

Drape: Classical Mode to Contemporary Dress

2 December 2009 – 27 June 2010

Opening 2nd December, the National Gallery of Victoria will present a spectacular collection of works in Drape: Classical Mode to Contemporary Dress.

The exhibition will feature over 30 works primarily drawn from the NGV's holdings of fashion and textiles, as well as key loans. Sculpture, paintings, decorative arts and photography, from antiquity to the present day will also be on display.

Drape will showcase elegant gowns from the 19th century to more contemporary works including designs by Dolce & Gabbana and Comme des Garçons among others.

Paola Di Trocchio, Assistant Curator, International Fashion and Textiles, NGV said that bodies have been adorned in draped cloth since classical times.

"After animal skins, draped woven cloth was the first means of clothing, and in Ancient Greece, was worn in countless configurations to indicate class, gender and social positioning.

"Over time, the wearing of loose cloth has become associated with elegance, timelessness, comfort,

wealth, prestige, divinity and barbarism," said Ms Di Trocchio.

Drape will explore the practice of arranging cloth on the body in two dominant modes, clinging drape and elevated drape.

Clinging drape relies on direct contact between the body and the cloth, as in classical sculpture, while elevated drape shows fabric theatrically sculptured away from the body, similar to the gathering of cloth over crinolines and bustles.

Frances Lindsay, Deputy Director, NGV said: "The draped form has been a constant feature throughout the history of art. This exhibition will delight visitors with the myriad of ways in which artists and designers have produced timeless works with this fashion



feature." This exhibition will include antiquities from classical Greece and Rome displaying the complex art of wrapping and cinching. These works will be shown alongside more contemporary pieces by designers such as Rei Kawakubo, Vivienne Westwood, Gianni Versace, Christian Dior, Balenciaga and Hussein Chalayan whose creations reference the history of drape. Drape: Classical Mode to Contemporary Dress will be on display in the Myer Fashion & Textiles Gallery at NGV International, St Kilda Road from 2 December 2009 to 27 June 2010. NGV International is open 10am-5pm, closed Tuesdays. Admission to this exhibition is free. Principal Sponsor: Myer Support Sponsor: Sofitel For further information, please visit ngv.vic.gov.au

Greek Orthodox church sues Turkey over access to religious sites in Cyprus

Church goes before European court alleging Greek Cypriot faithful barred from worshipping in Turkish-controlled north

The Greek Orthodox church of Cyprus has taken Turkey to the European court of human rights over allegedly preventing the 500 Greek Cypriots living in the Turkish north worshipping at religious sites there, a church lawyer said today.

The lawsuit concerns 520 churches, monasteries, chapels and cemeteries under Turkish control since Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974, said Simos Angelides. The north's Greek Cypriot community cannot worship at these sites because they are either derelict or have been converted into mosques, army barracks, stables or night-clubs, he added.

Turkish officials were not immediately available for comment. The Mediterranean island is split along religious as well as ethnic lines. The Greek-Cypriot south, seat of the



country's internationally recognised government, is overwhelmingly Greek Orthodox. The Turkish-Cypriot north is Muslim, but some 500 Greek Cypriots still live there.

The lawsuit will likely further stoke tensions between Turkish Cypriots and the church leader, Archbishop Chrysostomos II, whom they see as an outspoken but influential

hardliner representing a nationalist fringe.

It is unlikely, however, to damage ongoing reunification talks between the Greek Cyprus president, Dimitris Christofias, and Turkish Cypriot leader, Mehmet Ali Talat.

Although critical of Christofias' handling of the talks, Chrysostomos has been careful not to interfere, saying the lawsuit

is not linked to the peace process. The church is suing Turkey because the court's past rulings hold that country responsible for the north, where it keeps 35,000-strong military force, Chrysostomos told the Associated Press.

The church has "documented proof" of the destruction of religious sites in the north, and will seek unrestricted access to its property there so the faithful can worship freely, he said.

The archbishop added that the church was also seeking damages for being denied use of property that should be restored to its pre-invasion condition wherever possible.

"It's obvious that the only reason why these aforementioned rights are being violated is because we are Greek Cypriot Orthodox Christians," Chrysostomos said.



Multicultural communities involved in mental health project

Stepping in early to help resolve the legal problems of people from multicultural backgrounds with mental health issues is producing positive change in practical ways, says the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC).

Tomorrow at NSW Parliament House, PIAC launches the Mental Health Legal Services project, an initiative backed by the NSW Attorney General, The Hon John Hatzistergos (photo).

PIAC established the project with funding support from Legal Aid NSW. The NSW Public Purpose Fund with the support of the NSW Attorney General has funded four service delivery pilot projects. The Federal Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland, has provided further financial support.

This funding has enabled PIAC to:

- place a lawyer with the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW (MDAA);
- place a lawyer at the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS);
- place a social worker at Shopfront Youth Legal Centre, a joint project of Mission Australia, the Salvation Army and the law firm Freehills;
- place an Aboriginal mental health worker with the Gamarada Indigenous Men's Healing Program.

'Each of the four pilot projects adds a specialist worker to an existing health, community or legal service.

This enables holistic service delivery that can at once meet the legal, practical and emotional support needs of people with mental illness,' said PIAC Chief Executive Officer Ms Robin Banks.

'Many people with mental illness are living with complex, entrenched problems and often have great difficulty in accessing appropriate services. These pilot projects aim to resolve those current problems and prevent further problems from occurring,' Ms Banks said.

'There is a domino effect that flows from these projects. By addressing legal and other needs such as accommodation, employment and mental health treatment, people are experiencing better outcomes and an overall improvement in quality of life,' Ms Banks said.