



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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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 Burgenbank, Berlin | | Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
Domesticos e Selvagens, MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto |
| 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, Novica | 2008 | 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 |
| 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 | 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 |
| 2014 | Art Project 35 x 35, Copelouzos Family Art Museum, Athens
Painting III, Frissiras Museum, Athens | 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 |
| 2012 | Art-Athina, Donopoulos International Fine Arts, 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 |
| 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 | 2004 | In our image, after our likeness, Frissiras Museum, Athens
Group Show, Tsatsis Projects, Thessaloniki |
| 2010 | G. Kittis Collection, Vafopoulou 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 | 2003 | Northwest Passages, Trikala |
| 2009 | Red or white. The Olymbios Collection, Macedonian Museum of | | |

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

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IMAGES COURTESY OF Christine Park Gallery and the Artist

DESIGN BY Jiin Ahn

PUBLISHED BY Christine Park Gallery, New York, 2019

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