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2024 - 2025

AN EPOQUE OF 'IMMERSION'...

Mark Rothko, 120 years later, in Athens



Moments of year 2024

The first months of 2024 found us in a state of feverish preparation of a series of actions and proposals, which began to be implemented from May and continue to unfold their momentum through the beginning of 2025.

Winter – Spring 2024

- **Successful team application to the Hellenic Ministry of Culture (Υ.Π.Π.Ο.Α.)!** A pioneering exhibition for the Greek standards, part of the range of actions of the newly established international project "The Mediterranean Rothko" (see page 4)

MAY 2024

The distance between Athens and Boston did not prevent us from communicating, through an online scientific lecture, ideas, findings and proposals for the versatile role of graffiti and street art in the (Athenian) public space.

We were invited on May 15th by the very active **CITIZEN TALES** (<https://citizentales.org/>) and Professor **Vicki Rapti**, in **The Citizen Tales Commons Youth Mentoring Forum on Civic Innovation Virtual Lecture Series**, where we presented, "Whose Athens? A Tug-of-War: The Role of Graffiti in the Public Space," followed by a discussion with a debate moderated by the dynamic CITIZEN TALES members: Katerina Triantafyllou & Valentino Dardas.

This scientific research style presentation marks the beginning for the expansion of our cooperation, in Greece and the United States, with the non-profit **CITIZEN TALES**, and the honorable Dr. **Vicki Rapti**.

Proud partners <https://citizentales.org/ourpartners>



"You opened our eyes..."
quote, on-line participant.



Owl Mural, Kerameikos region, (B. Kondyli)

THE CITIZEN TALES COMMONS YOUTH MENTORING FORUM
ON CIVIC INNOVATION VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES ON CIVIC SPACES
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE PRESENTATION

**Whose Athens? A Tug-of-War:
The Role of Graffiti
in the Public Space Debate**

By Barbara Kondilis, MSW, MPH, &
Kalliopi Koundouri, Ph.D., Representing
the Greek NGO "Art, Graffiti in the City"
(Τέχνη, Γκράφιτι στην Πόλη)

Moderators: Katerina Triantafyllou & Valentino Dardas

May 15, 2024, 2:30 PM EST
9:30 PM, Athens Time
Join Zoom Meeting

Contact us for more information

Moments of Year 2024

September 2024

Invitation to our President to TEDXLamia – September 22nd with other speakers on the topic “The Polis”.

Title of Ms. B. Kondilis’ speech was “Graffiti and Street Art, the Open Blog of the City.” Contributors to the speech, accompanying the President were AGC’s Secretary, Evi Athanasekou & the Scientific Advisor of AGC, Kalliope Koundouri.



KAFAO boxes painted by school groups in Lamia



Mural in Montreal, Canada, photo by a friend of AGC

CONFERENCE – Europe in Discourse

A basic principle of the non-profit AGC as a starting point of its establishment is academic research and crystallization via presentations and articles. In recent years, either as a scientific group or as individual speakers, we have participated in the international conference organized by the Hellenic American University (in collaboration with Hellenic American College) in Kolonaki.



We participated this year at the 4th Conference held on the **26 & 27th of September** titled: *Europe in Discourse IV: Future Trajectories in Europe*, with lead author AGC’s Vice-President, Dr. Charalampos Magoulas, and contribution by the rest of the scientific/research team of AGC (Kondyli, Koundouri, Kountouris). Topic: **Political graffiti in Athens: an open-air blog for the voiceless**. More information about the conference can be found here:

<https://europeindiscourse.eu/>



→ The scientific team for the exhibition and the presentation.
 Left to right: D. Mourelatos, Ph.D., B. Kondyli, Ph.D., F. Tzanetoulakou, Ph.D., V. Sarakatsianou, Ph.D., K. Koundouri, Ph.D. (Marcello Barison, Ph.D. not pictured above).

