

# CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY

## Vangelis Pliarides

14 October – 15 November 2014

### Private View & Reception

Monday 13 October 2014, 6-9pm

35 Riding House Street, London W1W 7EA

Opening Hours: Tue-Sat, 11am-6pm & by appointment

### For immediate release

Christine Park Gallery is delighted to present the first UK solo exhibition of prominent Greek artist Vangelis Pliarides.

Pliarides' paintings explore the negotiation of life's primal nature – love, death, betrayal, marriage and separation, and the pursuit of happiness – through a personal perspective perhaps best exemplified in *Lost*. His personal philosophy permeates surrealist scapes imbuing reality with paradoxical dreamlike-concepts. The narrative is one of plurality where the important and the unimportant cohabit, humorously mixing reality with surreality.

Inspired by his extensive travels and experiences around the world, particularly his extended time in the Philippines, each work is an elaborately constructed performance displaying the strength of the characters and their desire. At the same time, human weakness and decay are evident in the deliberate deconstruction and aging of the canvas, reflecting man's desire for control and the ability to harness time as seen in *The Old Man with the Fifty Pound Bill*. The paradoxical nature of life can be seen in the *Death of Magellan* where reality adopts ritual significance – as the vanquished becomes the victor his relentless desire for adventure is vindicated. This theme of obsession can also be found in the excesses of *Betrayal* which epitomise the reckless urge to betray.

While a painting may represent history or a scene from Pliarides' life, it is not an attempt to rewrite history but rather a way of understanding events in the wider context of life's cycle, and in so doing embracing the humorous perspective in spite of the somber dynamics of desire, death and life. Ultimately, the overarching narrative is of the prevalence of nature over all else and the realisation of man's inevitable inconsequence.

Vangelis Pliarides splits his time between London and Thessaloniki. He is Associate Professor in Fine Art at Aristotle University, Thessaloniki. - *Hannah Parsons*

## **About us**

Christine Park Gallery exhibits works by established and emerging international contemporary artists. Located in the heart of London's Fitzrovia, the Gallery is dedicated to the discovery of new, locally emerging talents, whilst also exhibiting works from internationally acclaimed artists. The extensive programme of solo shows, conceptually curated group exhibitions and special installations of new art projects are intended to expand the boundaries of the current contemporary art scene. Aiming to build a fresh and dynamic platform for contemporary art, the Gallery encourages cross-cultural exchange with the audience, in addition to being a commercial space that artists can use as a canvas to realise their projects and present their new works to the public.

For further information and press inquiries, please contact Christine Park at [christine@christinepark.net](mailto:christine@christinepark.net).