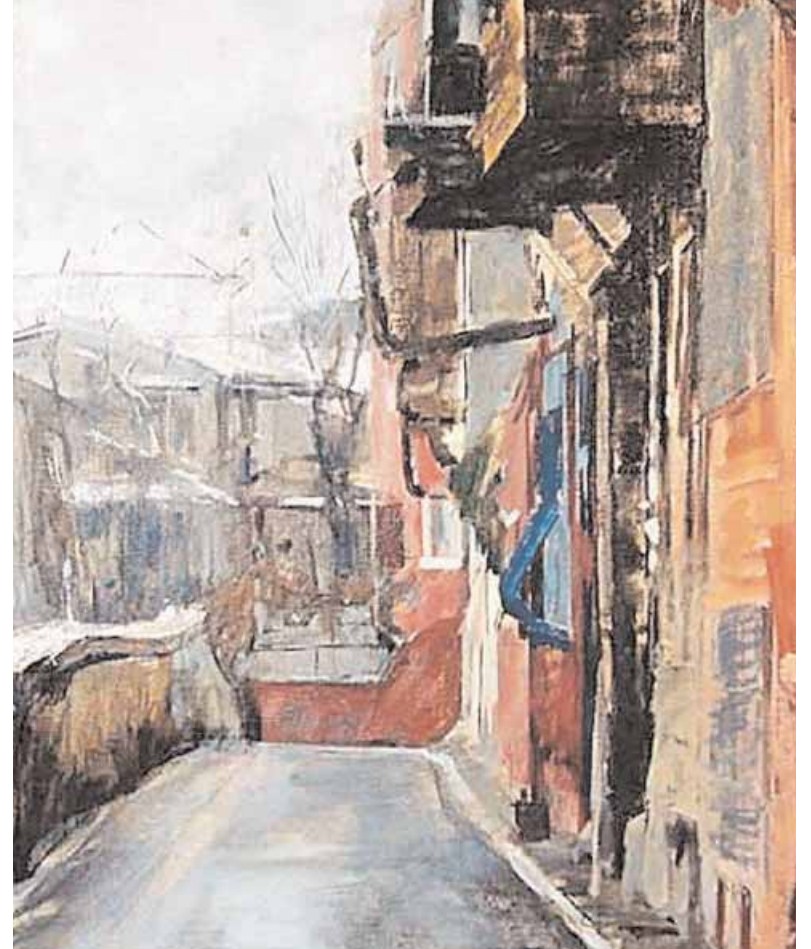




Stelios Alexakis' oil on cardboard, 'Istanbul Cafe'



Halki school's artful experiment

BREAKING a heavy silence of four decades, the Holy Theological School of Halki atop the Hill of Hope on Halki, Princes' Islands, opened its doors to the public on August 29 on the occasion of an exhibition by 101 Greek artists.

Part of the city of Istanbul's festivities as the 2010 European Capital of Culture, this artistic highlight which runs through to September 23 raised expectations regarding the reopening of the patriarchate's foremost institution of religious education.

The school remained open from 1844 through to 1971, when it was closed as a result of a change to Turkish law.

An air of optimism hung over Greek Culture Minister Pavlos Yeroulanos' opening speech in Halki.

"The most beautiful and hopeful historical moments

are those inspiring hopes that something good is due to happen," Yeroulanos said. "It would be no exaggeration to say that circumstances are maturing towards changes we weren't expecting up till now, which are bound, however, to make both Greeks and Turks happy in the future."

All set

Ecumenical Patriarch Vartholomeos saw the Halki exhibition as the precursor of the school's reopening.

"It announces the school's return to operation and indirectly rings the bell for the beginning of classes," he said at the show's inauguration. "...All is set in order to receive students - from the blackboards and desks to the sponges and chalk. Only a signature is yet required."

That the school has been closed to students for four

decades is by no means proof of an institution in decay. Surrounded by a garden of exceptional natural beauty filled with palm trees, bougainvilleas and oleanders, the school occasionally hosts theology and ecology seminars with participants arriving in traditional carriages as cars are not allowed on the Princes' Islands.

Yet another cultural event, a concert by Evanthia Reboutsika (also behind the score of film director Tasos Boulmeti's box-office hit *A Touch of Spice*) is to be held on September 28.

The exhibition, entitled *Tracing Istanbul*, kicked off with a two-day inauguration beginning on August 28 with the opening of the show's first instalment at the Sismanogleio Mansion, which is the consulate-general of Greece's main cultural venue, just off

Istanbul's bustling Taxim Square.

Greek and Turkish officials, representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as well as artists and members of the art-loving-public attended the festivities.

"If the people who have gathered here want something to happen, this should constitute a message for the Turkish government," Turkish historian Ilber Ortayli, who is also the head of Istanbul's prestigious Topkapi Palace Museum, pointed out.

Panorama

Set to travel to the Athens Municipality's Technopolis in October, *Tracing Istanbul* was based on an idea by Anastasia Manou, the director of an eponymous documentary and head of the White Fox company of audiovisual works.

Of different generations and

diverse styles, participating artists - including Daphne Angelidou, Irimi Iliopoulou, Alexis Veroukas, Afroditi Liti, Mark Hadjipateras, George Hadoulis and Maria Filopoulou - delve into the city's history, myths and legends in their attempt to capture its colours, smells and sounds.

They do so using a variety of media, from painting and sculpture to photography and conceptual art. Making up "a panorama of Greek art", according to curator Iris Kritikou, most of the works were created specifically for the exhibition. They bring Istanbul to life through their own mythological references and Byzantine recollections but also scenes of daily life out of the city's streets, churches, coffee shops and markets.

Article from Athens News



1987 Rebetika Songs - Apodimi Compania

"Rembetika" included in Sounds of Australia

Sounds of Australia was launched in 2007 with the announcement of ten foundation sounds for the registry. Each year, the Australian public nominates new sounds to be added with final selections determined by a panel of industry experts. This year the Rebetika Songs were chosen to be included. Rebetika is a music which became popular in the urban underclass of Athens and Piraeus from the 1930s through to the 1950s. A revival in Greece started in the early 1970s and was taken up by a group of young musicians of Greek descent in Melbourne, who became Apodimi Compania. Their first LP, *Rebetika Songs*, was recorded in Melbourne in 1987. In recent years they have based themselves in Greece where they play an important role in the continuity of Rebetika music.

The 2010 list includes other iconic sing-a-long tunes including *From Little Things (Big Things Grow)* by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody (1991), *Bye Bye Baby*, a well-loved rock 'n roll number from Col Joye (1959) and *Wrap Me up in My Stockwhip and Blanket*, by Tex Morton (1936).

And to round out the range of music represented on the registry, the 2010 list also includes classical, jazz and world music, now every bit a part of the Australian psyche as bush ballads and rock music.