ROTHKO TEAM EXHIBITION, TALK & EVENTS 2024

A team exhibition of current Greek artists, with the economic contribution and support of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture. Title: "The Art of Immersion in Modern Greek Art, Learning from Mark Rothko." **Organized** by Art, Graffiti in the City and the project's scientific committee, "Mediterranean Rothko". **Curation:** Dr. Faye Tzanetoulakou, who brought together 24 distinguished artists, to share their artwork with the public, with artwork inspired by Abstract Expressionism and in particular, Mark Rothko, including a graffiti banner finissage, by street artist and designer **Nique** (see newsletter cover).

It would have been 120 years since the birth of Rothko, on September 25th the date of the exhibit opening. The works were placed by the curatorial hand of Dr. Faye Tzanetoulakou, so as to create for onlookers the feeling of being immersed within that work (**εμβύθιση - immersion**). The exhibition ran from 25th September through 27th October. *Exhibition tours were offered to visitors and schools. The dual language exhibit catalogue is also available.*

Location: Lofos Art Project

<https://www.lofosartproject.com>

Duration: 25th September through 27th October 2024

Curation: Dr. Faye Tzanetoulakou

Scientific Advisors: Dr. Kalliope Koundouri & B. Kondyli, Ph.D.

Academic/Scientific Team: Dr. Dionysis Mourelatos, Dr. Vicki Sarakatsianou, Dr. Faye Tzanetoulakou, Dr. Marcello Barison.

Facebook page: ITALY- GREECE: ROTHKO'S CLASSIC ROUTE

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093899418010>

Mediterranean Rothko

Monday, October 21st at 5:30 p.m.
 Lofos Art Project
 Velvendou 39, Athens - Kypseli

Organized by: Art, Graffiti in the City
 with the support of the
 Hellenic Ministry of Culture (ΥΠΠΟΙΑ)

Speakers
 Barbara Kondilis, Ph.D., Kalliope Koundouri, Ph.D.,
 Dionysis Mourelatos, Ph.D., Vicki Sarakatsianou, Ph.D.,
 Faye Tzanetoulakou, Ph.D., Marcello Barison, Ph.D.

Logos: Hellenic Republic Ministry of Culture, Lofos Art Project



You can find pieces by Mark Rothko that create this "immersion" for the onlooker at:

Tate org:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern/display/in-the-studio/mark-rothko>

The Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas

<https://www.rothkochapel.org/>

[continued: ROTHKO]

PANEL PRESENTATION OCTOBER 21st



The six member Rothko 'team' speakers offered varying approaches and perspectives on the life and works of the artist, in relation to the Mediterranean (ancient Greece and Rome, Byzantium).

Panel "Mediterranean Rothko" at Lofos art project

In the packed event hall of the Lofos art project, the multi-prismatic content of the current research on "The Mediterranean Rothko: From Italy to Greece, Rothko's Classic Route in the Mediterranean and beyond" was presented by the scientific team of the aforementioned project of the same name.

The evening was a necessary scientific continuation of the recent, very successful exhibition, in the same place, it is mentioned on the previous page. The exhibition was held under the auspices and with the funding of the Ministry of Culture.

The speakers and their topics (in alphabetical order):

Barbara Kondyli, "Rothko, a persona of red/black"

PhDc, Applied Linguistics and Communication, Counselor, Asst. Professor, Hellenic American College, Athens/ Hellenic American University, New Hampshire, & Instructor at the College of Humanistic Sciences, ICPS. President of Art, Graffiti in the City.

Kalliope Koundouri, "Archaic, classic, modern: The historical Rothko"

PhD. History of Art, Educator, former special scientific associate of the Museum of Modern Greek Art of the Municipality of Rhodes, Adjunct Faculty Member, Hellenic American College, Athens/ Hellenic American University, New Hampshire.

Dionysis Mourelatos, "The 'Byzantine origins' of Mediterranean Rothko"

PhD.. Byzantine Archaeology and Art, Instructor at EKPA, Greek Open University and PADA.

Vicki Sarakatsianou, "Marc Rothko: The path to abstraction"

PhD. History of Art, Member E.D.I.P. University of West Attica and Instructor of the Greek Open University.

Faye Tzanetoulakou, "Rothko, the messenger of the new Sublime according to Longinus"

PhD. History of Art, Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Thessaly, Instructor at the University of West Attica.

