsatsis Projects), Athens
- 2009 Red or white. The Olymbios Collection, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
- 2008 Domesticos e Selvagens, MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto  
Uma Viagem Um destino, MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto  
Nothing of North Unknown (curated by Laura Schleussner),  
Galerie Alexandra Saheb, Berlin  
Paper Works, Tsatsis Projects, Thessaloniki  
Art-Athina (Thanassis Frissiras Gallery), Athens  
Summer Exhibition, Donopoulos Fine Arts, Thessaloniki  
Works on Paper, Donopoulos Fine Arts, Thessaloniki  
Aquarella, MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto
- 2007 Between Earth and Sky, Tsatsis Projects-Artforum, Thessaloniki  
Eclectic affinities between European artists, Frissiras Museum, Athens  
Art-Athina (Tsatsis Projects), Athens  
Docks Art Fair, (MCO Arte Contemporanea), Lyon  
Art Lisbon (MCO Arte Contemporanea), Lisbon  
Crossing the borders, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
- 2006 Reon Idor, Teloglion Foundation of Art, Thessaloniki  
Art Lisbon (MCO Arte Contemporanea), Lisbon  
Art Shanghai (Tsatsis Projects), Shanghai, China  
Art Salamanca, (MCO Arte Contemporanea), Salamanca  
Art-Athina (Tsatsis Projects), Athens
- 2005 Fresh Ground, Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens  
Pintado De Fresco, MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto  
The Estranged Human Figure: Collection, Frissiras Museum,  
Frissira Museum, Spanbroek
- 2004 In our image, after our likeness, Frissiras Museum, Athens  
Group Show, Tsatsis Projects, Thessaloniki
- 2003 Northwest Passages, Trikala

*Art Athina* (Artforum Gallery), Athens  
*Open-End Berlin*, Tsatsis Projects, Thessaloniki  
*Anthropogeography*, Frissiras Museum, Athens  
*Open Studios*, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki  
*European Painting Award*, Frissiras Museum, Athens  
2002 *Review-Preview*, Statement Gallery, Epidauros  
*Diamantides Collection*, Municipal Gallery, Thessaloniki  
*New Acquisitions*, Frissiras Museum, Athens  
2001 *Arte-Fiera*, Galerie Pohlhammer, Bologna  
2000 *Blue Chips*, Gallery Foka, Thessaloniki  
*Art-Athina* (Gallery Foka), Athens  
1999 *Art-Athina* (Gallery Foka), Athens  
1998 *There is something odd about painting*, Galerie Christine König & Franziska Lettner, Vienna  
1996 *Sani Festival*, Sani, Chalkidiki  
*Just Painting*, Artforum Gallery, Thessaloniki  
1995 Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Aberystwyth  
Cartwright Hall, Bradford  
*19 John Moores Liverpool Exhibition*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool  
1994 *A Question of Drawing*, Atlantis Gallery, London  
BT New Contemporaries, London  
Camden Art Center, London  
Cornerhouse, Manchester  
Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol  
Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh  
1993 *A New Generation of Painters*, Henry Moore Gallery RCA, London  
*The Greek Pavilion at the BMC*, Cultural Center of Athens, Athens  
1990 *Biennale of Young Artists of Mediterranean Countries*, Marseille

## AWARDS

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2003       | Painting Award Commendation, Frissiras Museum, Athens |
| 2000 -2001 | Fulbright Grant (New York Residency)                  |
| 1993       | RTZ plc Bursary                                       |
| 1991       | British Council Fellowship and Award                  |
| 1988       | K.Velides Award                                       |

**GALLERY** 515 W 23rd St. New York, NY 10011

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