

Launch of Beyond Maturity Blues targeting Italian, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese communities in NSW

On Monday 30 November 2009, the Council on the Ageing (COTA) NSW's Seniors Peer Education Centre will hold the official launch of an innovative program for older people from Sydney's ethnic communities.



The program is a joint initiative between COTA and beyondblue; the national initiative on depression. The program – Beyond Maturity Blues – aims to

raise awareness and understanding of depression in older people from Italian, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese communities. To achieve this aim,

volunteers from those communities are recruited, trained and supported to deliver information sessions in their own language to their peers.

COTA NSW has partnered with the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW, to assist with the training, sourcing and promotion of the program.

Dougie Wells, Team Leader of the Seniors Peer Education Centre, said: "We know that seniors whose first language is not English can have problems accessing good quality information about their health. Providing the talk on depression to older people in their own first language is a very positive step in helping them meet that need".

The program will be launched by Pino Migliorino,

Managing Director of the Cultural & Indigenous Research Centre Australia, and also Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing.

Volunteers recruited for the program, and representatives from Italian, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese organisations with an interest in older people will attend the event, which will be held at the Sydney School of Mechanic Arts building at Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney between 10.00am and 12.00pm on Monday 30 November 2009.

'The origins of El Greco - The art of icon painting in Venetian Crete'

A special exhibition featuring exceptional works Domenikos Theotokopoulos, the prominent Cretan-born painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance who is better known as El Greco (The Greek), opened in New York at the Onassis Cultural Center on Tuesday.

The exhibition "The origins of El Greco - The art of icon painting in Venetian Crete" will run until Feb 27, 2010 and includes 47 works, among them, 6 rare icons, made by the artist. The formal inauguration will be made by Culture and



Tourism Minister Pavlos Geroulanos and Archbishop of Crete Erineos on December 8.

The icons on display come from the Municipal

Museum of Heraklion, Crete, the Metropolis of Syros, the Benaki Museum, the National Gallery of Greece and the Queen's University, Kingston, in

Ontario, Canada.

Eleven exquisite icons from the Collection of Ecclesiastical Art of Saint Catherine of the Sinaites in Heraklion, Crete, will be at the core of the exhibition.

According to Curator of the Byzantine Collection at the Benaki Museum and exhibition curator Dr. Anastasia Drandaki, "The icon painters in the workshops on Crete in the 15th and 16th centuries were renowned for their skill in painting impeccable panels not only in the traditional Byzantine manner but also in a style inspired by Western models."



Greek-Canadian Becomes X-Factor Star in Greece

Eleni Alexandris, a Greek-Canadian from Toronto is one of the most popular participants of X-Factor, Greece's largest talent show. Eleni has won over the judges who talk about "the show's greatest discovery until now", but she has also created a large following in Greece and Canada. The X-Factor is on every Friday night on ANT1 TV.

Schools a hotbed of racism: study

MORE than two-thirds of young people are the victims of racism at school, with first-generation migrant women in years 11 and 12 most at risk.

A national study has found that racism permeates Australian schools, with 80 per cent of secondary students from non-Anglo backgrounds and 55 per cent of students from Anglo backgrounds saying they had experienced racial vilification.

Interviews conducted with 900 secondary school students across Australia also found Anglo-Australian youths displayed consistent prejudice towards other cultural groups, particularly towards darker-skinned students from places such as Africa and India.

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN GREEK STUDIES SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES CONFERENCE ON THE PROJECT OF AUTONOMY AND THE LEGACY OF CORNELIUS CASTORIADIS

Autonomy represents one of the most paradoxical projects after Enlightenment.

Cornelius Castoriadis is one of the most challenging thinkers who struggled with the antinomic nature of the need to become autonomous within social structures that impose and institute heteronomous subjectivities. The workshop wants to discuss the ambiguities of the autonomy project through its problematisation in Castoriadis' work. It invites papers on autonomy, heteronomy, politics, psychology and citizenship within the context of contemporary philosophical discussions and political discourses on subjectivity, identity and belonging.

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