Marcello Barison, "Myth and Experience. Rothko's Understanding of Tragic"

Assistant Professor of Aesthetics, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano



"No Dream should remain half-fulfilled"
Photographed by "Fotis" from Athens center

AGC INTERVIEWS

Radio interview with AGC's Secretary, Evi Athanasekou on Greece radio Sports 94.3

Guest of Lila Papapaschou, our secretary, with humor, knowledge and eloquent expression, gave a clear outline of the short but full history of Art, Graffiti in the City and envisioned the upcoming actions, in the context of our strategic planning.

The entire interview in Greek can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/artgraffiticity/>



From left to right: President B. Kondyli, Vice-President Ch. Magoulas, & Secretary E. Athanasekou.

What exactly does "Art, Graffiti in the City" do?

We move, work, socialize, and live in the city of Athens, a historic multicultural metropolis. All kinds of linguistic and visual "landscapes" are spread out around us. From posters and billboards to political slogans, street art, and graffiti. We, at the nonprofit Art, Graffiti in the City (AGC) believe that, indeed, if anyone wants to know about a city, can look at its walls.

AGC was founded in Athens at the end of 2021, with previous varied, academic and research output. AGC is active in the fields of arts and culture in the public space. Particularly critically investigating and processing with an interdisciplinary lens, the diverse effects of graffiti, in its various manifestations as well as street art, on and near preserved monuments, landmarks, public works of art and antiquities, but also to local businesses, residents and visitors. The primary field of research is, selected historic city centers, in Greece and abroad.

Our "job", among other things, at AGC is to scientifically inform the public, initiated and uninitiated, people of all ages, about the abundant forms, versions, meanings, motivations, conditions and significance of the aforementioned, via our website and our social media (www.artgraffcity.gr, FB, Instagram), in addition to seminars – we are planning one for the beginning of 2025 – and educational-entertaining walks in the city. Thus, we will interact getting to know and decoding our surroundings with an open mind.

If we learn to decode, to observe the symbols, to perceive even the wild "strange beauty" that "breaks" the continuous gray of the city, then we will surely find "something" that exceeds solar boundaries and has to do with deep human needs, but also with "extremes". We are "ubiquitous," like graffiti!



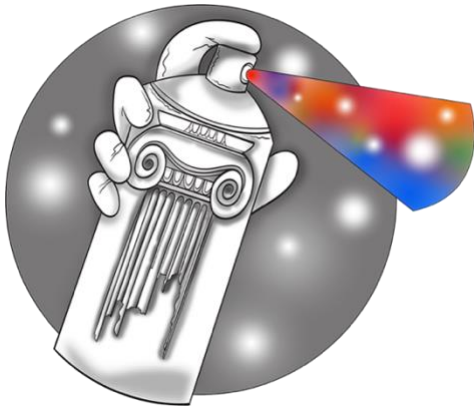
ECOGREENNET SCRIPTED INTERVIEW

The non-profit Art, Graffiti in the City shares its origins, goals, current and immediate future actions by the welcoming portal Ecogreenet.gr (www.ecogreenet.gr).

The entire interview in Greek can be found here:

<https://ecogreenet.gr/blogs/mia-xechoristi-synantisi-me-tin-amke-art-graffiti-in-the-city-agc-kai-tous-yperochous-anthropous-tis/>

