

ARTIST PROFILE

David Egan

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

My wife, Eleni is Greek and hence the introduction.

What influenced your decision to accept the invitation?

This was honoring the fact that I am now part of a Greek heritage family as I was born in Dublin Ireland.

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

The artwork was part of my on going body of work.

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

Elements of my work could be considered Celtic in there iconic and symbolic qualities. I can see a similarity between ancient Greek and Celtic imagery.

How are these influences projected in your work?

In ancient times, iconic imagery was executed in a very simplified manner in order to communicate a message visually. This message needed to be succinct and work visually, without the use of words. This reductive form of communication is something I strive to achieve within my own art practice.

You have married into a Greek family. Did that change your perspective on art as well?

I guess all cultural experiences broaden your mind and Greece has a rich heritage in this regard. I am sure that my travels to Greece are firmly etched in my mind and



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

referred to when creating an art work.

The fact that I do not speak much Greek may strengthen my need to communicate on a visual level.

Have you got any projects on the pipeline?

Last year I was a finalist in the Wynne art Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW and I have recently been selected as a finalist in this year's Sulman prize. This just leaves the Archibald as the remaining major art prize at



the AGNSW to get into ... this is a key project for the year ahead. I have just been selected as a finalist in this year's Sulman Art Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW. I was a finalist in the Wynne Art Prize, 2012. The winner of the Sulman will be announced today.

Finally, a message to the Greek-Australian community.

For centuries the Irish migrated to Australia because of poor economic times.

In these hard times back in Ireland they are coming again to this wonderful country and making new lives with the support of Irish communities.

The exact same thing is happening to Greeks, there is a strong Greek community in Australia to help nurture and support these new immigrants. This in turn is giving people better lives and making Australia a richer place to live.

Athens lodges complaint over Turkish research ship entering Greek waters



Athens lodged an official complaint with Ankara on Wednesday after a Turkish research vessel entered the area between the islands of Rhodes and Kastellorizo in the southern Aegean, encroaching upon Greece's continental shelf, whose boundaries are disputed by Turkey.

According to diplomatic sources in Athens, the Bilim 2 research vessel entered the area between the two islands without first informing Greek authorities of its plans to conduct oceanographic surveys. Although the move itself did not constitute a challenge to Greece's territorial rights, the fact that Turkish authorities failed to formally alert their Greek counterparts of their plans was deemed by Athens as adequate reason to complain, particularly as it came just a few days after senior Turkish officials said they would avoid any actions that could fuel tensions between the two countries.

Wednesday's development also came just over a week after Turkey challenged Greece's sovereign rights south of Rhodes and Kastellorizo and the right of the Aegean islands to a continental shelf, claiming that the Aegean should be treated as a special case as the islands are so close to the Turkish coast. Turkey's note verbale to the United Nations was sent in response to a diplomatic message sent to the international organization by Greece last month.