

ARTIST PROFILE

Magda Kamper

The journey of our parents has always inspired me. They all came to an unknown land which took a lot of courage. My mother-in-law came as a single girl at the age of 17, with the greater vision of wanting to marry and have children in a country with far more opportunity than her land was able to offer at the time, hence, my first portrait is of her, which I painted from a small photograph taken of her not long before she took her journey to Australia.

Her vision of her having children came to fruition, hence the second portrait I have painted. This captures a time that most would be able to relate to, an era when studio photos were a grand opportunity to capture the family, and to be able to send photos proudly back to their loved ones in Greece.

The third portrait is in colour, of my daughter, which expresses the vibrancies of the children that came from our third generation.

The fourth portrait is of a young child, that being my grandson. Today he proudly chases his great grandmother around, calling her "Yaiyai".

These four portraits are a product of her vision that she had at the age of sixteen.

These paintings represent all of our parent's journeys which I am proud to be a product of. They came to a new land, found work, learnt a new language and educated their children, all for the love that they had in their hearts for the generations that would follow on from their journeys.

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

I was invited by the Hellenic Lyceum through recommendation.

What influenced your decision to accept the invitation?

I was enticed by the concept of



NURTURING HELLENIC HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Since the 19th century, each generation of Greek Australians has blended their Australian upbringing with their Hellenic heritage, creating a sense of duality and a unique Hellenic Australian culture. The Hellenic Lyceum, Sydney, invited 15 artists across different media to interpret and visually showcase this cultural duality. Using their perspective as Australian born Greeks or Australians married to Greeks, a thought-provoking and diverse result is ensured.

Date: Thursday 7th – Monday 25 March 2013

TIME: 9.00am – 5.00pm

VENUE: NSW Parliament House - Theatrette, Macquarie Street, Sydney

ENTRY COST: Free

CONTACT: www.helleniclyceum.com.au

blending art with a Hellenic theme.

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

The artwork I am exhibiting was especially designed for this event.

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

My personal experience of the Hellenic generational journey inspired me to produce works that depict the experience that most Hellene's can relate with.

How are these influences projected in your work?

I have produced works that include



four generations beginning with my mother-in-law from her village in Greece to my grandson. Each artwork represents a different era and reflects upon the way in which the Hellenic culture has evolved.

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

The artistic community does not embrace discrimination. A Hellenic culture is of wonderful value and can only enhance personal creativity.

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?

I am of a generation where a Hellenic background is of a positive influence.

Have you got any projects on the pipeline?

Yes, I am currently preparing for a Watercolour Exhibition in April. Although I do enjoy portraiture, my works also consist of landscapes and animals, as I have a broad subject matter.

Finally, a message to the Greek-Australian community.

We must never lose sight of the bravery and strength of our first Hellenic generations that came to Australia and continue to embrace our rich, wonderful Hellenic culture.

Greek Cinema Counting Happiness



Counting Happiness, Greek director Venetia Evripiotou's short film triumphed at the Canada International Film Festival, winning the Grand Prize. This is one of the very few times that a short-film wins the main award, but Evripiotou's 12 minute film was a revelation.

This is the film's second screening and second award, as it was previously voted «most Popular Film» at the Manhattan International Film Festival 2012, where it made its international debut, enchanting the audience.

Counting Happiness, written and directed by Evripiotou, tells the story of five-year-old Hasan, who lives alone on the streets of Delhi and tries to discover the secret of happiness only to find, as Aristotle put it, that «happiness depends upon ourselves.»

The film is an Indo-Greek production and was shot entirely on location at the old town of Delhi using an amateur digital camera. Following the two premiations, the film is scheduled to be screened at numerous festivals.