

# Greek treasures on display in Vail

VAIL, Colorado — Cogswell Gallery is pleased to host the Konstantino Trunk Show, featuring new work from famed Greek jewelry designer Konstantino Sioulas beginning Wednesday and continuing through the season. To celebrate the new work, an artist representative will visit Cogswell Gallery on Wednesday. Old-world craftsmanship is the signature of Greek jeweler-master Konstantino Sioulas — who goes by his first name only. In line

with the Gallery's high standards in creativity and technical quality, Konstantino delivers modern expressions of ancient Greek artifacts: a combination of 18k gold, sterling silver, gemstones, precious stones and ancient coins in an unusual mix of etching and hammering. The byzantine influence, combined with skilled craftsmanship, results in dramatic and ornate pieces.

Collections are named after the Greek gods and goddesses after whom

they are inspired, such as the Aphrodite, featuring In the Athena line, Konstantino employs the intaglio technique, in which the cross is engraved out of the mother-of-pearl stone.

Konstantino clearly finds inspiration in the geography and ancient history of his homeland.

"Greece, for me, is a land of magnificent contrasts," Konstantino said. "Blinding light and forbidding darkness. Crashing seas and arid farmland.



Frenetic cosmopolitan cities amid ancient ruins and lost temples ... ancient elements are etched in my soul, so every piece I design possesses my essence, my experiences, and my passion for Greece."



## Christmas Sweets

*In the past, the honey cookies (melomakarona) were made exclusively for Christmas, while sugar cookies, or kourabiedes, were prepared for the New Year. Today, though, this distinction is not observed anymore and both melomakarona and kourabiedes are prepared and consumed throughout the festive season.*

*Another traditional custom that dates back to the Byzantine times is the slicing of the Vassilopita (Basil's cake or New Year Cake). The person who finds the hidden coin in his/her slice of the cake, is considered to be blessed for the rest of the year.*

# Papandreou rules out cooperation scenario

**Main opposition PASOK leader George Papandreou again reiterated his call for early general elections -- the last were held in September 2007 -- due to the "prolonged crisis" and lack of leadership, as he called it, in published statements on Sunday appearing in an Athens weekly.**

Papandreou qualified his statement by saying he wants early elections after a quick resolution to the Vatopedi land swap furor, while also reiterating that his aim is a "clear electoral victory" and Parliament major-

ity.

In commenting on a series of press articles and speculation last week over possible cooperation -- i.e. consent in appointing key ministers -- with ruling New Democracy, Papandreou categorically ruled out any such prospect.

"The economy's salvation is not an issue for technocrats. It is a matter of trust and political direction, one that is radically different from that of the current government," he said.

Asked about "cooperation" with the Radical Left Coalition (SYRIZA), the junior leftist faction in Parliament, Papandreou repeated that a majority government is his aim, although such a

goal does not come in opposition to cooperation.

"We will pursue post-election cooperation, because we want to unite our forces, even if on specific targets."

Conversely, SYRIZA grouping head Alekos Alavanos flatly rejected cooperation with PASOK, further adding that ND-PASOK cooperation is no solution.

Interestingly enough, Alavanos referred to a "singular co-governance" between ruling ND, the Communist Party (KKE) and the rightist Popular Orthodox Rally (LA.OS), while indirectly criticising KKE for its continued sniping at SYRIZA.

### **Pavlopoulos interview**

In a separate interview in the same weekly, Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos warned against speculation and "leaks" of a coming Cabinet reshuffle.

"No one can recommend to the prime minister if they should or should not remain in a minister's post," he said, while ruling out the possibility of early elections.

"Unless, of course, PASOK does not want to cooperate on electing (via Parliament MP vote) a new president of the republic," Pavlopoulos added.

All three political leaders were quoted by the new weekly "Real news".

## Church is relaxed on scrapping of oath

Archbishop Ieronymos, the head of the Church of Greece, has suggested in an interview with Sunday's Kathimerini that he would not stand in the way of the abolition of Greeks having to take a religious oath in various walks of life.

Swearing-in ceremonies are carried out across various professions, including for MPs, soldiers and civil servants. Ieronymos did not specify whether he would be comfortable with an across-the-board abolition of the practice or just in specific areas.

"The abolition of the religious oath does not create any problems for the Church -- in fact, it is the consequence of its teaching, which is that 'yes' should mean 'yes' and 'no' should mean 'no,'" he said.

Ieronymos added that taking an oath does not prevent people from doing wrong "when the inner person has been destroyed."

The idea of scrapping the religious oath is nothing new and has been brought up from time to time, particularly by the parties of the left, as has the idea of a clear separation between the Church and the state.

Ieronymos suggested that the latter idea is being put forward by "certain ideological groups" whose main aim is to "wipe out the spiritual influence of the Church of Greece on Greek society."

Nevertheless, the archbishop said that he would not stand in the way of such a separation if it was what Greeks truly want. "If the state wants such a separation, it has the opportunity, if not the duty, to put it to the judgment of the Greek people, who should decide what they want."

Commenting on recent events in Athens, Ieronymos went on to say that it was "natural" for young people to protest but he condemned the destruction.

## Hunter's death probed further

Police in northwestern Greece were yesterday questioning several members of a hunting party after ballistics tests proved that their claims that one of the group had slipped and shot himself were false.

The 32-year-old man was killed while hunting for wild boar near Arta on December 26. He went on the trip with several members of his family and friends.

Police were told that the man had leaned on his hunting rifle when he slipped on a hillside and that it had gone off, shooting him in the side of the chest.

However, a postmortem examination carried out in Ioannina on Saturday indicated that the man, who was not named, had been shot from a distance of some 20 meters. Police have confiscated all the rifles used by the party in a bid to establish whether the man was shot, most probably accidentally, by another member of the party.

There have been several occasions recently when hunters have been accidentally killed by friends who have mistaken their movements for those of a wild boar.