

# Coffee may protect against oral cancers



New York. New research indicates that drinking coffee lowers the risk of developing cancer of the oral cavity or throat, at least in the general population of Japan, Reuters reports.

The consumption of coffee in Japan is relatively high, as is the rate of cancer of the esophagus in men. To look into any protective effect of coffee drinking, Dr. Toru Naganuma of Tohoku University, Sendai, and colleagues, analyzed data from the population-based Miyagi Cohort Study in Japan.

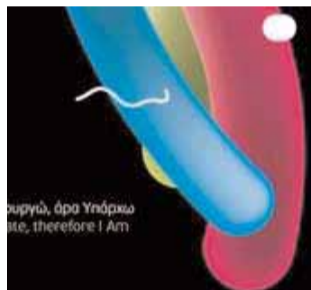
The study included information about diet, including coffee consumption. Among more than 38,000 study participants aged 40 to 64 years with no prior history of cancer, 157 cases of cancer of the mouth, pharynx and esophagus occurred during 13 years of

follow up. Compared with people who did not drink coffee, those who drank one or more cups per day had half the risk of developing these cancers, Naganuma's group reports in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

They note that the reduction in risk included people who are at high risk for these cancers, namely, those who were current drinkers and/or smokers at the start of the study.

"We had not expected that we could observe such a substantial inverse association with coffee consumption and the risk of these cancers," Naganuma commented to Reuters Health, "and the inverse association in high-risk groups for these cancers as well."

## "Visual Arts in Greece" "And now?"



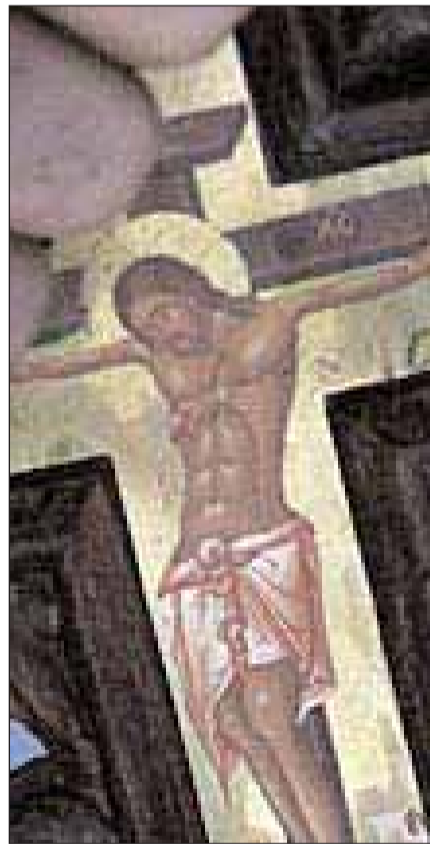
And now... "Visual Arts in Greece III", that organises the State Museum of Contemporary Art for third continuous year and will run until 22 February 2009.

More than 100

work that have been done by 45 artists under the general title of this year's central exhibition "And now?" are presented in the exhibition spaces of State Museum of Contemporary Art at Lazariston Abbey in Stayroypoli.

It is an annual event, that was realised with success for first time two years ago and it aims at the recording, filing and the multifaceted support presentation of all figurative activity and thought in Greece. In the frame of this was created also a relative web page [www.visualarts.gr](http://www.visualarts.gr), in which people can look up at the whole exhibition action of the last two years. The work that will be presented is emanated from exhibitions that became from figurative in museums, gallery and other spaces of art the year that passed from September 2007 until August 2008 covering all the breadth of figurative media. The exhibition will be framed with parallel activities, as conference, meeting, educational programs, access program for people with partial or total loss of sight, conducted tours and musical nights.

# Epiphany observed throughout Greece



*The religious feast of Epiphany was observed throughout Greece on Tuesday with the traditional Blessing of the Waters.*

The ritual commemorates Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan, and according to St. John Chrysostom the day is called Epiphany, (from the Greek word for 'manifestation', 'epifania') because Jesus Christ manifested Himself to all people not when He was born but, rather, when He was baptized.

On Epiphany daring Greeks brave the cold waters to dive for the cross after it has been blessed by a priest and thrown into the water, and the one who recovers the cross is blessed with good luck throughout the year.

Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece officiated at the main ceremony in Piraeus, Greece's largest port, with three Navy minesweepers on guard, while mem-

bers of the Greek Seals dove for the cross.

Representing the government at the ceremony was employment and social protection minister Fani Palli-Petralia, who said afterwards that "the strength of our democracy is solidarity, respect for principles and values", adding that what was needed most was "unity and consensus in these very difficult hours the country is going through".

"Today is a very substantial and symbolic day for Orthodoxy and Hellenism. Let it also serve as a springboard for social justice and the progress of our society," Petralia added. Former parliament president Apostolos Kaklamanis, representing the main opposition PASOK party, voiced the hope that the new year will be peaceful for the country and the region.

He warned that "the massacre in Gaza gives rise to grave dangers for the wider region", and called for more responsibility by those who are governing the country, adding that "the political world should confront the problems responsibly".

Also in attendance were Piraeus mayor Panayiotis Fasoulas, Athens-Piraeus supra-prefect Constantina Bei, Piraeus prefect Yiannis Michas, MPs from all the political parties, local representatives and a large gathering of people.

In Athens, the city's mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis attended the Blessing of the Waters at the Dexameni in Kolonaki district. After the ceremony, Kaklamanis appealed for a straightforward condemnation, without any attempt at justification, "of violence and terrorism, from wherever they may originate".

He also appealed to police officers for self-restraint and discipline "although I acknowledge their emotional state due to the cowardly terrorist murder attempt against a young colleague of theirs".

## PM: Humanity is facing a common challenge

Prime minister Costas Karamanlis said on Tuesday that humanity was facing a common challenge to consolidate principles that guarantee a better and safer future and safeguard democracy, in statements after the Epiphany ceremony of the Blessing of the Waters in the coastal port town of Rafina.

"Today the difficult, for the entire world, conjuncture that is putting us all to the test. The international financial crisis is testing our endurance. At a time when, very close to us, lives are being lost and fellow human beings are suffering, the challenge is a common one for all of us," Karamanlis said.

The common challenge, he stressed, consisted of "consolidating principles that guarantee a safer future, a better future, rebaptizing ourselves in the humanitarian values and solidarity, and safeguarding

democracy and the just state from acts of violence from wherever they originate".

"With maturity, mutual understanding, responsibility, belief in our abilities, and a sense of social and national responsibility, we can and will succeed in this," the prime minister said.

Earlier, Karamanlis and his wife attended the liturgy at the Birth of the Virgin church in Rafina, where the prime minister resides, followed by the traditional Blessing of the Waters ceremony in the town's port.

The prime minister was originally scheduled to attend the Blessing of the Waters on the island of Kythira, but the visit was cancelled after the issue of a ban on sailings due to high winds.