

A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY
REPORT 2017



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 Coin Collection of Anastasios G. Leventis presented for the first time a survey on the quality and diversity of this very important collection.



Professor Angelos Delivorrias, former Director of the Benaki Museum and member of its Board of Trustees, with Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel, Director of the A. G. Leventis Gallery



A. G. L. G. BENAKI AWARD

Every year the Benaki Museum honours and highlights the work of cultural organisations in the Greek provinces and Cyprus through a series of events that focus on the study and promotion of culture. In line with this, for the 14th year running, the Benaki Museum celebrated International Museum Day, hosting an event in honour of the A. G. Leventis Gallery.

The welcome speech was delivered by Maria Panayides, Educational Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Athens. During the event, Professor Angelos Delivorrias, member of the Academy of Athens and former Director of the Benaki Museum, announced the decision of the Trustees of the Museum to honour the A. G. Leventis Gallery. Fotini Papadopoulou, Trustee of the A. G. Leventis Foundation, presented the life of Anastasios G. Leventis as entrepreneur and collector, 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 the screening of a short film entitled *A. G. Leventis Gallery – Vision and Creation*, as well as video interviews with Paul Dujardin, CEO and Artistic Director of BOZAR, Brussels, and Wim van der Weiden, Chairman of the European Museum Academy (EMA), both members of the Honorary Committee of the Gallery.



*Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou, Trustee of
the A. G. Leventis Foundation,
delivering her speech*







TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS



Ghika, Craxton, 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 (24 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

BELOW:
View of the installation works

CURATORS:

Evita Arapoglou

*Author on Ghika, Curator of the Greek Collection,
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 – Head Curator,
A. G. Leventis Gallery*



*View of the 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 & BELOW:
Views 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 Dikaïos 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, A. G. Leventis Gallery

COORDINATORS:

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel

Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou

Deputy Director – Head Curator,

A. G. Leventis Gallery



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 – Head Curator,
A. G. Leventis Gallery*





*CLOCKWISE (from bottom left):
Installation by Kyriaki Costa,
installation by Theodoros Gregoriou,
sculpture by Nikos Kouroussis,
sculpture by Savvas Christodoulides*



Από τον 19ο αιώνα στον 20ο

FROM THE 19TH CENTURY TO THE 20TH

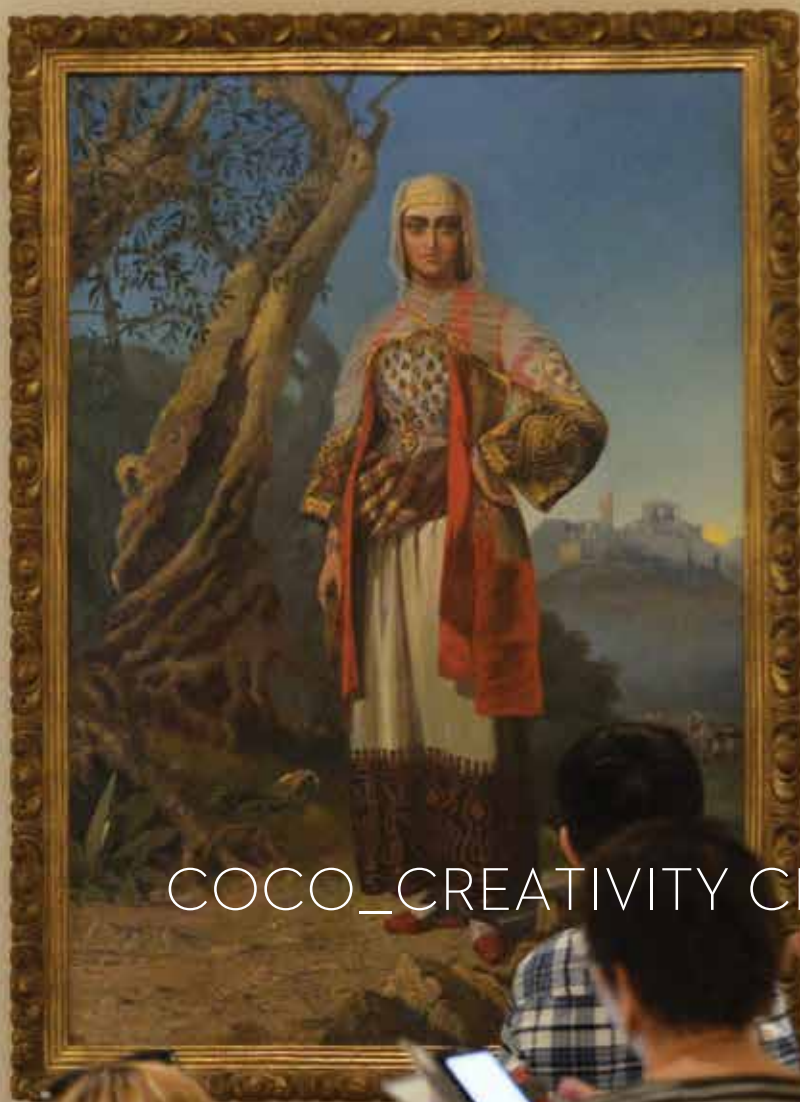
The 19th century was a period of great change in the history of the world. It was a time when the world was becoming more and more interconnected, and when the power of the industrial revolution was being felt in every corner of the globe.

