# A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT 2017



### **FOREWORD**

Museums can no longer confine themselves simply to preservation, scholarship, and exhibitions independent of the social context in which they exist. They must recognize that what we are calling the public dimension of museums leads them to perform the public service of education – a term we use in its broadest sense to include exploration, study, observation, critical thinking, contemplation, and dialogue.

Elaine Heumann Gurian, *Civilizing the Museum:* The Collected Writings of Elaine Heumann Gurian, London and New York: Routledge, 2006, p. 16.

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The A. G. L. G. Honorary Committee Meeting: Nicosia, 24-25 February 2017

The meeting was hosted in Nicosia at the A. G. Leventis Gallery and was held in conjunction with the opening of the *Ghika*, *Craxton*, *Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece* exhibition.

The Committee was briefed on the activities of the Gallery in 2016. The Director of the Gallery also presented the projects planned for 2017, including the exhibition dedicated to Venus under the working title *The Many Faces of Venus* and the progress regarding loans for it from various museums and collections. In addition, the two collaborators of the Gallery who are studying the Coins Collection of Anastasios G. Leventis presented for the first time a survey on the quality and diversity of this very important collection.



Caption



### Benaki 2017 AWARD

The Benaki Museum, honours and highlights every year the work of cultural organizations in the Greek provinces and Cyprus through a series of events that focus on the study and promotion of culture. In line with this and, for the 14th year running, the Benaki Museum celebrated the International Museum Day with an event honouring the A.G. Leventis Gallery. The welcome speech was given by Maria Panayides Educational Counsellor of Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus.

During the event Angelos Delivorrias, Academic - Emeritus Professor at University of Athens and former Director of the Benaki Museum presented the decision of the Trustees of the Museum to honour the A. G. Leventis Gallery. On behalf of the A. G. Leventis Foundation Fotini Papadopoulou, Trustee of the A.G. Leventis Foundation presented the life of Anastasios G. Leventis as Collector and Entrepreneur and Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel, Director of the A.G. Leventis Gallery talked about the vision and targets of the Gallery.

The event was followed by a screening of the short film entitled "A. G. Leventis Gallery - Vision and Creation", as well as the video interviews of Paul Dujardin, Artistic Director of Bozar, Brussels, and Wim Van Der Weiden, President of the European Museum Academy (EMA) members of the Honorary Committee of the Gallery.







A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017
TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

Craxton, Ghika, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece 24 February-22 May 2017 at the A. G. Leventis Gallery

7 June-10 September 2017 at the Benaki Museum

From 24 February 2017, art lovers in Cyprus enjoyed a fascinating retrospective of the lives and work of three important creative figures of the 20th century. The exhibition *Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece* presented the friendship of three significant men, the artists Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika (1906-1994) and John Craxton (1922-2009) and the writer Patrick Leigh Fermor (1915-2011), from the early years of their acquaintance in the mid-1940s to the end of their lives.

This exhibition gave us an insight into the personalities of Ghika, Craxton and Leigh Fermor, their interrelated work and the magical Greece of their lifetimes. It was dedicated to three great creators who honoured the country that so inspired them through their exceptional oeuvres. Through the display of works of art, extracts from texts, photographs, letters, manuscripts and publications, we followed their relationship and their artistic and literary careers, with their love of Greece always a common denominator. As well as giving a chronological account, the exhibition played on the theme



of the places which inspired them – Hydra, Kardamyli, Crete and Corfu – and where they found hospitable settings to live and create, in addition to their meetings in Athens and London.

The exhibition was launched at the A. G. Leventis Gallery in Nicosia (23 February - 22 May 2017) and it was then presented in the central building of the Benaki Museum in Athens (7 June - 10 September 2017). Its final showing will be at the British Museum in London (8 March - 15 July 2018).



LEFT: View of the exhibition

RIGHT: View of the installation works

### **CURATORS:**

Evita Arapoglou, author on Ghika, Curator of the Greek Collection of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

Ian Collins, author, Craxton's biographer and art executor

Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (author, historian of Greece and former British Ambassador to Greece)

Ioanna Moraiti Head of the Archive at the Ghika Gallery, Benaki Museum

### COORDINATOR:

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

BOOK EDITOR: Evita Arapoglou



### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

View of The Venus Paradox entrance to the exhibition



# The Venus Paradox 28 September 2017-15 January 2018

This exhibition invited visitors to rethink the figure of Venus and her prominent, yet varied place in the Western artistic tradition. It concentrated on myths intimately connected to Cyprus and to Paphos as Venus' birthplace, but also on the subtleties and nuances underlying the familiar stories linked to the love goddess as they have been retold through literature and art across time. Through a display that brought together paintings, watercolours, prints, drawings, sculptures and decorative art objects dating from the 15th century to the 20th, the exhibition portrayed Venus as we rarely see her: through the multifaceted iconography that links her to kings, heroes, mortals and immortals and to the dualities of love, life and passion, but also death, jealousy and ruin. It focussed on the lasting allure of the goddess of love in her diverse roles as temptress, lover and object of worship, but also vehicle of destruction, to reveal a figure that is as paradoxical as she is seductive.

This exhibition was organised by the A. G. Leventis Gallery with the collaboration of 19 European and American museums and private collections.



LEFT & RIGHT: View of the exhibition

### Collaborating museums:

The Ashmolean Museum, The Atkinson Art Gallery and Library, Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, The British Library, The British Museum, The Fan Museum, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Musée du Louvre, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The National Gallery, The Museum of the Order of St John, Rijksmuseum, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Whitworth Art Gallery

### Collaborating private collections:

Bruno Desmarest Private Collection, Antonios Dikaios Private Collection, Evriviades Private Collection, The Pittas Collection: Mythology

### **CURATORS:**

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel Director A. G. Leventis Gallery

Myrto Hatzaki Curator of the Paris Collection

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

### CATALOGUE EDITORS:

For the volume Venus Paradox

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel Director A. G. Leventis Gallery

Myrto Hatzaki

Curator of the Paris Collection

For the Appendix

Venus Paradox - Contemporary Gaze

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery



A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017
TEMPORARY EXHIBITION



The Venus Paradox The Contemporary Gaze
28 September 2017-15 January 2018

Five Cypriot visual artists were selected to present their works and installations in conjunction with main exhibition. The Venus Paradox - The Contemporary Gaze aimed to reflect their inspirations and aspirations. Savvas Christodoulides, Kyriaki Costa, Theodoulos Gregoriou, Nikos Kouroussis and Lia Lapithi are motivated and influenced by the Venus myth and related legends. Each of them represents a different generation and distinctive ways of touching upon and interpreting the story of Venus, especially aspects related to this myth and what connects it with customs, traditions, the land and, in particular, Cypriot society. Their works were on display in the lobbies of the Gallery. Special guided tours and meetings with the artists took place.

### **CURATOR**

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery





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### COCO\_CREATIVITY CENTRE

The Coco\_Creativity Centre entered its second year of operations, again with great success. A variety of events – all related to life-long learning activities, was organised. The A. G. Leventis Gallery also engages in numerous collaborations with external educators to ensure that ideas are kept fresh and contemporary.

