

ARTIST PROFILE



Francesca Raft

How did you become involved in the Hellenic Lyceum's "Nurturing Hellenic Heritage the Australian Way" exhibition?

Mata Soti who is on the Hellenic board invited me.

What reasons influenced your decision to accept the invitation?

I felt it to be a very relevant exhibition to be apart of, given my background and heritage, I felt honored to be included.

Was the artwork you are exhibiting especially designed for this event or is it part of your on-going work?

I painted the works especially for the exhibition, the theme is a reoccurring one in my works.

How did Hellenic culture and/or history influence your work?

The beauty and richness of history in the Greek landscape influences my work greatly as it is awe inspiring and potent with mythology and mysticism. I feel it in my blood, in my spirit and am fascinated by how innately it comes through in my work.

How are these influences projected in your work?

I feel it comes through in my works on a subtle level

A Greek-Australian artist: a blessing or a hurdle in getting recognized by the Australian art community?

I've always found it to be a blessing that has worked in my favor, the interconnectedness of the Greek community is very broad and crosses over into the art community. I have made some great Greek connections that have become friends because of my heritage.

Once upon not so long ago, the term "Greek-Australian" artists carried a certain stigma. What issues did you have to overcome on a personal basis?

On a personal level the only thing I have had to overcome has been to except my own Greekness, when its in the blood it's amazing how it permeates into the world / life you live and the people you meet and are attracted too, there is no denying it and I always feel embraced by other Greeks.

Have you got any projects on the pipeline?

I am working towards an exhibition later in the year

Finally, a message to the Greek-Australian community.

Keep nurturing the Hellenic heritage in the arts in Australia!



Ex-SYRIZA leader Alavanos to launch 'Plan B' movement favoring Greek euro exit

Former SYRIZA leader Alekos Alavanos has announced plans to launch a movement that will campaign for Greece to leave the euro.

«All countries have a Plan B for Greece, only Greece does not have a Plan B should it have to leave the euro,» Alavanos told Skai television on Tuesday. He said the movement would aim to stand in the European Parliament elections in 2014 and would favor a return to the drachma.

«If Greece were to exit the European

Union we would be much better off than we are today and would never have had to reach this point,» he said, adding «that no country has ever managed to exit a crisis with a 'hard' currency. The euro is a hard and expensive currency.»

He said that his movement will also favor the nationalization of banks and for Greece to repudiate its debt.

«It is madness to have the same currency as Germany when Germany, unlike us, has a stable economy,» Alavanos said.



Qantas Socceroos Head Coach Holger Osieck today named a 23-player squad that will host Oman in a crucial 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier at Stadium Australia, Sydney on Tuesday 26 March (Kick-off 7:30pm AEDT).

Tim Cahill, Mile Jedinak, Tommy Oar and Tom Rogic return to the Qantas Socceroos squad after missing last month's friendly against Romania and Dino Djulbic receives his second call-up to the Qantas Socceroos squad after making his senior international debut at the EAFF East Asian Cup qualifiers in Hong Kong last December.

Osieck has included six (6) Hyundai A-League players in Eugene Galekovic (Adelaide United), Mark Milligan (Melbourne Victory), Jade North ((Brisbane Roar), Mat Ryan (Central Coast Mariners), Archie Thompson (Melbourne Victory) and Michael Thwaite (Perth Glory).

The Qantas Socceroos will be without the services of Lucas Neill and Carl Valeri who will both serve one match suspensions for the accumulation of yellow cards from previous matches in the tournament.

This will be the seventh meeting

between the Qantas Socceroos and Oman at senior men's international level.

The most recent meeting between the Qantas Socceroos and Oman was in Muscat in June last year where they played out a 0-0 draw in extreme heat.

The Qantas Socceroos are currently ranked 37th in the FIFA World Rankings whilst Oman are 105th (as of 14 February 2013).

The Qantas Socceroos are currently in second position of Group B of the final round of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers with a win against Iraq (2-1), draws against Oman (0-0) & Japan (1-1) and a loss against Jordan (1-2) in matches. Oman are in fourth place of Group B after a win over Jordan (2-1), draws with Australia (0-0) and Iraq (1-1) and two losses to Japan (0-3 & 1-2).

The 2014 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier between the Qantas Socceroos and Oman will be broadcast exclusively live on FOX SPORTS HD 1 from 6.30pm (AEDT).

The exclusive free to air broadcaster SBS TV will broadcast the match on SBS One & SBS HD from 8pm (AEDT).