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COCO_CREATIVITY CENTRE



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.

CLAUDE MONET HALL — EXHIBITIONS



*Landscape Photography Workshop with
the five young photographers participating
in the exhibition*

Genius Loci – The Contemporary Photographic Gaze 13 October 2016 – 16 January 2017

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 different aspects 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 – Head Curator, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Katerina Stephanides
Head of Education – Curator, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Theodora Demetriou
Educator, A. G. Leventis Gallery



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*

CURATORS:

Eleni S. Nikita

Curator of the Cyprus Collection, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Katerina Stephanides

Head of Education – Curator, A. G. Leventis Gallery



*A view of
the exhibition*



The students of the Fine and Applied Arts Department of Frederick University presented a collective installation entitled

Αφροδίτη/Aphrodite

9 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 photograph of children sitting at a long white table, engaged in a painting activity. In the foreground, a girl with dark hair and a pink headband with a bow is seen from the side, wearing a green sweater and a white apron. She is holding a paintbrush. To her left, another child's hands are visible, also holding paintbrushes. On the table, there are several blue plastic cups containing water and paintbrushes, and some paint containers. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and tables, suggesting a classroom or workshop setting.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

*A watercolour
by Kyriacos Lyras*



PROGRAMMES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

*Genius Loci – Ioannis Kissonerghis and British
Landscape Painters, 13.10 2016 – 16.01 2017*

Live Watercolour Demonstration by Kyriacos Lyras

The final educational programme organised in conjunction with the exhibition. The artist Kyriacos Lyras demonstrated and explained the various methods he uses for watercolour landscapes.

*Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor:
Charmed Lives in Greece, 24.02 – 22.05 2017*

Bookbinding and Papercutting Workshops

Two workshops (one for children, one for teenagers and adults) specially prepared to introduce the fascinating lives and works of Nikos Hadjikyriakos-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!

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 Aristidou.

Lithography Workshop

A workshop for adults using the technique of lithography, inspired by the works of Ghika and Craxton.



*Children with Evi Grouta,
A. G. L. G. intern in 2017, participating
in The Myths of Venus programme*



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 programme was also offered to schools upon request.

The Venus Paradox, 28.09 2017 – 15.01 2018

The Myths of Venus

A Saturday workshop, introducing kids to Venus and her children, followed by an arts and crafts workshop. Our intern, Evi Grouta, transformed into Venus and presented 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.

*Families creating together during the
Family Sundays programme*



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

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.



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.

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.

ABOVE:

Children with Theodora Demetriou and Katerina Stephanides, A. G. L. G. Educators, participating in the 25th of March educational programme

BELOW:

Yoga with the Impressionists



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 workshops 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 and June 2017)

Lithography Workshop 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)



In the autumn, we offered three 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 *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 the exhibition, with a special focus on Godfried Donkor's provocative *The Birth of Venus III*. The workshop explored the various methods and techniques of collage-making to create unique compositions using mixed media.

Doll-making Workshop – Make your own Venus!

(December 2017)

In conjunction with the designer and educator Froso Mavrou. A three-week (seven-hour) doll-making workshop, in which the participants created their own unique Venus cloth doll.

Alexis Michaelides, art teacher in action



*Getting ready to sleep
in the Impressionist Gallery*



THE ANNUAL SLEEPOVER

A Night at the Museum – Museums and 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 this theme, 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.



*Celebrating Maria's birthday
in the Greek Collection Gallery*

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.

A 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, explore and be creative!

Party Add-ons

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



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 (see page 27).

