

Giorgos Ioannou (1926-2017)

Giorgos (Georges) Ioannou (1926-2017) was one of the most important painters of the post-war period in Greece, regarded to be its main representative of Pop Art. Born in Athens in 1926, he studied painting in Athens and Paris.

Ioannou became prominent in the late 60s with exhibitions in Greece, Belgium and Italy following his studies in Paris in the early 60s. In his early work he used complex compositions with vivid color creating rich narratives negating the rules of perspective, influenced by folk art, setting a stage for his figures depicting scenes stemming from personal memories and experiences. He was dealing with the trauma of the abrupt end of his childhood when the brutal Nazi occupation of Athens caused the financial ruin of his family and his involvement in the Resistance in 1943-45.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Solo exhibition, Hellenic Centre, London.

Solo Exhibitions

2025

Feature, Art Basel. Solo presentation by Kalfayan Galleries

2024

‘Giorgos Ioannou - POP?’, Kalfayan Galleries, Athens

2023

‘Persistent Presences’, Retrospective, Municipal Gallery of Thessaloniki- Casa Bianca, Thessaloniki

2022

‘Inner Journey’, Retrospective, Municipal Gallery of Athens, Athens

2002

Athens Municipality Arts Center (Πάρκο Ελευθερίας), Athens

1998

Athens Municipality Arts Center, Athens

1994

Neo Psychiko Art Gallery, Athens

1992

Relics Art Gallery, Thessaloniki

Epipeda Art Gallery, Athens

1989

Epipeda Art Gallery, Athens

1985

Athens Art Gallery, Athens

1982

Athens Art Gallery, Athens

1979

Ora Cultural Centre, Athens

1978

Ora Cultural Centre, Athens

1975

Astor Gallery, Athens

1973

Galerie Isy Brachot, Brussels, Belgium

Ora Cultural Centre, Athens

1972

Galleria Pagani, Milan. Italy

1971

Astor Gallery, Athens

1969

Astor Gallery, Athens

1968

Musee des Beaux Arts d'Ostende, Ostende, Belgium

1967

Olympia Oceanliner, Athens

1966

Nees Morfes Art Gallery, Athens

1964

Zygos Gallery, Athens

1960

American College of Greece, Athens

1959

Zygos Gallery, Athens

Group Exhibitions (selection)**2026**

'South by Southeast- Re-Orienting the Collection' (curated by Katerina Gregos), Museum of Contemporary Art Athens (EMΣT)

'Optimism Despite Everything', Kalfayan Galleries, Athens

'60 years of the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation: Readings of a collection', Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece

'Our Constitution, 1975-2025', Hellenic Parliament, "Eleftherios Venizelos" Hall , Athens, Greece

2025

'A Link and a Break in Time', ACG Art Gallery, The American College of Greece, Athens.

2024-2025

'DEMOCRACY', National Gallery, Athens

2023-2024

'Urbanography, the life of the city in the 1950s-1970s', National Gallery, Athens

2022

'Rebetiko', Municipal Gallery of Athens, Athens

2017

'Ten Chapters: Artworks from the Permanent Collection of CCA', Contemporary Art Museum of Crete, Rethymnon

2016

'ART-NON ART', RE-culture 4, Patras

2009

'Between the two centuries', "L. Kanakakis" Municipal Gallery, Contemporary Art Museum of Crete, Rethymnon

'Visual Art Creations on Christmas Trees, Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Center, Athens

'From Ancient Olympia to Beijing', Megaron The Athens Concert Hall, Athens

2008

'From Ancient Olympia to Beijing', Greek House, Beijing, China

2004

'Light between', Diana Gallery Down Town, Athens

2002

'People - Faces – Forms, "L. Kanakakis" Municipal Gallery, Contemporary Art Museum of Crete, Rethymnon

2000

'National Gallery 100 Years Four Centuries of Greek Painting', National Gallery, Athens

1999

'Blue', Lavrion Technological Cultural Park, Lavrion

1998

'L. Kanakakis - In the dimension of time / Greek Artists - Quests 1950-2000, The Permanent Collection', "L. Kanakakis" Municipal Gallery - "Eleni Frantzeskaki" Collection, Rethymnon

1994

'Group exhibition ', Neo Psychiko Art Gallery, Athens

1993

'Greece In Antwerp', Antwerp Hellenic Consulate, Antwerp, Belgium

'Group exhibition ', Macedonia University, Thessaloniki

'Painting - Sculpture, Neo Psychiko Art Gallery, Athens

1992

'Contemporary Greek Painting from the Vorres Museum, Patras Municipal Gallery, Patras

'III Mediterranean Biennial of Engraving': 'Great Alexander and Christopher Columbus', Savelli castle, Palombara Savina, Italy

'Group exhibition', Neo Psychiko Art Gallery, Athens

'Engravings from the Collection of the Macedonian Artistic Society', Vafopoulio Cultural Centre, Thessaloniki.

'Vorres Museum - Contemporary Greek Painting Exhibition', Vafopoulio Cultural Center, Thessaloniki

'Painting Exhibition', Neo Psychiko Art Gallery, Athens

1991

"I Lexi" literary periodical', Pieridis Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens

'Woman figure in Art', Caravia Beach Hotel, Kos

1990

'The Theodore Venetsanos Collection of Contemporary Art' Museo Palacio marques de Campo, Valencia, Spain

'II Mediterranean Biennial of Engraving', Athens Municipal Gallery, Athens

1989

Spirit and Body: Sports and Motion in Contemporary Greek Art', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

1988

'Peinture Grecque 1968-1988', Commision et secretariat du conseil des ministres des Communautés Europeennes, Brussels, Belgium

Megaron, Athens Greece-Sports-Culture: Sports Spirit and Motion in Contemporary Greek Art', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

'Pireus- Sea,, Art Gallery Astrolavos, Pireus.