All the events of the Coco\_Creativity Centre were organised and presented in Claude Monet Hall and in Renoir's Workshop.

A range of educational programmes was organised in relation to the temporary exhibitions hosted either in the main Temporary Exhibition Hall or in Claude Monet Hall. These events and activities were addressed to all ages.



### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 CLAUDE MONET HALL - EXHIBITIONS



Taking a cue from the exhibition *Genius Loci*– *Ioannis Kissonerghis and British Landscape*Painters, we invited five young Cypriot

photographers to cast their own contemporary

eyes on Cyprus and, through their work and
the use of digital media, we presented the
island of Cyprus and its landscapes 100 years
after Kissonerghis. This juxtaposition created
a vivid, exceptionally successful dialogue with
the main display, hence the two shows were
united under the same general heading of *Genius*Loci, qualified this time by the subtitle *The*Contemporary Photographic Gaze.

These five photographer-artists went beyond the gap of these 100 years to show how the island's many views can be interpreted in a different perspective through their lens – meeting the concepts, ideas and values of the 21st century. They succeeded in comparing, selecting and visualising a different aspect of the island's landscapes. They brought together views that are shocking and provocative, lacking the romanticism or the naturalism of Kissonerghis; views that, despite their different background, are so familiar to us all.



### **CURATORS:**

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Katerina Stephanides, Head of Education – Curator

Theodora Demetriou, *Educator* 



Solomos Frangoulides The Artist, The Art Critic 9 May-4 September 2017

This exhibition presented Solomos Frangoulides, an artist who belongs to the first generation of Cypriots artists, not only as a painter but also as an art critic, drawing on his prolific output in this field. The exhibition depicted a rich and representative selection of the artist's written work, primarily articles that he contributed regularly to the newspaper *Haravgi* and the literary review *Nea Epochi*. Through these texts, which in a way also serve as the personal diary of the artist, new routes to understanding his painting were also revealed.

View of the exhibition space, Claude Monet Hall, A. G. Leventis Gallery

### **CURATORS:**

Eleni S. Nikita
Curator of the Cyprus Collection
Katerina Stephanides
Head of Education – Curator

A view of the exhibition



The students of the Fine and Applied Art
Department present a collective installation entitled
Aφροδίτη/Aphrodite
O9 November 2017–15 January 2018.

The installation consisted of various works by undergraduate and postgraduate students in the areas of Graphic Design, Interior Design, Fashion Design and Image. These works — whether sculptures, advertising posters, photographs, paintings, collages, etc. — came together as a whole and were reinvented into a collective layout, where the viewer could investigate and explore while walking around and inside the space. Although the installation works as an entity, each work could also be regarded as an autonomous piece, contributing to the narrative of the story of Aphrodite as goddess, mother, mortal and lover.

The students worked on the exhibition for an entire academic semester (January-June 2017), and all of those involved – students and faculty – engaged in an ongoing conversation around issues and concepts based on the words goddess, mother, mortal and lover. An open and quite intense discussion revolving around concepts of identity, 'Cypriotness', beauty and kitsch resulted in a shifting of perceptions.

The biggest challenge for the students was the process of deconstructing an already preconceived story and reconstructing a contemporary myth for the Aphrodite of the 21st century. The major characteristics of the works were the experimentation, analysis, critical thinking, interdisciplinary approach and use of contemporary practices.



A watercolour by Kyriacos Lyras



# PROGRAMMES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Genius Loci: Ioannis Kissonergis and British landscape painters, 13.10 2016–16.01 2017

# Live Watercolour Demonstration by Kyriacos Lyras

The last educational program organised in conjunction with the exhibition was organised on. Watercolour artist Kyriacos Lyras demonstrated and explained the various methods he is using for watercolour landscapes.

### Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: A Charmed Life in Greece, 24.02–22.05 2017

### **Bookbinding and Paper Cutting Workshop**

Two workshops (one for children, one for teenagers and adults) specially prepared to introduce the fascinating lives and works of Nikos Hatzikyriakos-Ghika, John Craxton and Patrick Leigh Fermor as seen in the A. G. Leventis Gallery's temporary exhibition. In collaboration with Stephanie Hadjipsalti, artist and educator.

### Let's Paint with Coffee with Maria Aristidou!

A different kind of watercolour workshop, using coffee to create artwork inspired by the A.G. Leventis Gallery's Temporary exhibition. In collaboration with artist Maria Aristeidou.

### Lithography workshop

A workshop for adults using the technique of Lithography, inspired by the etchings by artists Hadjikyriakos Ghika and John Craxton.



## Solomos Frangoulides: The Artist, The Art Critic 09.05-04.09 2017

### Solomos Frangoulides: The Artist, The Art Critic – Get into an Artist's Brain!

An innovative educational programme and tour introducing children to the secrets of an artist through the temporary exhibition *Solomos Frangoulides: The Artist, The Art Critic.* 

The program was also offered to schools upon their request.

### The Venus Paradox, 28.09 2017-15.01 2018

### The Myths of Venus

A Saturday workshop, introducing our young visitors to Venus and her children, followed by an arts and crafts workshop. During the workshop, our collaborator, the museum educator Evie Grouta, transformed into Venus and introduced Venus' many children to our young visitors. They met Timor (Phobos), Metus (Deimos), Aeneas and, of course, Cupid, who follows the goddess almost everywhere. At the end of the workshop our little artists created their own Cupid's wings and spread the love with their arrows! The programme was also offered to schools upon request.

### Who is Venus? 8-12 years old

This programme aimed to introduce the children to the many myths surrounding the goddess Venus using creative and interactive activities.

### The Modern Venus, 12-18 years old

The programme was developed within the framework of the collaboration between the A. G. Leventis Gallery and the European University and was created by MA students Rena Phillipidou and Mariandri Chrysostomou with the guidance of their professor, Elena Stylianou, and the museum educators of the A. G. Leventis Gallery. The aim of this programme was to explore the myths surrounding the goddess Venus and to be able to place her in a 21st-century context.

#### Caption



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

# Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday evening workshops, programmes and Other Activities

### **Family Sundays**

This new programme for families was created following great demand from our visitors. After securing a sponsorship from the Mitsides Pasta Company, we worked in collaboration with the illustrator and educator Ioanna Philippou to create 'Family Sundays'. This has been running very successfully, with the workshops being booked months in advance. From January to June the workshops were inspired by the animals and plants found in the paintings of the Gallery, whilst from October to December a special theme was created in conjunction with the temporary exhibition The Venus Paradox, to allow our younger visitors to experience this exceptional exhibition. The theme for these workshops was Venus and the Dove and included a child-friendly tour of the exhibition and an arts and crafts activity during which the children made their own sock puppet.

### Illustration Eye

This trial programme took place in February. Its target was to explore the possibility of offering small creative workshops for our younger audience, aged 4-8.