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 Colletterie* (Claude Renoir) by Pierre-August Renoir. The programme concludes with an arts and crafts activity in 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.



*Children with Theodora Demetriou,
Educator at the A. G. Leventis Gallery,
participating in The Myths of Venus
programme*

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 familiarise 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 familiarise 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 of Shakespeare

This special programme was created in collaboration with the young actress and director Loukia Pierides to celebrate the 400th 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.





OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

*Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith delivering
his lecture on Patrick Leigh Fermor*



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, A. G. Leventis Gallery,
Co-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, Co-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 Co-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 the Peloponnese

'A Walk with Niki: The Poetry of Niki
Marangou'

JUNE:

Eleni S. Nikita

Curator of the Cyprus Collection, A. G. Leventis Gallery

'Solomos Frangoulides: His Life and Works'

OCTOBER:

Colin B. Bailey

*Director of the Morgan Library & Museum, New York,
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*

'Venus, Venice and Cyprus'

DECEMBER:

Anthea Callen, FRSA

*Emeritus Professor of the Australian National University
and Emeritus Professor of Visual Culture, University
of Nottingham*

'The Modern Venus: Goddess or Whore?'

*Andreas Araouzos performing
as Lucian Freud*



THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

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 Efthymoulos Theocharous on piano. The women's dresses were designed by Kika Ioannidou.

ABOVE:
*Alexia Paraskeva performing
as Venus*

RIGHT:
The poster for Art

Art

In collaboration with Alpha Square, the play *Art*, directed by Andreas Araouzos, was staged in the Pinakothiki Café in December. Written originally in French by Yasmina Reza, the play has received many awards worldwide.

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 what constitutes 'art'.



*Evita Arapoglou and Ian Collins,
Co-curators of the Ghika, Craxton,
Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in
Greece exhibition, guiding visitors*



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 tours 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 Co-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 tours of the impressive temporary exhibition depicting the many faces of the Cypriot goddess Aphrodite through 76 works of art from 19 European and American museums and private collections.

*Myrto Hatzaki, Co-curator of
The Venus Paradox exhibition,
guiding a group of VIPs*

*The Cabinet de curiosités
of the A. G. Leventis Gallery
on the Move programme*



A. G. LEVENTIS GALLERY 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 works from its Collections, takes 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 everyone present, reminding our public that art is for everyone and, ultimately, that a gallery is a space where everyone is welcome.



**‘Bare-breasted Venus’
for Europa Donna Cyprus,
Trakasol Cultural Centre, Limassol**

In the context of its social responsibility agenda, the *A. G. Leventis Gallery on the Move* programme broadened its support of Europa Donna Cyprus, a leading breast cancer charity, by taking the annual ‘Breasts through Art’ lecture – a collaboration now in its second year – to the Trakasol Cultural Centre in Limassol. Drawing on feminist art history and the politics of the gaze, Myrto Hatzaki, Curator of the Gallery’s Paris Collection, spoke on ‘Bare-breasted Venus’, a presentation that opened the floor to Evi Papadopoulou, President of Europa Donna Cyprus, who introduced the organisation’s awareness-raising campaign. The evening also provided the opportunity to introduce *The Venus Paradox* exhibition to a broad audience and ended in a vibrant discussion.

**‘Simply Flowers?’
Three Centuries of Flowers in Art,
Atsas Training Center**

As part of its outreach initiatives, the A. G. Leventis Gallery organised a day-long event at the Atsas Training Center in the context of the *A. G. Leventis Gallery on the Move* Programme. Director Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel and Curator Myrto Hatzaki travelled to the Solea Valley, to the recently renovated training centre in the Skouriotissa area, for a presentation centred on flowers – taking its cue from the complex world of 17th-century Dutch flower painting, the elegance of 18th-century French floral dessert porcelain and the Victorian passion for the ‘language of flowers’ and floral perfumes. A lecture exploring flowers as art, but also as flavour and scent, took participants through the layers of meaning hidden beneath the seeming simplicity of floral representations, with the aid of the Gallery’s travelling *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 neighbouring countryside and immortalised it in a vibrantly coloured drawing.

ABOVE:
*Drawing flowers, A. G. Leventis Gallery
on the Move programme at
the Atsas Training Center*



CONFERENCES

Museums and Intangible Heritage

27 April 2017

Organised in collaboration with
the Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO

Museums have conventionally been concerned with safeguarding and promoting 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 examples of good practice for activities organised by various museums in Cyprus. The keynote speaker was Dr Marilena Alivizatou, Museologist, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Museums, Heritage and Material Culture Studies, University College London.

