



Vangelis Pliarides : *Traveling Watercolors 2007-2017*



Installation view



Installation view



Bontoc King (Bontoc, Philippines), 2012, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 50h x 70w cm



Installation view



I'll do anything, please don't hurt me (Vang Vieng, Laos), 2015, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



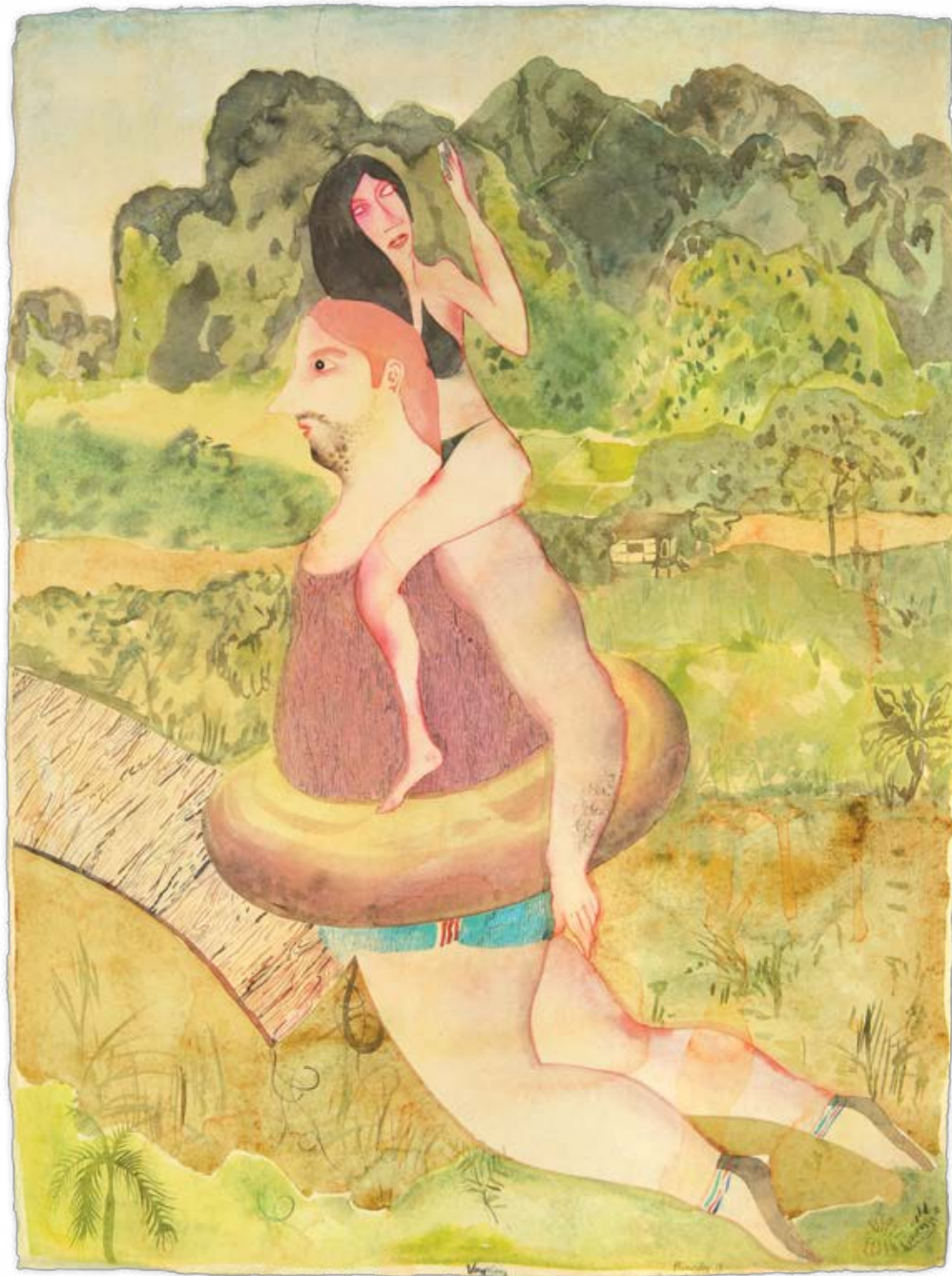
Installation view



Untitled (Udon Thani, Thailand)
2015
Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



Installation view



Tubing Vang Vieng (Vang Vieng, Laos)
2015
Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm





Untitled (Luang Prabang, Laos)
2015
Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



Installation view



Love Stories 2 (Udon Thani, Thailand), 2015, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