### Yoga at the A. G. Leventis Gallery

Health and culture can be easily combined – and this is the trend in museums and art galleries today. The A. G. L. G. hosted three yoga sessions in the Impressionist Gallery. With the guidance of their instructor, the participants relaxed and enjoyed a wonderful combination of exercise and art.

### 25th of March Educational Programme

The 25th of March – Greek Independence Day – was celebrated with a tour of the Greek Collection of the Gallery, focussing on three of the most memorable paintings. The programme also included the use of unique interactive cards specially produced for the occasion. These art cards are now on sale at the Reception to help our young visitors enjoy the paintings in the Gallery. The programme was also offered to schools upon request.

### Caption



Caption



### ADULT ART CLASSES

On Wednesday evenings, the A. G. Leventis Gallery offers art classes in Renoir's Workshop led by the experienced artist and educator Alexis Michaelides. There have been a variety of worksahops so far, each focussing on different artistic genres and techniques.

A series of themed workshops for adults, including life drawing, lithography and abstract composition took place between the months of February and June.

Life Drawing with pencil, charcoal and ink (February 2017)

**Lithography worksho**p in conjunction with the exhibition *Ghika*, *Craxton*, *Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece* (March 2017)

Two-month abstract composition workshop with ink, pencils and watercolour pencils (April and May 2017)

Life drawing with pencil, charcoal and ink (June 2017)



In October and November, we offered two adult workshops inspired by *The Venus Paradox*:

# Exploring the Many Faces of Venus (October 2017)

A four-week long workshop using pencil and dip pens. Participants took a special tour of *The Venus Paradox* and spent time within the exhibition space making studies of the works by great artists. Exploring the techniques, styles and poses of Venus, they then created their own portrait, their own unique Venus.

### 21st-century Venus

(November 2017)

A four-week long workshop using collage and mixed media. Participants took a tour of exhibition, with a special focus on Godfried Donkor's provocative *The Birth of Venus II*. The workshop explored the various methods and techniques of collage-making to create unique compositions using mixed media.

Other Thematic Art Workshops for Adults

## Doll-making Workshop – Make your own Venus!

In conjunction with the temporary exhibition *The Venus Paradox*, with the designer and educator Froso Mavrou

A three-week (seven-hour) doll-making workshop. Inspired by The Venus Paradox, the participants created their own unique Venus cloth doll.

Caption



Caption



# A Night at the Museum – Museums and

THE ANNUAL SLEEP OVER

Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in Museums

For the third consecutive year, we celebrated International Museum Day with our annual sleepover. This year's theme was 'Art for Peace – Hidden Stories in Museums'. The children participated in various educational activities based on the theme of International Museum Day, played 'A Mystery at the A. G. Leventis Gallery' and finished off their evening with a movie and a sleepover in the Impressionist Gallery.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

# Summer School: I am a Museologist – Designing my own Museum!

An exceptional summer school which aimed at cultivating children's innovation, creativity and sensitivity. Our young friends designed their own museum with the guidance and support of the Gallery's educators and our collaborators – architects, museographers and designers specialising in museums.



# BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY

Two programmes were specially created and designed for children to be able to celebrate their birthdays at the Gallery. They have been running successfully and are in great demand.

### The Wheel of Discovery,

### Ages 5-8

For our younger friends, aged 5-8, a series of activities using theatre, voice, imagination and creativity to engage with the Gallery's Collections.

# Mystery at the A. G. Leventis Gallery, Ages 8-12

Perfect for children 8-12, a challenging game where the characters of the Collections come alive and invite the party guests to interact and explore and be creative!

### Party add-ons

Creative workshops in which the party guests can make their own souvenir gift based on their museum experiences.

Caption



A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMMES OFFERED
TO SCHOOLS IN
COLLABORATION WITH
THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The educational programmes offered to schools are of key importance for the Coco\_Creativity Centre and the A. G. Leventis Gallery. We create new programmes and vary our existing programmes every academic year (aligned with school curricula), ensuring that the same students and school groups can attend year after year. For the 2017-2018 academic year we introduced two new programmes, which ran in conjunction with *The Venus Paradox* for primary schools, gymnasiums and lyceums.

### Kindergarten

Faces and Stories at the A. G. Leventis Gallery
After a successful year of running this programme
for kindergartens, we are continuing to offer it
during the new academic year. The programme
allows teachers to choose between two paintings /
educational stops. The first painting is Comédiens
Italiens dans un Jardin by Jean-Baptiste Oudry
and the second is La Collerette (Claude Renoir) by
Pierre-August Renoir. The programme concludes
with an arts and crafts activity at Renoir's
Workshop, during which the children are asked
to paint a portrait. The aim of this educational



programme is for the kids to have a beautiful first museum experience and a chance to have a creative learning experience.

### **Primary Schools**

'The World of Cyprus' (3rd grade, 8-9 years old) 'The World of Cyprus' is an educational programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture dedicated to the painting *The World of Cyprus* by Adamantios Diamantis. It is conducted by the museum educators of the Ministry and it targets 3rd-grade primary school students. Through a series of interactive activities and the use of technology, such as tablets, the children meet the characters in Diamantis' painting and learn about the history and culture of Cyprus.

### Treasure Island (8-12 years old)

This programme is an exciting treasure hunt that takes place through the Gallery's Collections with adventures and clues! The class is divided into groups and embarks on an interactive tour and treasure hunt through the Collection of the teacher's choice.





# Young Artists at the A. G. Leventis Gallery (6-12 years old)

The young artists programme is one of the most popular programmes that we offer. The children are introduced to one of the Gallery's three Collections in a tour, followed by a creative activity based on 1-3 paintings. Using an interactive approach, the pupils explore different styles, artistic approaches, methods and art movements of each work and become familiar with the cultures in the various Collections. The tour endeavours to awaken the children's creative nature.

### A trip through Europe (10-12 years old)

Touring the Gallery's Collections, the students embark on a journey of discovery of European art and cities. Aided by tablets and other interactive tools, they are introduced to the historical, artistic and geographic aspects of the masterpieces on display. The aim of this tour is to familiarize them with the world of great artists, the historical eras in which they lived, the themes that inspired them and the techniques they used.

### **Secondary Schools**

### A trip through Europe (13-16 years old)

Touring the Gallery's Collections, the students embark on a journey of discovery of European art and cities. Aided by tablets and other interactive tools, they are introduced to the historical, artistic and geographic aspects of the masterpieces on display. The aim of this tour is to familiarize them with the world of great artists, the historical eras in which they lived, the themes that inspired them and the techniques they used.

### Meet the Impressionists (14-18 years old)

This is an interactive tour focussed on the great Impressionist masters. The students acquire a comprehensive understanding of the historical, scientific and cultural developments of Impressionism and the various Post-Impressionist movements, including but not limited to references to photography, science, politics and geography.

# A Day at the A. G. Leventis Gallery (14-18 years old)

This interactive tour gives a general overview of the Gallery.