Building the Future of Museum Education

8 May 2017

Organised in collaboration with
the European University

The aim of the conference was to provide examples of good practice in the field of museum education. The keynote speakers were invited from the Education Department of the Louvre. They presented their 'La Petite Galerie', an unprecedented project which draws on the Louvre's experience in the field of art and cultural education. It is a new exhibition space in the Museum specially designed to offer additional educational experiences. Each year, this ambitious project develops an overarching theme to provide visitors with a unique encounter with a variety of artworks and to enrich the ways they look at them: online via a website and an innovative digital environment (applications, e-learning, collaborative platforms, etc.); and, beyond the museum walls, through travelling outreach initiatives for all audiences (cultural institutions, companies, schools, etc.).



LEFT:
Dr Marilena Alivizatou, keynote speaker
at the Museums and Intangible Heritage
Conference, during a workshop
with teachers

BELOW:
Costas Kadis, Cypriot Minister
of Education and Culture, with
Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel,
Director of the A. G. Leventis Gallery

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



DOCUMENTARY

Venus Uncovered **SandStone Global Productions Ltd** 14 December 2017

During *The Venus Paradox* 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 Productions Ltd. *Venus Uncovered* is presented by the award-winning historian, author and broadcaster Professor Bettany Hughes, 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.

Professor Hughes works 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 broadcast on BBC4 in November and December 2017 with more than 56,000,000 viewers.

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. *Venus Uncovered* is



*Professor Bettany Hughes presenting
her documentary Venus Uncovered*

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' origins in powerful ancient deities, Bettany demonstrates that Venus is far more complex than first meets the eye. Beginning in Cyprus, the goddess' mythical birthplace, Bettany decodes Venus' 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 that 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' own love life to see that – even for her – tangling with another was often bittersweet. We hear the heartfelt, 2600-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.

Myrto Hatzaki, Curator of the Paris Collection, delivering the Europa Donna Cyprus annual lecture



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.

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 event with the Cyprus Red Cross. Ten educational stations were set up throughout the



LEFT:
Pastries with the Europa Donna logo

BELOW:
The Love Breakfast interactive installation in front of The World of Cyprus by Adamantios Diamantis

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.



*Evi Grouta, A. G. L. G. intern in 2017,
presenting in the educational programme
The Myths of Venus*



INTERNSHIPS

Our ongoing collaboration with various universities in Cyprus and Europe enabled us to receive students, mainly from the arts, art history and social studies departments. These students follow a programme especially prepared for them, agreed in advance between the A. G. L. G. and their professors.

This year, two students worked closely with the A. G. L. G. educators in order to create two educational 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 27), inspired by *The Venus Paradox* exhibition.

For the duration of the summer school, an intern was also accepted and was able to work on the preparation of the programme, as well as being involved with the activities throughout the summer school, gaining invaluable experience.

Many requests for internships were received in 2017, but unfortunately the A. G. L. G. cannot accommodate all of them, due to limited staff. Our target is to receive interns following a specially tailored training or research programme and to appoint each one of them a member of the curatorial or education department to assist and guide them.

An abstract painting featuring a complex composition of geometric shapes and textured brushstrokes. The color palette is dominated by earthy tones, including various shades of brown, tan, and beige, with occasional accents of muted blue and grey. The brushwork is visible and expressive, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a rich, layered visual experience.

NEW ACQUISITIONS 2017

NEW ACQUISITIONS 2017

The A. G. L. G. Collections were enriched
with three new works.



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



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



Portrait of Caterina Cornaro,
 copy on panel of Titian's painting in
 the Uffizi Gallery, Florence
 AGLG 766

University of Lyon, specialising in archaeology
dialect of Cyprus. Her doctoral thesis, pre-
published in 1977, is titled *La grande d*
research in Cypriot dialectology a
articles in *The Coroplastic Art* a
(1999), *Kypris: The Aphrodisias*
Jacqueline de Romilly
has collaborated with
programme
sites dedi
of Cyp
Fre

Jacqueline Karageorghis



The image shows a photograph of a book cover. The cover art is a classical painting depicting a woman in a dark, flowing dress standing in a dark, possibly outdoor setting. A white dove is flying above her. To the right, there is a large, ornate, classical-style urn or pedestal. The background of the painting is dark and moody. On the left side of the book cover, there is a vertical color calibration strip with various colored squares and a ruler scale. The word "PUBLICATIONS" is printed in white, uppercase letters across the center of the image.

