# **CONFLICT IN THE LAND OF THE MINOTAUR**

ARTISTS' STATEMENT.

As the title suggests the exhibition has as its theme both conflict and reference to the mythology of the Minotaur and the land of the Minotaur, the island of Crete.

The conflict I have set out to explore was the 2nd WW Battle of Crete, a short bloody battle that saw Crete invaded by German paratroopers, who in the end successfully drove the Allied forces of Australia, New Zealand & Britain off the island.

I have had a long creative relationship with Greece and the seeds of the idea of this exhibition were sown in 1984 when at the invitation of the Australian Embassy in Athens I exhibited work done on the Greek island of Leros in Crete for the 43rd Anniversary of the Battle of Crete.

While on Crete for my exhibition, I saw in such an old landmass, as Crete, rich with both myth & history an extraordinary moment, when young Australian soldiers fought for their life.

So, in 1990 I returned to Crete with my family and spent an 18 month period producing a series of works that related to the Battle, but, I also wove ancient myth into the works.

These works were then exhibited in Crete in May of 1991 as part of the Australian Governments contribution to the 50th Anniversary of the Battle.

On my return to Australia I further explored the theme &

To be opened by:
His Excellency, Mr Alexios Christopoulos, Ambassador of Greece
An exhibition of works on paper created while living in Greece in the 1980s and '90s, weaving together the historically significant Battle of Crete with personal memories and ancient myths.

Exhibition opens 2:00pm, Saturday 17 April
Exhibition continues until Sunday 2 May
Meet the Artist: 4:00pm, Saturday 24 April

interviewed sever "Aussie Diggers" who had fought in the Battle. I then incorporated some of the experiences they related to me into my work & with the work I had completed

in Crete I held a large solo exhibition at the Australian War Memorial in 2005.

As an artist, I felt the need to express both historical fact as well as weaving myth &

memory into my work & in this exhibition I have set out to do that.

Michael Winters, Canberra.

photo: wounded Troops at the Church at Imvros

# Η ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ ΣΑΣ ΘΑ ΒΟΗΘΗΣΕΙ ΝΑ ΣΥΜΠΕΡΙΛΗΦΘΕΙ Η ΝΕΟΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ ΣΤΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑΣ!!!

Ensure the Modern Greek language is included in the National Schools Curriculum by signing the petition and sending it to the address below

## Υπογράψτε την αίτηση και στείλτε τη στην αναπληρώτρια πρωθυπουργό Τζούλια Γκίλλαρντ

The Hon Julia Gillard MP Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Education

PO Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

F: (02) 6273 4115 E: Julia.Gillard.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

## RE: AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES CURRICULUM

In March 2008, you announced that the National Curriculum will include a languages curriculum from 2011. A later announcement committed \$62.4 million to Asian language education by then.

As an Australian of Hellenic descent, I share the Federal Government's concern that only thirteen per cent of Year 12 students in this country study a language. I believe part of the solution is for study of languages (including Modern Greek as an option) to be compulsory for all students (K-12).

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Group of Eight Universities have all called for greater emphasis on the teaching of languages. The Australian Federal Police, the Australian Defence Force and non-government aid agencies continue to cry out for multilingual personnel, as did *The Flood Report* on intelligence.

According to as John Byron, Director, Australian Academy of the Humanities, "There is plenty of anecdotal and research evidence that we are failing to pursue all the alternatives we can in trade to do business with those willing to speak their language".

The Australian Curriculum should include compulsory language education (including Modern Greek) alongside English, Science and History. Integral to the study of a particular language is the study, and understanding, of the cultural context that developed that language.

Numerous studies have illustrated how the systematic study of grammar improves students' written expression. This is also borne out by multilingual students, who transfer their learning of their second language (such as Modern Greek) into their learning of English.

Parents, principals and other stakeholders in Australian education need to be reminded that the Federal Government thinks that the study of the rest of the world is important. The introduction of language education (including Modern Greek) as a formal part of the Australian Curriculum cements learning and Australia in its regional and global context.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

## PETITION | AITHMA

Προς τον Αξιότιμο Πρόεδρο και τα Μέλη της Βουλής Το παρόν αίτημα

Gallery Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm Tuesday-SundayRSVP: info@belconnenartscentre.com.au

Ορισμένων Αυστραλών πολιτών συμπεριλαμβανομένων αντιπροσώπων της κοινότητας, εκπαιδευτικών, πολιτικών οργανισμών και ιδρυμάτων σε ολόκληρη τη χώρα,

## φέρει στην προσοχή του σώματος

Το σημαντικό θέμα της περίληψης της Νεοελληνικής γλώσσας στο Εθνικό Πρόγραμμα Διδασκαλίας, ως γλώσσας πολιτισμικής, κοινοτικής, ιστορικής και οικονομικής σημασίας για την Αυστραλία και τον αυστραλιανό λαό.

### Ως εκ τούτου ζητάμε από τη Βουλή

Να μεριμνήσει, ώστε να περιληφθεί η Νεοελληνική γλώσσα στο Εθνικό Πρόγραμμα Διδασκαλίας, που διαμορφώνει η Επιτροπή Διαμόρφωσης του Εθνικού Προγράμματος.

Translation by Kostas Nikolopoulos (Professional Translator, No 10811)

NAME ONOMA

To the Honourable Speaker and the Members of the House of Representatives

This petition of

Certain citizens of Australia including representatives of community, educational, political organisations, institutions and establishments across the country

### draws to the attention of the house

The matter of the importance of including the Modern Greek language in the National Schools Curriculum as a language of cultural, community, historical and economic importance to Australia and the Australian people.

## We therefore ask the House to

Ensure that the Modern Greek language is included in the National Schools Curriculum currently being developed by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority.

SIGNATURE | YNOFPAOH

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Please post this petition to the following address:

Neos Kosmos Petition,
P.O.Box 42, Carlton North, Victoria, 3054

Παρακαλούμε να αποστείλετε το συμπληρωμένο απόκομμα στην ακόλουθη διεύθυνση:

Neos Kosmos Petition, P.O.Box 42, Carlton North, Victoria, 3054