### 400 Years Shakespeare

This special programme was created in collaboration with the young actress and director Loukia Pierides to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. It was developed in order to introduce other methodologies to the Educational Department and to encourage the students to explore art through the lens of literature and theatre.





#### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Caption



# THE WEDNESDAY LECTURE

The Wednesday Lecture series is now well-established and is warmly welcomed among the members, friends and visitors of the A. G. Leventis Gallery. The 2017 Wednesday Lectures were coordinated to tie in with our two major temporary exhibitions, *Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece* and *The Venus Paradox*. In addition, it was decided that one lecture per year will be dedicated to the late artist and renowned author Niki Marangou.

The lectures are open to a broad public and offer not only Gallery members but also art enthusiasts and students the opportunity to attend talks delivered by well-known scholars, speaking on a broad range of topics related to art history and also touching upon research, conservation and museology.



#### JANUARY:

#### Olivier Descotes

Special advisor of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic Republic

'La politique culturelle de la France, continuités et ruptures'

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### Evita Arapoglou

Curator of the Greek Collection, Curator of the temporary exhibition 'Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece'

'Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika: From the Rocky Island of Hydra to the Garden of Corfu'

#### MARCH:

#### Ian Collins

Author, Craxton's biographer and art executor, Curator of the temporary exhibition 'Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece'

'John Craxton: A Life of Gifts'

#### APRIL:

#### Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith

Author, Historian of Greece and former British Ambassador to Greece and Curator of the temporary exhibition 'Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece' 'Charmed Lives in Greece: Patrick Leigh Fermor'

#### MAY:

#### Flora Manakides

Professor at the University of Peloponnese

'A walk with Niki: The poetry of Niki Marangou'

#### JUNE:

#### Eleni S. Nikita

Curator of the Cyprus Collection

'Solomos Frangoulides: His Life and Works'

#### OCTOBER:

#### Colin Bailey

Director of the Morgan Library & Museum, New York, USA, member of the Honorary Committee of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

'Cospetto! Che Bella Cosa!': Boucher's Triumph of Venus

#### **NOVEMBER:**

#### Peter Humfrey

Emeritus Professor of Art History at the University of St Andrews. Scotland. UK

'Venus, Venice and Cyprus'

#### **DECEMBER:**

#### Anthea Callen

FRSA, is Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University and Professor Emeritus of Visual Culture, University of Nottingham, UK

'The Modern Venus: Goddess or Whore?'

Andreas Araouzos as Lucian Freud, performing



# THEATRICAL PERFOMANCE

#### Bacon / Freud

Alpha Square and the A. G. Leventis Gallery again presented a theatrical work, based on the real relationship between two legendary artists of the 20th century, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. This is the third theatrical collaboration with Alpha Square, after John Logan's *RED*, directed by Andreas Araouzos, in which Varnavas Kyriazis embodied the explosive Mark Rothko, and Donald Margulies' *Sight Unseen*, directed by Kyriazis, in which Araouzos performed the role of the fictional painter Jonathan Waxman.

The world première of the play *Bacon / Freud* was presented in May. It was written by Anthi Zachariadou (writer of the historical plays *Caterina: Last Queen of Cyprus* and *Eleonora of Cyprus*). Kyriazis and Araouzos this time codirected and performed the roles of Bacon and Freud, respectively, while Elena Katsouri designed the set and costumes.

In 1988 a small painting, a portrait depicting the great artist Francis Bacon, was stolen from a gallery in Berlin. No trace of the work has been found ever since. The disappearance of the portrait was not just the loss of a work – for the creator, the famous painter Lucian Freud (grandson of Sigmund), this painting probably represented the most important relationship in his life. A relationship that was also lost...



#### Venus - Amorous and Savage

A theatrical ode to Venus, *Venus – Amorous and Savage*, was presented in October as a side event of the temporary exhibition *The Venus Paradox*. It was conceived and directed by Andreas Araouzos. The Gallery's ground floor was especially lit and utilised as a musical and literary showcase, with texts from Homer, Euripides, Sappho, Milan Kundera, Nikos Kazantzakis, Sam Shepard, Arthur Rimbaud and Pierre de Ronsard.

The actors Alexia Paraskeva, Andreas Araouzos and Herodotos Miltiadous enacted these Venus-inspired texts, while Miltiadous also sang alternative cover versions of love ballads, accompanied by Efthyvoulos Theocharous on piano. The women's dresses were designed by Kika Ioannidou.

#### **ART**

In collaboration with Alpha Square the play was staged in the Pinakothiki Coffeshop in Devember.

Written first in french by Yiasmina Rezan the play received many awards world wide.

The comedy, which raises questions about art and friendship, concerns three long-time friends. One of them indulging his penchant for modern art, buys a large, expensive, completely white painting. Their relationship suffers considerable strain as a result of their differing opinions about



Caption



#### **GUIDED TOURS**

The A. G. L. G. curators organised a series of special guided tours throughout 2017. Some of the tours were planned in relation to the temporary exhibitions hosted at the Gallery. A number of tours were related to the permanent collections generally, and others were linked to specific themes, again connected to the permanent collections.

#### Genius Loci

Special guided tour of the exhibition *Genius* Loci – Ioannis Kissonerghis and British Landscape Painters, presenting landscapes of Cyprus, led by Eleni S. Nikita, Curator of the Cyprus Collection and Curator of the exhibition.

#### Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor

Special guided tours of the exhibition were conducted by three of its Curators. Evita Arapoglou (author on Ghika, Curator of the Greek Collection at the A. G. Leventis Gallery), Ian Collins (author, Craxton's biographer and art executor) and Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (author, historian of Greece and former British Ambassador to Greece) presented the friendship of the three important personalities and also explained their own personal involvement.



#### **Easter Guided Tour**

The A. G. L. G. Director, the Deputy Director, and Curator Katerina Stephanides organised a tour through a selection of images of the Passion in the Paris Collection.

#### The Venus Paradox

The Curators of the exhibition, Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel, Director of the A. G. Leventis Gallery, and Myrto Hatzaki, Curator of the Paris Collection, offered a series of special guided tour of the impressive temporary exhibition depicting the many faces of the Cypriot goddess Aphrodite through 75 works of art from 19 European and American museums and private collections.

Caption

#### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Caption



# A. G. L. G. on the Move

A tailor-made outreach initiative, the A.G. Leventis Gallery on the Move is a programme designed to promote the love of art beyond the Gallery itself, created on the principle that education is the key to reaching out to broader audiences. Like the Gallery logo -which acquires wheels for the purposes of the programme- the Gallery's curatorial team, and at times also selected pieces from its collections, take to the road, targeting particularly rural communities and brings cultural initiatives to their doorstep. Our team finds a temporary home -in community centres, mayor's offices, educational spaces or even town squares- and puts together a fun day combining culture with recreation, with innovative programmes intended to appeal to all ages. We focus on accessibility, and hands-on learning, with fresh ideas intended to engage anyone present, reminding our public that art is for everyone, and ultimately, that a Gallery is a space where everyone is welcome.