Installation view



Installation view



Hikkaduwa Dream (Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka), 2017, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



Bontoc King 2 (Bontoc, Philippines), 2012, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 50h x 70w cm



Installation view



Lessons in crime (Cape Town, South Africa), 2007, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



Muine (Muine, Vietnam), 2010, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



My decision is permanent, go back to your mother (Thessaloniki, Greece), 2014, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



Installation view

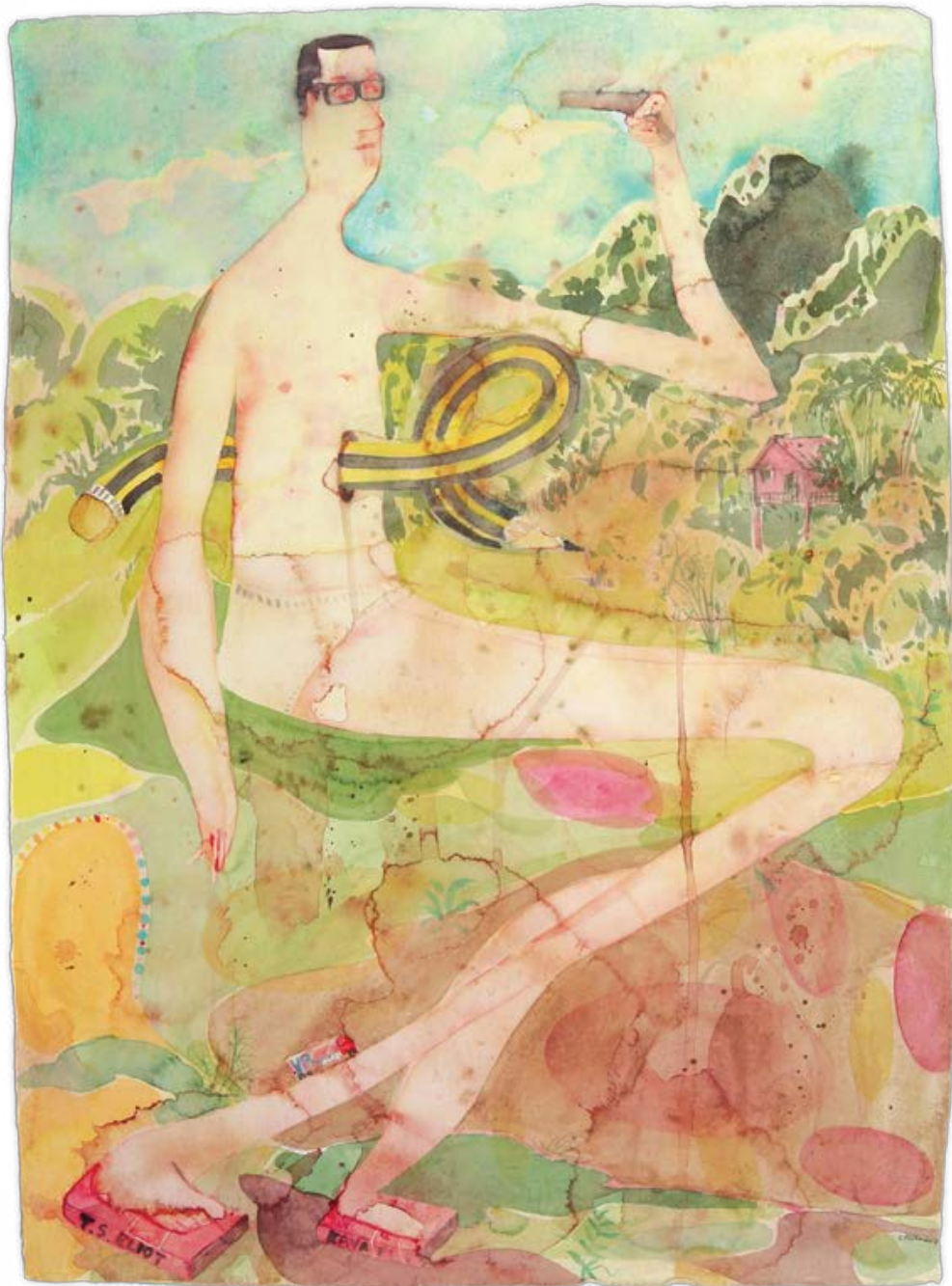


Serendipity Beach (Sihanoukville, Cambodia)
2015

Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



You are not alone (Sihanoukville, Cambodia)
2015
Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



