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1964



• DEKOULAKOS • KANAGINIS • LEFAKIS • PILADAKIS • SAHINIS • XENAKIS •

six greek painters

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exhibition from 4 to 28 february 1964

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This Exhibition does not present a unified group of Greek artists, either working together or sharing in common technical or aesthetic programmes. Nor does it argue for a specifically Greek contribution to modern art, although in my view certain native characteristics of light and landscape can be traced in their work. The choice, for which I gladly bear some responsibility, is an attempt to present to the British public some of the most talented artists in Greece who are as yet little known abroad. Indeed the selection has been restricted to painters working in Greece; in London, Paris, New York and elsewhere many Greek artists are to be found and some have deservedly won international reputation. This is an opportunity to introduce to a wider public another group of unusually talented painters.

Greece is of course a small and relatively poor country. Talented artists, especially those working in experimental techniques and searching for idioms appropriate to our time, find little encouragement at home. There is no national gallery of painting in Greece, let alone a Museum of modern art. The few commercial galleries in Athens find relatively little local support and depend largely on tourists. Nevertheless on my regular visits to the country I have been delighted and surprised to find a growing number of young painters working seriously and courageously despite these difficulties.

For this Exhibition I have chosen four painters from Athens and two from Thessaloniki. With greater space it would have been possible to include a number of others of equal talent, let alone some extremely promising sculptors.

Niki Kanaginis, being the only woman artist included, I shall refer to first. The other reason is that she is in fact known in London to a small group of admirers. When her doctor husband studied in London, Mrs. Kanaginis attended the Central School of Arts and Crafts. The outstanding feature of her work is an almost masculine strength of design and a completely unfeminine sense of colour. It is important to appreciate that her ambition is to create in Greece a modern school of tapestry-making, refreshing the age-old folk-art with contemporary design. She has already made important progress in this endeavour and the result will undoubtedly be extremely interesting. So far as native qualities are concerned there is a sensuousness in her colour and a Byzantine quality to her design which mark her art as distinctly Greek.

Xenakis, an older and more mature artist, has much in common with Niki Kanaginis in the formality and subtle balance of his compositions. These qualities are clearly related to his training as an architect and certainly to his complex analytical mind. Of all the artists in this exhibition he is undoubtedly the most searchingly experimental.

Piladakis is this least Greek in the sense that he was born in Alexandria and spent some years teaching and working in America. He is an exceptionally gifted graphic artist and his oils have an exuberance in colour which is unusual in Greek painting. The effect of the strong sun in Greece and the constant reminder of a harsh, rugged linear landscape, let alone the psychological effect of Greek history, usually mitigate against such enthusiasm.

The fourth Athenian artist is Dekoulakos, one of the youngest painters in this group and as yet little known in his native country. I regard him as a young man of exceptional talent. In his brooding, restricted colour and the severe forms of his art, is reflected a more traditional Greek personality.

From Thessaloniki I have chosen two more mature artists who are highly regarded in their own country.

Lefakis is Professor of Painting at the Thessaloniki University and a leading expert in mosaic. Only in recent years has he been able to develop his present style and his work is already admired in the United States. Lefakis expresses a warmer decorative sense of colour than is generally found in Greece, both an aspect of his own temperament and perhaps of the richer and more oriental character of his native Macedonia.

Sahinis combines a powerful imagination with a lyrical sense of colour. There is also something of the mystic in the man and his work, as well as a constant search for enlarging the means of expression.

It will be seen that there is nothing provincial about these painters. Working in a small country, away from the centres of contemporary artistic activity, let alone commercial exploitation, they nevertheless maintain a determination to grapple with artistic and spiritual problems of a universal character.

Charles S. Spencer



niki kanaginis

Born Greece, 1935.

LAUSANNE. (Ecole cantonale de dessin et d'art appliqué), 1952-'54.

ATHENS. School of Fine Arts, Diploma in painting, 1954-'58.

Scholarship by the Royal National Foundation to Lesbos for studying and copying folk Greek art, 1957.

LONDON. Central School of Arts and Crafts, Diploma in mural painting, 1958-'61.

ATHENS. Teaching basic design at the "Free School of Fine Arts", 1963.

Work acquired by several private collections in England, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, U.S.A.

exhibitions

ATHENS. "Zygos" Gallery, 1958.

ATHENS. "Zygos" Gallery, 1959.

ATHENS. "Sarla" Gallery, 1959.