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

Four new publications were produced in 2017.

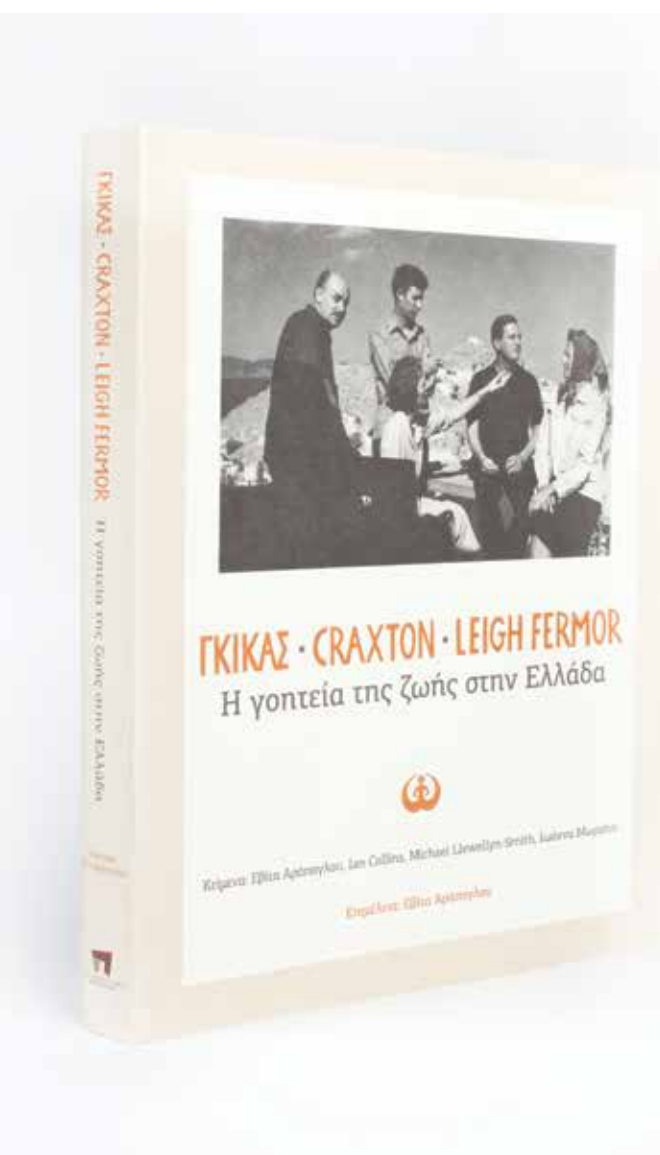
Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece

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

Curator of the Greek Collection, A. G. Leventis Gallery





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*.

EDITORS:

For the volume *The Venus Paradox*

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Myrto Hatzaki
Curator of the Paris Collection, A. G. Leventis Gallery

For the appendix *The Venus Paradox – The Contemporary Gaze*

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
Deputy Director – Head Curator, A. G. Leventis Gallery

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Specialist in archaeology and the ancient dialect of Cyprus

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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



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, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Ghika

A limited-edition diary for 2018. This is the eighth 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

Lykion Ton Hellenidon

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel

Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou

Deputy Director – Head Curator, A. G. Leventis Gallery





SHOP



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).

In its three 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.





A large painting is laid out on a wooden table. The painting depicts a figure in a red garment with a yellow and black patterned section. To the right of the painting, several black and white photographs are laid out on a white sheet of paper. A person's hands are visible at the top right, holding the paper. The text "WORKS ON LOAN AND ONGOING RESEARCH" is overlaid on the painting.

WORKS ON LOAN
AND ONGOING RESEARCH



WORKS ON LOAN

Two paintings from the Gallery's Greek Collection, *At a Bar in Paris* by Pericles Vyzantios and *Landscape with Rocks and Moon* by Nikolaos Othonaios, travelled to the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens for the exhibition *Techni Group, 100 Years*.

2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the creation of the famous Techni Group, which has been identified – in the consciousness of those who study 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.





LEFT:
View of the Techni Group, 100 Years
exhibition in Athens

BELOW:
At a Bar in Paris by Pericles Vyzantios

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 Chambéry

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 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 Chambéry. The Musée de Chambéry has organised for all the works from France and Cyprus (i.e. except the two works in the V&A) to be transferred to the Louvre laboratories for further research and special scanning. The next meeting is due in January 2018 upon completion of the laboratory work.