Untitled (Vang Vieng, Laos)
2015

Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



Installation view



Love Stories 1 (Udon Thani, Thailand), 2015, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



Installation view



Sabang Beach (Mindoro, Philippines), 2008, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 56.6h x 76.6w cm



Ifugao (Bontoc, Philippines), 2012, signed on front, watercolor on indian cotton paper, 50h x 70w cm

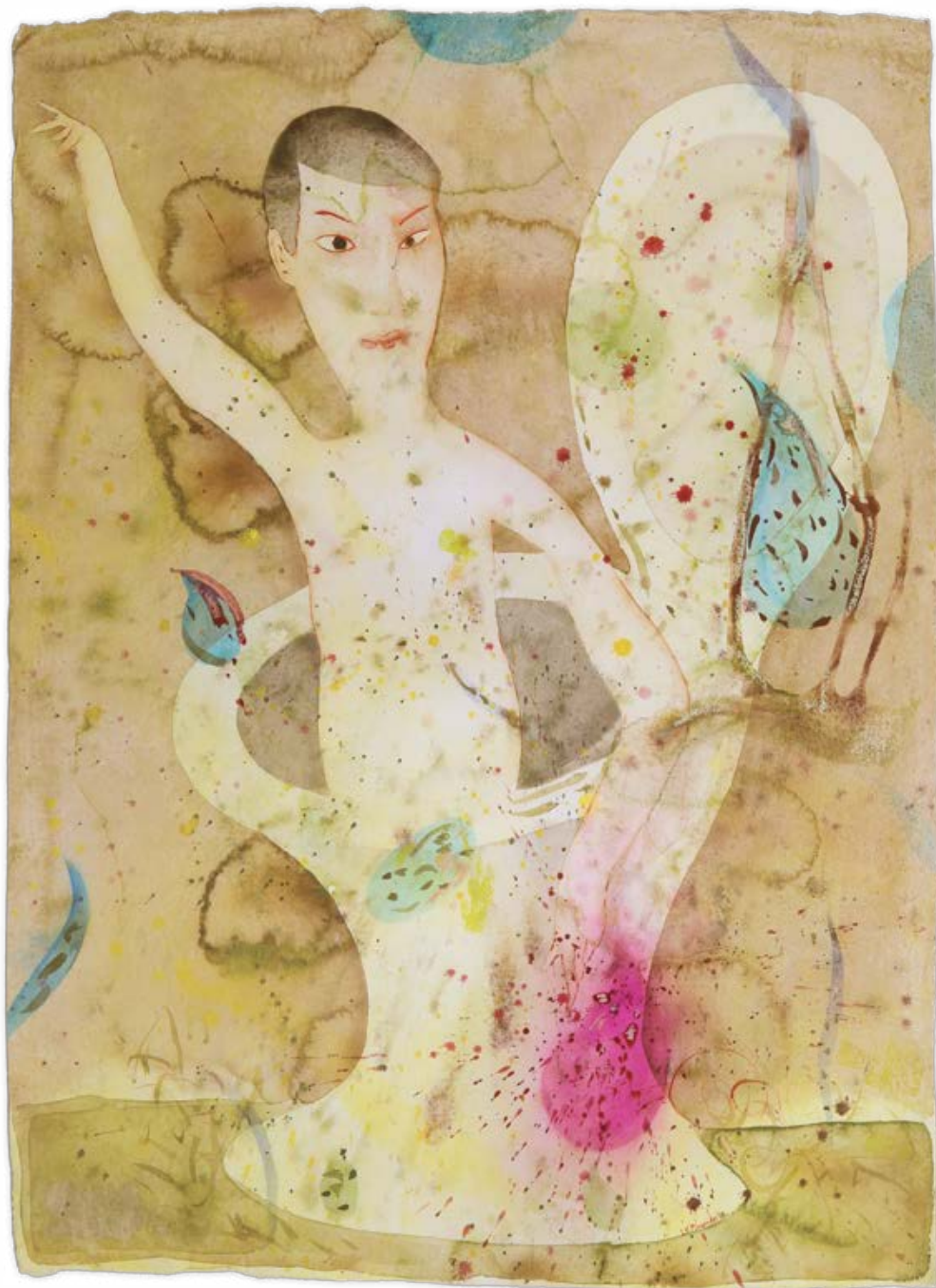


You are never alone (Vang Vieng, Laos)
2015
Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



Sihanoukville (Sihanoukville, Cambodia)
2015

Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm



Untitled (Thessaloniki, Greece)
2016
Signed on front
Watercolor on indian cotton paper
76.6h x 56.6w cm

Thouli Missirloglou

Art Historian, Curator & Director of
Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art

Through the numerous watercolors by Vangelis Pliarides, one can enter a space and time utterly subjective and enigmatic. The laws of reality cease to exist (bodies are often invertebrate, or even permeable), ghosts are real and singing songs, often made of sharp looks or deafening silences.