#### "Bare-Brested Venus" for Europa Donna Cyprus at Trakasol Cultural Centre, Limassol

In the context of its social responsibility agenda, the A. G. Leventis Gallery on the Move programme broadened its support for Europa Donna Cyprus, this leading breast-cancer charity, by taking the annual 'breasts through art' lecture -a collaboration now in its second year- beyond the Gallery itself, to a second venue, in the Trakasol Cultural Centre in Limassol. Drawing on feminist art history and the politics of the gaze, Myrto Hatzaki, Curator of the Paris Collection, spoke on *Bare-breasted Venus* – a presentation intended to open the floor for Evi Papadopoulou, Chairman of Europa Donna, introducing the organization's awarenessraising campaign. The evening also offered the opportunity to introduce the forthcoming *Venus Paradox* exhibition, which was due to open in the fall, to a broad audience and ended in vibrant discussion.

Caption

# "Simply Flowers?" Three Centuries of Flowers in Art at the Atsas Training Center

As part of its outreach initiatives, the A. G. Leventis Gallery organized a day-long event at the Atsas Training Centre in the context of the the A. G. Leventis Gallery On the Move Programme. Director Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel and Curator Myrto Hatzaki traveled to the Solea Valley, and to the recently renovated training Center in the Skouriotissa area, for a presentation centered on flowers - taking its cue from the complex world of Dutch 17th century flowerpainting, the elegance of French 18th-century desert floral porcelain and the Victorian passion for the 'language of flowers' and floral perfume. A lecture, exploring flowers as art, but also as flavour and scent, took participants through the layers of complex meaning hidden beneath the seeming simplicity of floral representations, with the aid of the Gallery's traveling Cabinet de Curiosités, which provided the opportunity for hands-on experience. The day closed with a watercolour workshop for adults, while children picked their own wildflower bouquet from the neighboring countryside and immortalized it in a vibrantly coloured drawing.

#### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



#### CONFERENCES

### Museums and Intangible Heritage 27/4/2017

In collaboration with the Cyprus National Committee for UNESCO.

Museums have been conventionally concerned to safeguard and promote tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Their raison d'être is the community they serve, whose identity is bound up in complex ways with museum collections.

The conference aimed to provide good practice examples of activities organised by various museums on the island. The keynote speaker was Dr. Marilena Alivizatos, Museologist, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies, UCL.

### **Building the Future of Museum Education** 8 / 5/ 2017

The Conference was organised in collaboration with the European University.

The aim of the conference was to provide example of good practice on the field of museum education. The keynote speakers were invited from the Louvre Education Department and they presented their project "La Petit Gallery".

An unprecedented project, the "Petite Galerie" draws on the museum's experience gained in the field of art and cultural education. A new exhibition space in the Museum specially designed to offer additional educational experience. Each year, this ambitious project develops an overarching theme to give visitors a unique encounter with a variety of artworks and enrich the way they look at them.

- online via a Web site and an innovative digital environment (applications, e-learning, collaborative platforms, etc.),



Caption

- and beyond the museum walls through traveling outreach initiatives for all audiences (cultural institutions, companies, schools, etc.).

More than 100 participants from various museums attended the conference. Among them museum curators, museums educators, teachers and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture.



#### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



#### **DOCUMENTARY**

#### Venus Uncovered SandStone Global Productions Ltd 14 December 2917

During the *Venus Parad*ox exhibition, a special screening of *Venus Uncovered* took place at the A. G. Leventis Gallery in December 2017.

The production was funded by the A. G. Leventis Foundation in conjunction with Dr Andreas Pittas and produced by SandStone Global Ltd. Venus Uncovered is presented by the award-winning historian, author and broadcaster Professor Bettany Hughes. Professor Hughes is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster, who has devoted the past 25 years to the vibrant communication of the past. Her specialty is ancient and medieval history and culture. A scholar at Oxford University, she has taught at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and lectured at Cornell, Bristol, UCL, Maastricht, Utrecht and Manchester. She is a Tutor for Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education and a Research Fellow

of King's College London. She has long drawn attention to women's position in society, both past and present. She was named as one of the BBC's 100 Women and was asked to launch the UK's Inspiring Women mentoring scheme. She also sits on the Women of the World Committee.

Hughes has worked with a team that includes an award-winning director, director of photography and producer, who between them have made over 100 landmark films for the BBC and the global film market.

The documentary was broadcasted on BBC4 in November and December 2017 with more than 56.000.000 viewers.

caption



#### About the Documentary:

In 1914, the suffragette Mary Richardson attacked the Rokeby Venus at the National Gallery in London. But why did this painting fire such outrage? Professor Bettany Hughes embarks on a voyage of discovery to reveal the truth behind the Venus depicted in the painting, proving that this mythological figure is so much more than just an excuse for sensual nudity and chocolate-box romance. Because Venus Uncovered is the remarkable story of one of antiquity's most potent forces. And more than that - hers is the story of human desire, and how desire transforms who we are and how we behave. Charting Venus's origins in powerful ancient deities, Bettany demonstrates that Venus is far more complex than first meets the eye. Beginning in Cyprus, the goddess's mythical birthplace, Bettany decodes Venus's relationship to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, and, in turn, Aphrodite's mixed-up origins both as a Cypriot spirit of fertility and procreation - but also, as a descendant of the prehistoric war goddesses of the Near and Middle East, Ishtar, Inanna

and Astarte. We start to see the Venus is about desire of all kinds - malign as well as benign. Hughes meets world experts who reveal the mysterious and obscure ways this ancient goddess was imagined and worshipped (including as a bearded, gender-fluid woman and even as a giant, sinister, volcanic rock), and visits the sites where the real women and men of the Bronze Age adored her as 'greater than a god' - a creature who gave all and took all away. Bettany - who has been investigating Aphrodite for over a decade looks into the goddess's own love life to see that - even for her - tangling with another was often bittersweet. We hear the heartfelt, 2,600-year-old poems of Aphrodite's acolyte, the female poet Sappho - begging the question, does passion always generate both pain and pleasure? A far cry from the soft, nude female form we are now accustomed to, we see the war-like, martially-clad Venus worshipped in Rome by Julius Caesar and emulated by the Egyptian queen Cleopatra. Down the generations, Venus has been a constantly evolving figure. She is genuinely immortal - a goddess who refuses to lie down and die. From Stone Age Mediterranean cultures to an 18th-century, Venus-themed British stately home - frequented by high-ranking politicians and aristocrats - Venus represents the power of lust, and of hate as well as love. Through ancient art, evocative myth, exciting archaeological revelations and philosophical explorations Bettany reveals how this immortal goddess endures through to the 21st century, and what her story and journey through time reveals about what matters to us as humans. Uncovering Venus - she shows us why we still need to care about this primordial companion on the human journey - and how we trivialise her power at our peril.

Caption



# THE A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CHARITY EVENTS

The Gallery supports charities and NGOs through various cultural activities and through the promotion of our Collections. In 2017 the Gallery team worked as always with enthusiasm (and at no additional cost) towards the success of each one of these initiatives.

