

# Greece's leading academic and artist to launch new works in Australia

Esteemed Greek artist and academic, Dr Platon Alexiou will exhibit 40 new works for the first time in Perth and Sydney. The exhibition entitled *Kastellorizo: from Ancient to Modern* depicts the island of Kastellorizo, Greece's most eastern Aegean island.

Dr Alexiou was commissioned by the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo as part of its youth and cultural program to paint historical perspectives of Kastellorizo for a new children's book in Greek and English to be launched in 2010.

Historian and artist Dr Platon Alexiou said he was inspired by the sea, the culture and the history of Kastellorizo.

"Despite being such a tiny and remote island, it had a great civilization unique in the Greek region. These works celebrate that, but they also bring it to life to spark the imagination and remind people of what things were really like," Dr Platon Alexiou said.

Kastellorizo is a tiny, 9.8 square kilometre island in Greece where some 150,000 Australians have their ancestral roots. Migration to Australia from the island began in the mid 19th century with the first Kastellorizian arriving in Perth in 1890.

Kastellorizo is unique in its location off the coast of Turkey, where east meets west. Famous ancient Greek heroes such as Achilles and Hercules passed nearby on their way to the Trojan War. Kastellorizo has been occupied by Dorians, Romans, Spaniards, Venetians, Ottomans, Italians, French and Britons.

"As an art historian and modern painter I believe that there is no present without the past. The past has always been a source of inspiration and education for whatever is created in modern times," Dr Alexiou said.

"We need to learn the stories of the past, because it helps us to know ourselves, and to learn from the progress of history. Art is as important as writing and story telling in recording events and places in time."



## Exhibition Details

- Perth 31 May 3.00-5.30pm
- Sydney 14 June 3.00-5.30pm

Castellorizian House,  
160 Anzac Rd, Mt Hawthorn  
The Eastern Hotel,  
500 Oxford St, Bondi Junction

[www.platonalexiou.gr](http://www.platonalexiou.gr)

### Studies

*Doctorate in History of Art and Archaeology-Athens University  
Art and Design at Leeds – England (BA Hons)  
MA in Interior and Stage design – Leeds-England  
Author of six books, twenty one catalogues and articles concerning colour, art, design and theatre.*

*Member of the Greek Art Society-Athens*

*Member of the International Art Critics and Historians AICA*

*Professor in Higher Education – Athens.*

*Art Works Painting and Sculpture exhibitions*

*(11 solo and 20 group exhibitions)*

### Solo Exhibitions

- 1979 photography – Leeds Gallery – Leeds-England
- 1986 painting, Gallery "De Kiriko", Athens
- 1988 sculpture-new technologies, Gallery "De Kiriko" Athens
- 1995 painting and sculpture, European Institute, Patmos
- 1995 painting, Gallery Astivi-Patmos
- 1996 painting – sculpture Hotel Xenia, Drama
- 1996 painting – sculpture Gallery Ersi, Athens
- 2000 painting – sculpture Gallery Epoches, Athens
- 2001 painting – sculpture Cultural Centre, Patmos
- 2005 theatre-stage designs, theatre Altera Pars, Athens
- 2008 painting – sculpture, Hotel Ariti, Athens

### Group Exhibitions Participation

*in twenty group exhibitions including Museum Benaki, Museum Vorre, Goethe Institute, Municipality of Athens Cultural Centre, Greek Art Society Exhibition Centre, etc.*

*Art works can be found in private houses, public institutes, foundations and churches in Greece and overseas. (England, Australia, Germany, Cyprus, Italy etc.)*

### Dr Platon Alexiou

Dr Platon Alexiou is a Professor at the University of Athens with a Doctorate in the History of Art & Archaeology. He has also completed a BA with Honours in Art and Design from Leeds, England. Dr Alexiou has exhibited many paintings and sculptures in galleries such as the Benaki Museum and Vore Museum in Athens, Greece.

### About AFK

Australian Friends of Kastellorizo (AFK) is a not for profit organisation that was established to help create a positive future for Kastellorizo through a range of activities aimed at assisting the island, including environmental; educational; cultural and economic initiatives.

[www.australianfriendskastellorizo.org](http://www.australianfriendskastellorizo.org)



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