OUR VOLUNTEERS



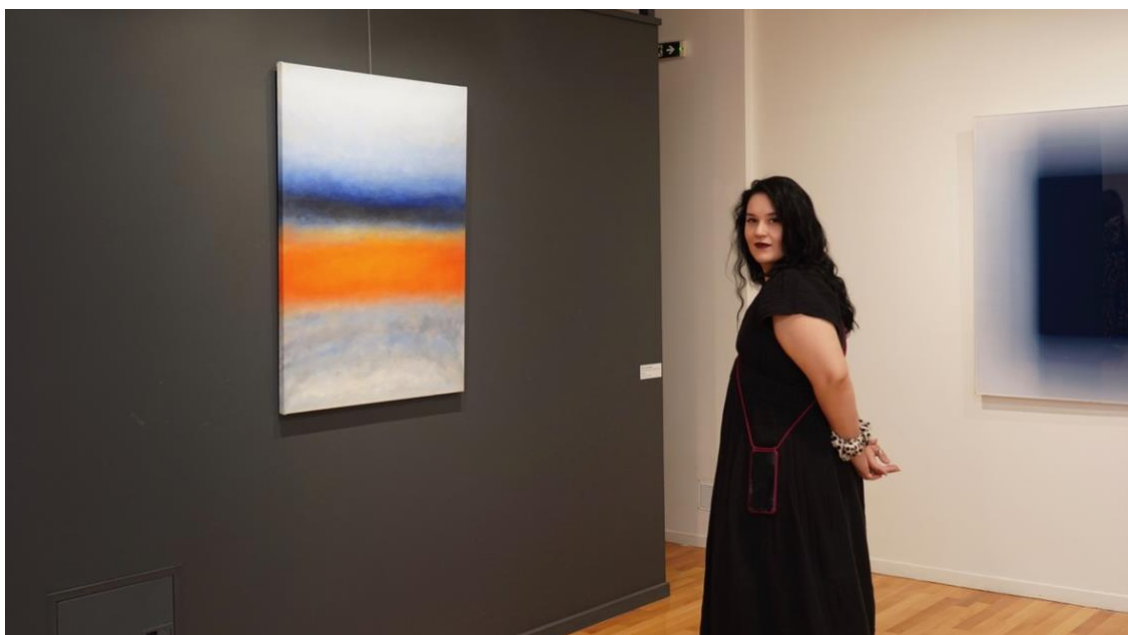
VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS, EXHIBITION VOLUNTEERS

The benefits of volunteerism are well-known, and we are always grateful for these amazing people!

“Fotis” volunteer photographer, who sends us various photos including graffiti quotes, “tags”, murals, “pieces” from various areas of Athens. “Yannis” has volunteered in events and has photographed graffiti on neoclassical buildings.



During the team exhibit this year, volunteers including members of AGC helped with welcoming, catalog availability, and filled the rooms of Lofos Art Project with positive energy in Kypseli. Special thanks to Stavroula Alevizou, Evi Athanasekou, Domenika Varvalouka (featured in the photo below with the background artwork of Murray Dessner), as well as Stella Karonidi, Ioanna Antipati, Aimilia Tzortzinaki, the Poulakos sisters (for snacks), and George Marangoudakis (for photography). Of course, a big thank you to the exhibition donors!



Want to **Volunteer** with us? Find our **Volunteer Form** on our website <https://artgraffcity.gr/en/> (under “Calls”).



*Mural by INO, Metaxourgheio region (left),
Mural by FLIP , all-day school in Dafni (right) (photos: B. Kondyli)*

Forthcoming

- *We will soon collaborate with the culture network **We Adore museums**, in a joint outdoors venture to tap into the cultural stock of public space in Gazi, Athens.*
- *Our statutory principle is the promotion of educational value, multifaceted education along with socialization of children and teenagers, using graffiti and street art as “tools.” We respond to many questions and invitations by several schools, who wish either to be beautified by murals, and not only. We provide them voluntarily with details, instructions and directives recommending established artists to carry out their projects. We continue!*
- *AGC members will take stock of the past year, administrative-organizational initiatives will be announced soon.*

A member posed the question “Do you prefer ROKO [tag] or ROTHKO?” There’s a topic for a **creative discussion / debate...**

→ *We continue to be willing to cooperate with municipalities, communities, agencies, organizations, universities and artists, in Greece and abroad for the creation of licensed graffiti/murals, with accompanying actions, but also educational programs, events, speeches, etc.*



Community Healing Ideas are flowing, with artists and healers as with our Honorary Board member, Edward Tick, Ph.D. author of several books among which are: *Soul Medicine: Healing through Dream Incubation, Visions, Oracles, and Pilgrimage.*

Recent Photo of Dr. Tick & AGC President, in Athens.