## Lecture in Collaboration with Europa Donna Cyprus

8 March 2017

For a second consecutive year, the Curator of the Paris Collection, Myrto Hatzaki, and the President of Europa Donna Cyprus, Evi Papadopoulou, worked together to present a unique lecture, structured as an interactive exchange titled, respectively, 'Venus: The Image of the Breast' and 'The Artist's Gaze'.

The event was organised in collaboration with Europa Donna Cyprus on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Sponsor: PWC

#### Venus – Amorous and Savage

A special performance of the event was organised, and all the income from the ticket sales was donated to Europa Donna Cyprus.

#### Christmas Bazaar and Children's Workshops / Afternoon Tea / VIP Gala Dinner with the Cyprus Red Cross

As part of the social corporate responsibility of the A. G. L. G., the personnel of the Gallery volunteered to organise and coordinate a charity



LEFT: Cup-cakes with Europa Donna Logo

event with the Red Cross. Ten educational stations were set up throughout the Gallery for our young friends to create arts and crafts to help a good cause.

#### Love Breakfast

An installation presented and hosted by Lia Lapithi. The artist invited couples to have breakfast in the exhibition halls of the A. G. Leventis Gallery and to become part of a special experiential event. The artist draws inspiration from history and the myth of Venus.

This event took place during the Gallery's opening hours as part of the display. Viewers, as well as the participants, were encouraged to take photos and upload them on Instagram/Facebook/Twitter #lovebreakfast #agleventisgallery #venusparadox. The six-course breakfast that was served was inspired by the ancient history of Cyprus, from 10,000 BC to 168 BC.

Net proceeds were donated to Europa Donna Cyprus in October, to the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) in November and to the Nicosia branch of the Red Cross Cyprus in December.



#### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Caption



#### **INTERNSHIPS**

We have an ongoing collaboration with the Arts Department of the European University, in which students, specifically those studying for a Master of Visual Arts in Education, come to the Gallery to do their required internship.

This year we had two students who worked closely with the A. G. L. G. staff in order to create two programmes for the *Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece* exhibition. These programmes were aimed at primary and secondary school students.

This collaboration continued and resulted in the interns preparing a programme for high school and lyceum students, 'The Modern Venus' (see page **X**), inspired by *The Venus Paradox* exhibition.

For the duration of the summer school we also hosted an intern, as we do every year. It is an ideal opportunity for interns, as they are able to work on the preparation of the programme, as well as being involved with the activities throughout the summer school, gaining invaluable experience.

We receive many requests for internships, but unfortunately cannot accommodate all of them due to limited staff for supervision.



A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 NEW AQUISITIONS



#### **NEW AQUISITIONS**

A. G. L. G. collections were enriched with 3 new works



Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika (1906-1994) Hydra, 1972 Mixed media on cardboard laid on canvas AGLG 764



Caption



Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) Nude / Venus, frontispiece for Stéphane Mallarmé's Pages, 1890-1891 Etching, AGLG 765

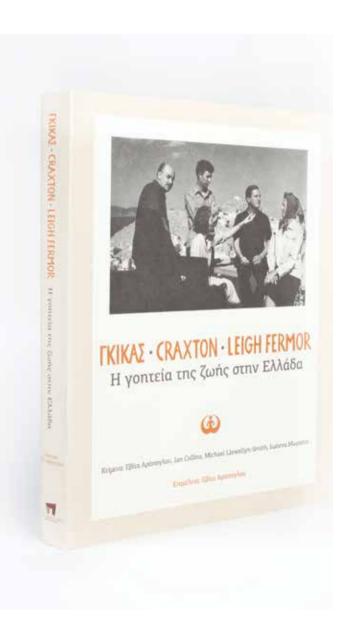


Caterina Cornaro painting - copy of the Titian's painting exhibited in the Uffizi Gallery AGLG 766





Caption



#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Four new publications were produced in 2017:

### Ghika, Craxton Leigh Fermor- Charmed Lives in Greece

A comprehensive, fully illustrated book was produced by the A. G. Leventis Foundation and the A. G. Leventis Gallery to accompany the temporary exhibition, available in separate Greek and English editions. Alongside reproductions of works of art, text excerpts, letters, notes, sketches and photographs (some by Cecil Beaton, Joan Leigh Fermor, Wolf Suschitzky and Roloff Beny), the book includes essays by the four exhibition curators, as well as short texts by an impressive list of people who contributed their personal recollections and other relevant material. The English version sold out, and a second edition of it was published in November 2017.

#### **Editor:**

Evita Arapoglou



#### The Venus Paradox

This book, available in English, is directly related to the temporary exhibition. The essays published in its first part are dedicated to an exploration of Venus' complicated presence in Western art in its various disciplines. Ten prominent scholars contributed their insights and their expertise, bringing together art, literature and the performing arts. Their work allows us to rethink Venus - mistress of gods and men, mother of divine and mortal children, harbinger of love and marriage but also of lust and death, goddess and woman. The second part catalogues all the exhibited works, which were on loan from 19 museums and private collections. The book includes an Appendix insert for the concurrent contemporary exhibition The Venus Paradox – The Contemporary Gaze.

#### CATALOGUE EDITORS:

For the volume *Venus Paradox* 

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel Director A. G. Leventis Gallery

Myrto Hatzaki
Curator of the Paris Collection

E al Accesti

For the Appendix Venus Paradox - Contemporary Gaze

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

#### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

#### Colin B. Bailey

Director of the Morgan Library & Museum in New York

#### Jill Burke

Jill Burke is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Art at the University of Edinburgh

#### Anthea Callen,

FRSA, is Professor Emeritus of the Australian National University and Professor Emeritus of Visual Culture, University of Nottingham, UK

#### Moira Goff,

curator, dancer and historical dance specialist

#### Sebastian Goth,

Assistant Director and Research Associate at the Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

#### Peter Humfrey

Emeritus Professor of Art History at the University of St Andrews

#### Jacqueline Karageorghis

specialist in archaeology and the ancient dialect of Cyprus

#### Efterpi Mitsi

Professor in English Literature and Culture at the Department of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

#### Alison Smith

Lead Curator, 19th-century British Art, at Tate Britain, London

#### Bruce Wood

Emeritus Professor of Music at Bangor University and Chairman of the Purcell Society





#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### Solomos Frangoulides: The Artist, The Art Critic

A small catalogue to accompany the temporary exhibition about Solomos Frangoulides. (see page 23)

#### **EDITORS:**

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director A. G. Leventis Gallery
Eleni S. Nikita
Curator of the Cyprus Collection of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

#### Ghika

A limited-edition diary for 2018. This is the 18th diary supervised by the A. G. Leventis Gallery team. Since 2010 the team has taken particular pleasure in designing, compiling and editing the annual diary of the Lykion Ton Hellenidon, London. During this period, the diary has evolved. It has taken on greater substance and it has become a collectable short publication, inspired by, and referring to, specific iconographic subjects. The 2018 diary is dedicated to Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece in March 2018 at the British Museum. It was compiled with the collaboration of the Benaki Museum and the Archive of the Ghika Gallery in Athens.