Then again, perhaps in this pictorial world, the laws of reality apply more than anywhere else. The vast world of desire meets the finite world and cracks, holes, wounds and fantasies are established for good. In this world, individual memory (which one might call it imagination if they did not believe in its power), shaped in the innermost recesses of the Self, seems to launch a full-scale attack on the order and logic of what we call "reality."

The hybrid body figures of Pliarides (the body is still the embankment of the "new age") are fluid and unpredictable, often fragmented and cracked, crowded and insolent, obsessive and curious, unfaithful and undying, familiar and immature, potentially competitive and therefore threatening or threatened. And so, the artist renews the exhausted symbolic repertoire of identity with great doses of vitality, incorporating the repertoire of difference to it. This is where the Ego fleetingly meets the Other in order to create the real condition for both sides to change, perhaps for us spectators to change as well.

His Garden is not an Academy. Tourists, hunters, wannabe conquerors, invalids, couples, balls, swim rings, coconut trees and tropical huts create the narrative setting. Traveling, places, love, accidents, violence and tenderness, broken men and women, where topsy-turvy life seems to be his endless pool of inspiration.

Pliarides' paintings and journey draw a large map from Laos to South Africa, from Sri Lanka to Burma and from Thailand to Cambodia. In this map, art is reinvented not as a visual universe but as a representative enigma, an existential bet, a metaphysical challenge, a visual paradox, theological hubris, anthropological threat.

Thus, the wild joy in the paintings of Pliarides vividly redefines the notions and nuances of contemporary painting. This chapter had a triumphant opening in the 1980's in the wake of the exciting times of abstraction painting claiming the freedom of gesture, yet hasn't closed yet with the paradoxically concurrent recognition of traces of the collapse of faith in the modernity of such expressions.

In these watercolors of Pliarides there is the representation or a "creation" of space of a psychoanalytical anthropology, along with the idea of a utopic Paradise (or an almost demonic Hell).

With his solid techniques and stylistic thematic orientation, Pliarides can awaken all of our nightmares along with the hedonistic side of life. While preserving his own moral independence as an artistic subject, he often presents an allegorical, almost cinematic dimension to the episodes of his narratives. The emotional resonances are well hidden in his imagery of tropical forests and strange heroes, while the painter painstakingly draws the "diary of his day and night". Those who live with love and lust at all times. Even if they get sent to hell by mistake, the devil himself will send them back to Paradise.

June 2018

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). 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

2018	<i>Vangelis Pliarides: Traveling Watercolors 2007-2017</i> , Christine Park Gallery, New York <i>Paradise Islands</i> , Ypsilon, Thessaloniki	2004	<i>ARCO</i> (Tsatsis Projects), Madrid <i>Art Athina</i> (Tsatsis Projects), Athens Andre Zarre Gallery, New York Artforum Berlin (Tsatsis Projects), Berlin Diaspro Art Center, Nicosia
2017	<i>Vangelis Pliarides – The Last Ten Years</i> , Museum of Ptolemaida, Ptolemaida		
2014	<i>Vangelis Pliarides</i> , Christine Park Gallery, London <i>Recent Paintings</i> , Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens	2002	Galerie Pohlhammer, Steyr Rocket Shop, Berlin Statement Gallery, Athens
2012	<i>Café Bar: The Last Days of Your Life</i> , Donopoulos Fine Arts, Thessaloniki	2001	Artforum, Thessaloniki
2009	Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens	2000	Galerie Pohlhammer, Steyr
2007	<i>Sani Festival</i> , Tsatsis Projects- Artforum, Chalkidiki	1999	Gallery Foka, Thessaloniki
2006	<i>Same same but different</i> , Thanassis Frissiras Gallery, Athens	1998	Artforum, Thessaloniki
2005	Tsatsis Projects, Thessaloniki <i>Love Dreams</i> , MCO Arte Contemporanea, Porto	1996	Strand Galeri, Södertälje
		1989	Strand Galeri, Södertälje

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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

2004 *The Estranged Human Figure: Collection*, Frissiras Museum, Spanbroek
 Frissia Museum, Spanbroek
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, Epidaurus
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 Konig & 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 in 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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