

ARTIST PROFILE

Maritsa Mikos

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

I have been involved with the Hellenic Lyceum from a very young age, dancing and performing, my mother has been a member for over 20 years. Kathy Stojanovic the president mentioned an art exhibition that was to happen in the near future and asked if I would participate, I then became a member of the subcommittee.

What influenced your decision to accept the invitation?

I accepted the invitation because as an artist I would be involved in a show which would promote my Hellenic roots, something which doesn't happen that often, furthermore I couldn't resist being part of what the Lyceum does, especially a show, they are a great organization, they are passionate about Hellenic culture and I see the organization as an integral part of Australian Culture.

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

I was already working on a body of work (ocean themes) when I spoke with Kathy regarding the show, however I decided to include 'THE BRIDE' as I felt it represented the strong female Greek heritage. Mani is a place where many important stories have been told of female strength and honor, this reflective piece is symbolic of that strength and sometimes the difficulty of decisions made by the women of the village. I remember the many times my

mother and grandmother would tell of stories of pride and honor, it was and still is fascinating to hear.

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

Hellenic culture is present in all that I create, in all that I express be it conscious or not, I am a part of that history and believe one must embrace who they are in order to understand themselves better. When I begin a body of work I allow any influences to be a part of it, in this case my heightened color and obsession with turquoise began when I was doing some art in Greece, Mani, I often remember the Aegean contradicting a raw landscape, the villages would often find me sitting on their land sketching... where I would then listen to great stories of the Taigetos. The Bride on the other hand was a piece which could not escape the power I saw in the women in Mani, a powerful woman is a woman who has the duality of femininity, compassion, love and then the strength of endurance and comradeship. It began as a simple nude and then the veil entered questioning all that is held high in certain societies.

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

I have never really thought of my Hellenic heritage as a stigma, or a hurdle of any kind quite the opposite, people who appreciate art should have that capacity to look beyond. An artist asks his or her viewer to look beyond what they «normally» perceive, to let go and try and have an experience which is honest and free of prejudice..



Have you got any projects on the pipeline?

I am still interested in the ocean, my direct environment, I have the privilege to see its changing face on a daily basis as I live so close to it. The journey of the ocean intrigues me «The more I look at the ocean the more disjointed and abstract it becomes»...

Finally, a message to the Greek-

Australian community.

Hearing the next generation debate and speak at the symposium/ university of Sydney was refreshing, I have a lot of faith in them, they are very involved in promoting and keeping Hellenic culture alive, with confidence, without prejudice and holding onto a culture which has already survived thousands of years...it will survive here in Australia because they want it to.

Turkey responds to Greece's note verbale to UN by issuing its own

Turkey has forwarded a note verbale to the United Nations in response to a Greek one sent to the international organization on February 20, the Greek Foreign Ministry announced late on Tuesday.

According to the Greek Foreign Ministry, the Turkish verbal note challenges the right of the Greek islands to a continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, in violation of article 121 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Athens had submitted a verbal note to the UN notifying international officials of Turkey's granting of exploration permits for areas deemed to cover the Greek continental shelf.

At the time Turkey's Foreign Ministry had issued a statement defending its decision, noting that the permits that had been issued since 2007 to the state-owned oil company TRAO concerned territories within boundaries of the Turkish continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean.

In separate interviews published in Sunday's Kathimerini on March 10, Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos and his Turkish counterpart Ahmet



Davutoglu said they were hopeful the two countries could resolve their differences in the Aegean Sea, though through different routes. While Greece is using international law as a guideline for the development of an exclusive economic zone (EEZ), Turkey would like to see a bilateral agreement.

Both ministers were speaking following a Greek-Turkish High-Level Cooperation Council held in Istanbul earlier this month, during which Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras met with Turkish premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

'RIVEN WITH ERRORS,' SAY GREEK SOURCES

Greek diplomatic sources on Wednesday criticized a note verbale sent by Turkey to the United Nations in response to a diplomatic message sent by Greece to the UN last month, describing the Turkish document as "riven with inaccuracies" and "legally ridiculous."

According to sources at the Greek Foreign Ministry, the Turkish note verbale invokes aspects of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea when they support Ankara's positions and ignores them when they do not.

According to diplomatic sources, the Turkish note verbale challenges Greece's sovereign rights south of Rhodes and Kastellorizo and the right of the Greek islands to a continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, claiming that the Aegean should be treated as a special case as the islands are so close to the Turkish coast. It also defends Ankara's decision to grant oil and gas exploration rights for areas deemed to fall within the Greek continental shelf.