COIN COLLECTION



COIN COLLECTION

The two experts continued their research related to the Gold Coin Collection of Anastasios G. Leventis. A special room was arranged for them as a work space, and a small but important library with publications on coin collections and collecting has been assembled in order to facilitate their work.

During 2017, the experts focussed on and achieved the following:

Study of Each Coin

The coins in the Collection have been photographed and studied, and a special form has been filled in about each one. The forms now contain details of the weight of each coin, based on the use of a specialised scale; the dimensions; and the definition of the axis. The identification of every coin includes the description of the images, the reading of the legends, the dating and the verification of the issuing authority. Each form also has bibliographical references. The study of the history of each coin is now being undertaken. The above has been realised with online research and the books at hand.

The Physical Archiving and Storage in the Special Cases

The coins now have individual labels and have been placed in capsules and trays. Analytical lists have been prepared for every case and tray.



Completion of the Creation of the Coin Digital Archive

Detailed instructions were given and a series of meetings took place for the finalisation of the database. Relevant menu lists and symbols were created to correspond to the fields of the data form. A complete database of the entire Coin Collection has been uploaded and is available in the A. G. Leventis Digital Archives. The database will be completed with the uploading of photographs of the coins.

Collaboration with the Cyprus Institute

The photographing 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 Library, coordinated internationally by the Institute.

Coin Exhibition

The team, in coordination with the Director and Deputy Director of the Gallery, established the basic ideas and pillars for the permanent and temporary presentation of the Collection.





The image features several vertical, ornate golden moldings or carvings, likely from a classical architectural element. They are arranged in a row, with the central one being the most prominent. The moldings have intricate scrollwork and decorative patterns. The background is a plain, light color.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
FOR 2018-2019

AGONIES - DIAMANTIS

True to its pledge to explore and delve into the history of art in Cyprus, the 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 *Woman with Outstretched Arms*, Diamantis' last finished painting. Created in 1982-1983, 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 his 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 of Gethsemane*; 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



Agonies Before and After (detail)
by Adamantios Diamantis

Guernica, as well as with Byzantine icons depicting the Massacre 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 on loan from 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 present 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,
A. G. Leventis Gallery

Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel
Director, A. G. Leventis Gallery

COORDINATOR:

Demetra Theodotou Anagnostopoulou
Deputy Director – Head Curator,
A. G. Leventis Gallery

EXHIBITION DURATION:

28 March – 10 September 2018

Charmed lives in Greece Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor

8 March – 15 July 2018



GHIKA, CRAXTON, LEIGH FERMOR IN LONDON

The final showing of the exhibition *Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece* 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 lectures has also been planned in collaboration with the Museum.

TWELVE COINS WITH A STORY TO TELL

(working title)

October 2018 –January 2019

The Anastasios G. Leventis Gold Coin Collection is an outstanding collection of 605 pieces. Gold has always been considered a safe investment, especially in 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 and 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), from the Byzantine and the medieval eras (4th-16th centuries) and of modern times (17th-20th centuries) 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 to the historical, cultural and numismatic contexts. 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.



BELOW & RIGHT:

The A. G. Leventis Gallery team and the Point Centre for Contemporary Art team visiting the ancient ruins of Salamis, in the Turkish-occupied area of Cyprus, with Professor Vassos Karageorghis as their guide, accompanied by Curator Hans Ulrich Obrist



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 – Constantine Leventis and Dr Vassos Karageorghis – who, out of duty, love and passion for their homeland and its rich cultural historical record, joined forces to ‘take revenge’, as Dr 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 on 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 its different stages, the project will expose the impact that these spaces have had throughout time on political, social, economic and cultural levels on the creation of Cypriot identity.



Part 1

Interviews / Research

In February 2017, a two-hour interview, filmed at the A. G. 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 the Serpentine Galleries, London, arrived on 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 following morning, the three men were immersed in an extensive exchange in the form of an interview.

Part 2

Exhibitions / Talks / Symposia / Publications

The project aspires to reflect on the decision of the A. G. Leventis Foundation to create islets of culture across the world, contributing to the wider discourse about multicultural identity. In the same way that the Foundation's vision is 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. Hans Ulrich Obrist accepted our invitation to discuss the possible format the project could take.

Aims

1. Raise awareness of 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 how contemporary Cypriot artists practise 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, 2015, p. xi.