#### **EDITORS:**

Doulla Phyrillas Lykeio ton Hellinidon Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel Director A. G. Leventis Gallery

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery



### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 SHOP

Caption



#### SHOP

The A. G. L. G. Shop offers an extensive range of gifts drawing upon the Gallery's Collections: from prints, postcards and jewellery to household and decorative objects, textiles and much more. A special section of art publications is constantly enriched with new editions, which include not only A. G. L. G. publications but also international art publications (exhibition catalogues, selected academic volumes and a range of books for a broad readership).

After two years of operation the A. G. L. G. Shop has established a permanent clientele which includes A. G. L. G. Members and companies (corporate gifts), as well as regular Gallery visitors.

The Shop also offers specially designed products linked to the temporary exhibitions and other special events and educational programmes offered by the Gallery – including some limited edition pieces.



Caption







A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017
WORKS ON LOAN AND ONGOING RESEARCH



#### WORKS ON LOAN

Two paintings from the Gallery's Greek Collection, *Beach at Trouville* (1889) and *Street in Honfleur: The Lieutenancy* (c. 1888-1895), travelled to the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens for the exhibition *Techni Group*, *100 years* in Athens.

2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the creation of the famous Techni Group, which has been identified – in the consciousness of those who deal with the history of Modern Greek art - with the birth of modernism in Greece. This anniversary exhibition, organised by the National Gallery in the exhibition halls of the Byzantine and Christian Museum, aimed to reintroduce the Group's three major events: the first exhibition, inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Eleftherios Venizelos, and King Alexander in December 1917; a second one, which took place at the beginning of 1919; and the extremely important, both artistically and politically, final exhibition of the Group, which was held in Paris at the La Boétie Gallery.





>>>>>>>>>

#### ONGOING RESEARCH

#### Titian: Under the Surface

Taking its cue from recent discoveries regarding the A. G. L. G.'s *Baptism of Christ*, its attribution to the studio of Titian and the suggestive story of its re-used canvas, the Gallery is joining international partners to co-host a symposium dedicated to new research on Titian, his circle and his times in light of new technological advances benefitting art history.

The Conference will aim to shed new light on old questions (such as the omnipresent 'master or studio?' conundrum) and on the intricacies of workshop practices by drawing on the potential of technology to add fresh data to the debate.

A two-day event (3-4 panel sessions) will focus on:

a) the use of new technologies: new methods and procedures as illustrated by conservation and research teams (e.g. the Louvre, with the recent restoration of Titian's *Pardo Venus*, the University of Crete, the Netherlandish teams, recent work in the Pitti, the Pittas *Ecce Homo*, etc.):

b) the art-historical interpretation of such

findings – the ways in which new discoveries inform our understanding of Titian's oeuvre and the workings of his workshop, but also the role of patronage and the artist's choices of media and techniques;

c) the museological potential of such findings – the ways in which such material can be presented to the broader public, potentially adding layers of meaning to the interpretation, presentation and display of paintings.

An initial speakers' shortlist includes:

Peter Humfrey, University of St Andrews
Paul Ioannides, University of Cambridge
Fausta Navarro, Palazzo Pitti
Jill Dunkerton, National Gallery of Art, London
Matthias Wivel, National Gallery of Art, London
Miguel Falomir, Prado
Vincent Delieuvin, Louvre
Mauro Lucco, University of Bologna
Joanna Dunn, National Gallery of Art,
Washington, DC



#### ONGOING RESEARCH

#### Jacquelin de Montluçon Research Project

This project investigates the fascinating case of Jacquelin de Montluçon's so-called *Retable des Antonins de Chambéry* (c. 1496-1497) and the attribution of its various panels, which can now be seen in four different European museums.

Collaborating museums:
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon
Musée de Chambery
The Victoria and Albert Museum, London
The A. G. Leventis Gallery, Nicosia
With the research team of Professor Frédéric Elsig
of the University of Geneva

The meeting in January 2017 focussed on the scope of the project and the need to implement an in-depth study of the panels and their attribution through the collaboration of various specialists (including a study of materials and techniques with the help of C2RMF), to the production of an academic publication on the findings and a culmination/presentation of these results (possibly through an exhibition or alternatively through a symposium and/or online application).

A further meeting took place in June 2017 in London at the V&A Museum in order to view the two panels which belong to the collection of the Museum and to discuss further steps in the research process. Professor Frédéric Elsig will undertake the role of coordinator in order to appoint students from his university to study the archives of Chambery. The Musée de Chambery has organised for all the works from France and Cyprus (i.e. except the two works at the V&A) to be transferred to the Louvre laboratories for further research and special scanning. The next meeting is due towards the end of 2017 upon the completion of the laboratory work.



### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 COINS COLLECTION



#### COINS

The two experts continued their research related with the gold coin collection of Anastasios G. Leventis. A special room has been arragned for them and a small but important library with publications on coins collections and collecting has been organised in order to facilitate their work.

During 2017 the experts focused and achieved the following:

#### Study of each coin:

Each coin of the collection has been photographed and studied and a special form has been filled. Each form contains now details on the weighing of each coin with the use of the specialized scale. The measuring of the dimensions and the defining of the axis. The identification of every coin includs the description of the images, the reading of the legends, the dating and the verification of the issuing authority. Each form also has bibliographical reference. And a study for the history is now in process the coin. The above have been realised further to an online research and the books in hand.

## The physical archiving and the storage in the special cases

Each coin has now an individual label and is now placed in capsules and trays. Analytical lists have been prepared for every tray and case.

### Completion of the creation of the Coin Digital Archive

Detailed instructions were given and a series of meetings took place for the finalization of the





database. Relevant menu lists and symbol lists were created corresponding to the fields of the data card. A complete database of all the Coin Collection is now uploaded and available on the A. G. Leventis digital archives. The database will be completed upon the uploading of the coin photographs.

#### Collaboration with the Cyprus Institute

The photo shooting of the coins will be coordinated and supervised based on a collaboration agreement with the Cyprus Institute. The target is to include the photos and studies in the Dioptra Digital Archives, coordinated internationally by the Institute.

#### Coin Exhibition

The team in coordination with the Director and deputy Director of the Gallery began and established the basic idea and pillars for the permanent and temporary presentation of the collection.







#### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018-2019



#### **AGONIES**

True to its pledge to explore and delve into the history of art in Cyprus, A. G. Leventis Gallery is preparing an exhibition dedicated to the great pioneer of Cypriot art, Adamantios Diamantis (1900-1994).

The exhibition will focus on the artist's significant group of paintings under the general title Agonies. This is a set of eight emblematic artworks made between 1963 and 1977. The exhibition will also feature the series' conclusion, titled Women with Reaching Hands, Diamantis' last finished painting. Created in 1983-84, this particular painting is considered the capstone of the Agonies body of work and also of Diamantis long artistic route, spanning almost the whole of the 20th century.