1987

'Contemporary Greek Painting', National Gallery, Athens

'Group exhibition', Astrolavos Art Gallery, Peiraeus

'Save nature and man', Art Gallery Antinor, Athens

'Save nature and man', Art Gallery Nafplion

1986

'Group exhibition ', Astrolavos Art Gallery, Athens

'Marousi then and Now', Amarousion cultural Center, Athens

'Figurative trends in Contemporary Painting – Image and its Variations, National Gallery, Athens.

1985

'Painting-Sculpture-Printmaking 1985', Baggeion Hotel, Athens

'9th Avgi-Thourios Festival', Athens

1984

'China-Greece 1984: Two ancient cultures', Rodis Karkazi Gallery, Chicago (Illinois), USA

'Intergrafik 84', Ausstellungszentrum am Fernsehturm, Berlin, Germany

1983

'Retrospective 1983', Ikastikos Kiklos, Athens

'Contemporary Greek Painting', Famagusta Gate, Nicosia, Cyprus.

1982

'Exhibition of Greek Engraving, Municipal Cultural center, Athens.

'Art et Dictature', **Europalia**, Galerie CGER, Brussels, Belgium

1981

'Greek Spring', Artigraf Art Center, Athens

'Documenta 1981', Art Gallery Syllogi, Athens

1980

Astor Gallery, Athens

1979

'Four Painters', Chrysothemis Gallery, Athens

'Painting-Sculpture', Galerie Art Studio, Athens

'Cultural Decameron', Makrygiannis Association, Athens

1978

'Zeitgenoessische Griechische Malerei und Graphik', Institut fuer Auslandsbeziehungen,
Stuttgart, Germany

'Greek Painters and Engravers', Hellenic Cultural Center, Nicosia, Cyprus

'Avgi Festival 1978', Koumoundourou Square, Athens

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Edessa

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Giannitsa.

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Katerini.

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Kavala.

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Xanthi

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Komotini

'Panhellenic Cultural Movement: Painting-Sculpture-Engraving '78', Municipal Cultural Centre, Athens

'Exhibition of artists from Faliron', Association of Paleo Faliro Residents, Paleo Faliro

1977

'Painting of the Interwar Period', 'Techni' Macedonian Artistic Society, Thessaloniki

'Avgi Festival 1977', Athens

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Arts and Literature center, Kozani.

'Painting of the Interwar Period', 'Armonia' Music and Literature Association, Kastoria.

'Painting of the Interwar Period', Veria Municipal Cultural Center, Veria.

'Documents 1977', Syllogi Art Gallery, Athens

'3rd exhibition of artists from Faliron', Athens

1976

'Greek Painting Panorama 1950-1975', Museum Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany

'Group exhibition', Astor Gallery, Athens

'Panorama of Greek Painting 1950-1975', National Gallery, Athens

'Artists from Faliro', Association of Paleo Faliro Residents, Athens.

1975

'Panhellenic Art Exhibition', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

'Painting exhibitions in Factories', Isola Factory, Thebes

'Exhibition of artists from Faliron', Athens

1974

'Tribute to Cyprus', Astor Gallery, Desmos Art Gallery

Nees Morfes Art Gallery

Zoumboulakis Gallery

Ora Cultural Centre, Athens

'Greek Art Now', Cna Gallery, Chicago (Illinois), USA

'Contemporary Greek Art', Athens Tower Exhibition Hall, Athens

'4 Greek Painters', Athens Tower Exhibition Hall, Athens

1973

'Exhibition of Painting, Sculture and Engraving', Ora Cultural Centre, Athens

'Gaze 73', Isy brachot, Brussels, Belgium

'12th Panhellenic Art Exhibition', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

1971

'11th Panhellenic Art Exhibition', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

'December '71 – Greek Artists', Astor Gallery, Athens

1970

'35th Biennale di Venezia 1970', Venice, Italy

'Representative Exhibition of Contemporary Greek Art', Lydra Palace, Nicosia, Cyprus

1969

'1st Panhellenic Art Exhibition of Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Decoration', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

'Contemporary Greek Painting', Ora Cultural Centre, Athens

'4th Exhibition-Prosfora', Hellenic American Union, Athens

1968

'15 Painters', 'Techni' Macedonian Artistic Society, Thessaloniki

'Group exhibition', Cultural Center, Athens

1967

'9th Panhellenic Art Exhibition', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

'Summer Salon '67', Nees Morfes Art Gallery, Athens

'La Biennale delle Regioni

Mostra nazionale rappresentativa, Mostra confronto Internazionale', Ancona, Italy

1966

'White-Black', Nees Morfes Art Gallery, Athens

'Group exhibition', Nees Morfes Art Gallery, Athens

1965

'8th Panhellenic Exhibition', Zappeion Megaron, Athens

'Peace and Life', Zygos Gallery, Athens

1964

'3rd Panhellenic Exhibition of Young Artists', Hellenic American Union, Athens

1961

'1st Panhellenic Exhibition of Young Artists', French Institute, Athens

'Word and Art Festival', Lefkada Old Lyceum, Lefkada

1960

'Group exhibition', Art Gallery, Athens

1959

'2nd New Artists Salon', Zygos Gallery, Athens