These works demonstrate the artist's encounter with the historic events that marked his homeland during what had been a tumultuous era. for the island. Faced with the political situation taking shape in Cyprus, Diamantis foreboded serious risks that would stand in the way of longstanding peace. This feeling, for a

painter who had irrevocably bound his life and art to the people and fate of Cyprus, bred great agony, which he would go on to express as either flight or exorcism in his Agonies series. Alongside his anxiety about the future of his homeland, the artist vented other personal anxieties, either existential or about the style and mode of his artistic creation.

With an eye to shedding light on the road taken by the artist until the final artwork, the exhibition will include the studies and drafts that preceded the finished paintings. Diamantis' artistic path towards the Agonies had started early, since his high school years, through substantive and fertile engagement with both local art collections as well as with significant artists and emblematic pieces of international art. More specifically, along the way to the Agonies Diamantis had conversed with such works of art as El Greco's Agony in the Garden; Auguste Rodin's The Burghers of Calais; Henry Moore's Shelter Drawings; Francisco Goya's prints The Disasters of War and Pablo Picasso's





monumental Guernica, as well as with Byzantine icons depicting the Slaughter of the Innocents.

The exhibition will show the way these artists responded, through their works, to the anxiety created by war, revolution and unstable political and social conditions.

This ground-breaking exhibition will showcase, for the first time, all of Diamantis' eight Agonies, alongside drawings and other material from the artist's archives, which will be presented by the artist's family – an approach that will allow an unprecedented opportunity to view, study and consider these paintings in unison. It will also aim to bring together in Cyprus drawings and other works by modern artists exploring related themes, highlighting the breadth of influences on Diamantis, but also the universality of this dramatic subject matter for artists working in the turbulent decades of the 20th century.

#### **CURATORS:**

Eleni S. Nikita Curator of the Cyprus Collection of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

#### GENERAL COORDINATION:

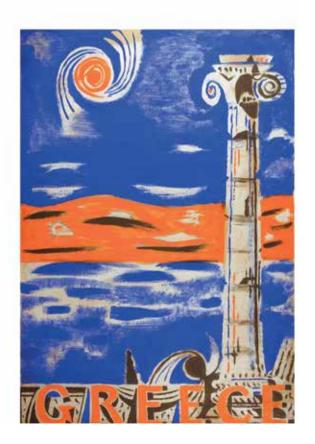
Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou Deputy Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

EXHIBITION DURATION: March – September 2018

Caption

### Charmed lives in Greece Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor

8 March - 15 July 2018



# GHIKA CRAXTON IN LONDON

The last show of the exhibition will be at the British Museum in London from March – July 2018.

The British Museum team collaborated with the exhibition curators and the coordinator Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou for the preparation, selection of works and display.

A series of guided tours and lecture have been also planned in collaboration with the museum.

# TWELVE COINS WITH A STORY TO TELL (working title) October 2018 - January 2019

The A. G. Leventis Gold Coins Collection is an outstanding collection of 605 pieces. Gold has always been considered a safe investment especially at times of economic crisis. The collection is particularly important because it includes unique and rare specimens of special interest both for collectors and scholars.

The exhibition aims to introduce the Collection and to make the public appreciate its value. It will focus on coins of Great Empires with international trade power and reputation, on coins with interesting iconography, on commemorative coins, all considered landmarks in the history of world coinage.

A selection of 12 coins dating back to the time of Alexander the Great (4th century BC), the Byzantine and to the Mediaeval era (4th – 16th century) and of the Modern times (17th-16th century) will reveal captivating stories and important related events.

Accompanying visual material will be used to enhance the presentation of the coins and introduce the visitor into the historical, cultural and numismatic context.

New technologies will be used in order to engage the visitor into further exploration and at the same time attract and intrigue young people's interest.



### A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY REPORT, 2017 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018-2019

Caption



# MUSEOLOGICAL SPACES AND CYPRIOT IDENTITY

Project in Collaboration with the Point Centre for Contemporary Art

The project Museological Spaces and Cypriot *Identity* aims to examine the story of two friends, two scholars, two Cypriots-Constantinos Leventis and Dr Vassos Karageorghis — who, out of duty, love and passion for their homeland and its rich culture historical record, joined forces to "take revenge", as Mr Karageorghis puts it, on the neglect that had befallen our cultural heritage. Working steadily and extensively for more than five decades, Karageorghis set the ground for archaeological interest in our island to flourish, whilst Leventis, discretely yet consistently, provided the financial means for the establishment of Cypriot antiquities departments in foreign museums abroad. Through it's different stages, the project will expose the impact that these spaces have throughout the time on political, social, economic and cultural level on the creation of Cypriot identity.



#### Part 1 Interviews/Research

In February 2017, a two-hour interview, shot at the Leventis Gallery, took place between Paul Dujardin, CEO and Artistic Director of BOZAR, Brussels and Dr Vassos Karageorghis. Later that year, in August 2017, Hans Ulrich Obrist, director of Serpentine Gallery, London, arrived in the island for a tour of Salamis conducted by Dr Karageorghis. The visit was conceived as a road trip in collaboration with Cypriot artist Christodoulos Panayiotou. The morning after the three men were immersed in an extensive exchange in the form of an interview.

#### Part 2

Exhibitions/ Talks/ Symposiums/Publications The project aspires to reflect on the decision of the Leventis Foundation to create islets of culture across the world, contributing to the wider discourse about multicultural identity. In the same way that their vision was not oriented towards one local museum, we wish to extend this project to all the islets and contributors, embracing all audiences in an open, creative and multifaceted dialogue. A programme that could relate, promote and extend the exchange between these institutions, inviting local and foreign artists from diverse disciplines to react and to investigate this cultural fusion. Hans Ulrich Obrist accepted our invitation to discuss the possible format the project could take.

#### Aims

- 1. Raise awareness for the legacy of the late Constantine Leventis and Dr Vassos Karageorghis in shaping, preserving, protecting and promoting Cypriot archaeology worldwide through the establishment of Cypriot antiquities departments in foreign institutions
- 2. Understand this cultural transaction evident in the layers of Cyprus' history and how this formed the island's identity
- 3. Explore the ways in which the permanent presence of Cypriot antiquities collections, dispersed in leading cultural institutions globally, has contributed to the establishment, configuration, authentication and communication of Cypriot cultural heritage
- 4. Evaluate how this significant contribution to renowned museums worldwide laid the basis for contemporary Cypriot artists practice their art
- 5. Initiate a project that could relate, promote and extend the exchange between these institutions, inviting local and foreign artists from diverse disciplines to react and to investigate this cultural fusion

To many people, museums are simply elegant storage buildings. But more than simple repositories or collections, museums represent an ideal. Each museum is a fully functioning organism that reaches visitors on an emotional level, both within the museum's physical location and beyond.

Mark Walhimer, *Museums 101*, London: Rowman & Littlefield, London, 2015, p. xi.