LONDON. Show-room of Grang furnishing stores, 1959.

LONDON. R.B.A. Galleries, Young contemporaries, 1959.

LONDON. R.B.A. Galleries, Young contemporaries, 1960.

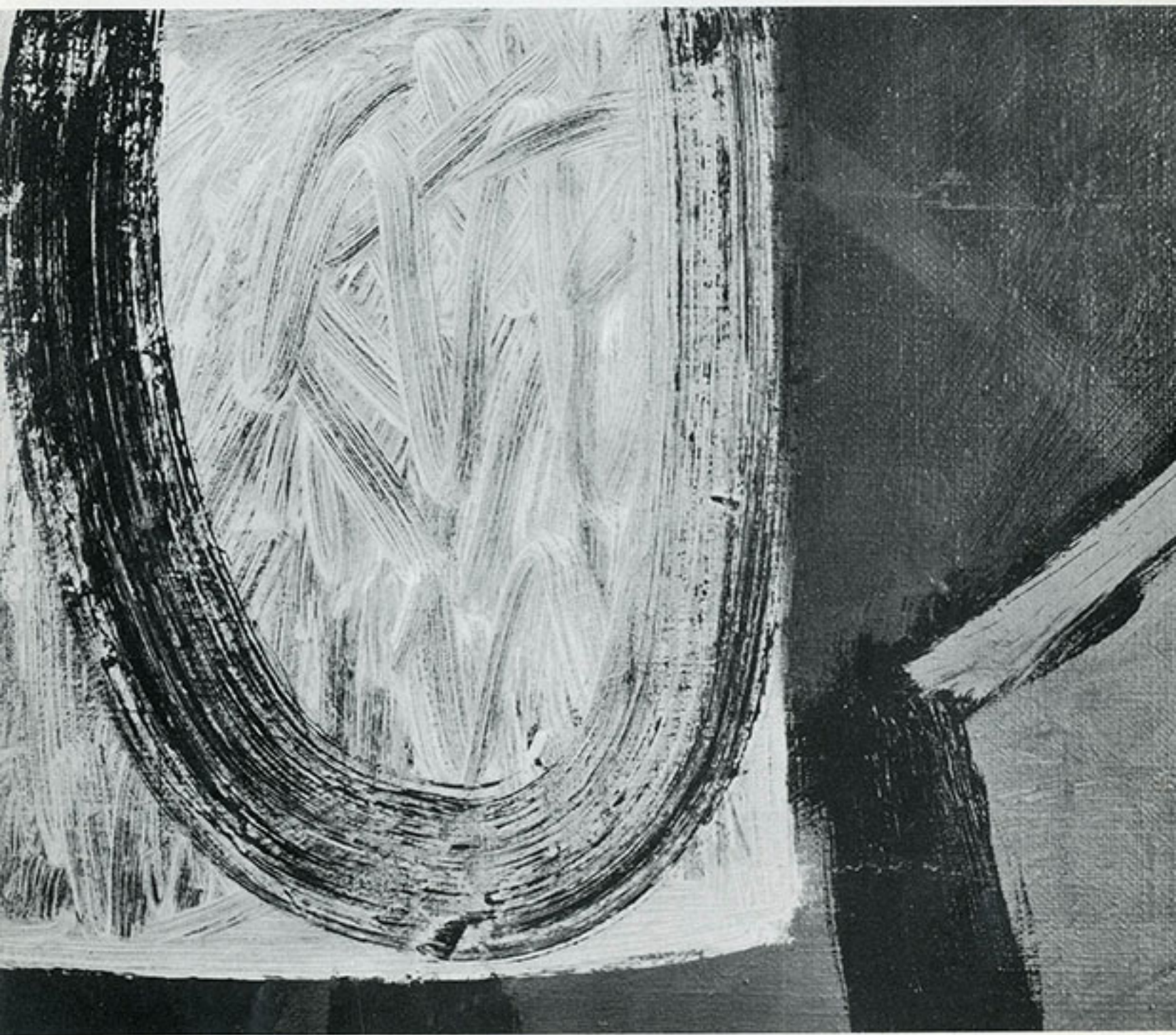
LONDON. R.B.A. Galleries, Young contemporaries, 1961.

LONDON. John Lewis's art Gallery, 1961.

LONDON. Gallery One, 1961.

LONDON. Molton Gallery, 1961.

ROME. One man exhibition, "La Feluca" gallery, 1962.



oil on canvas

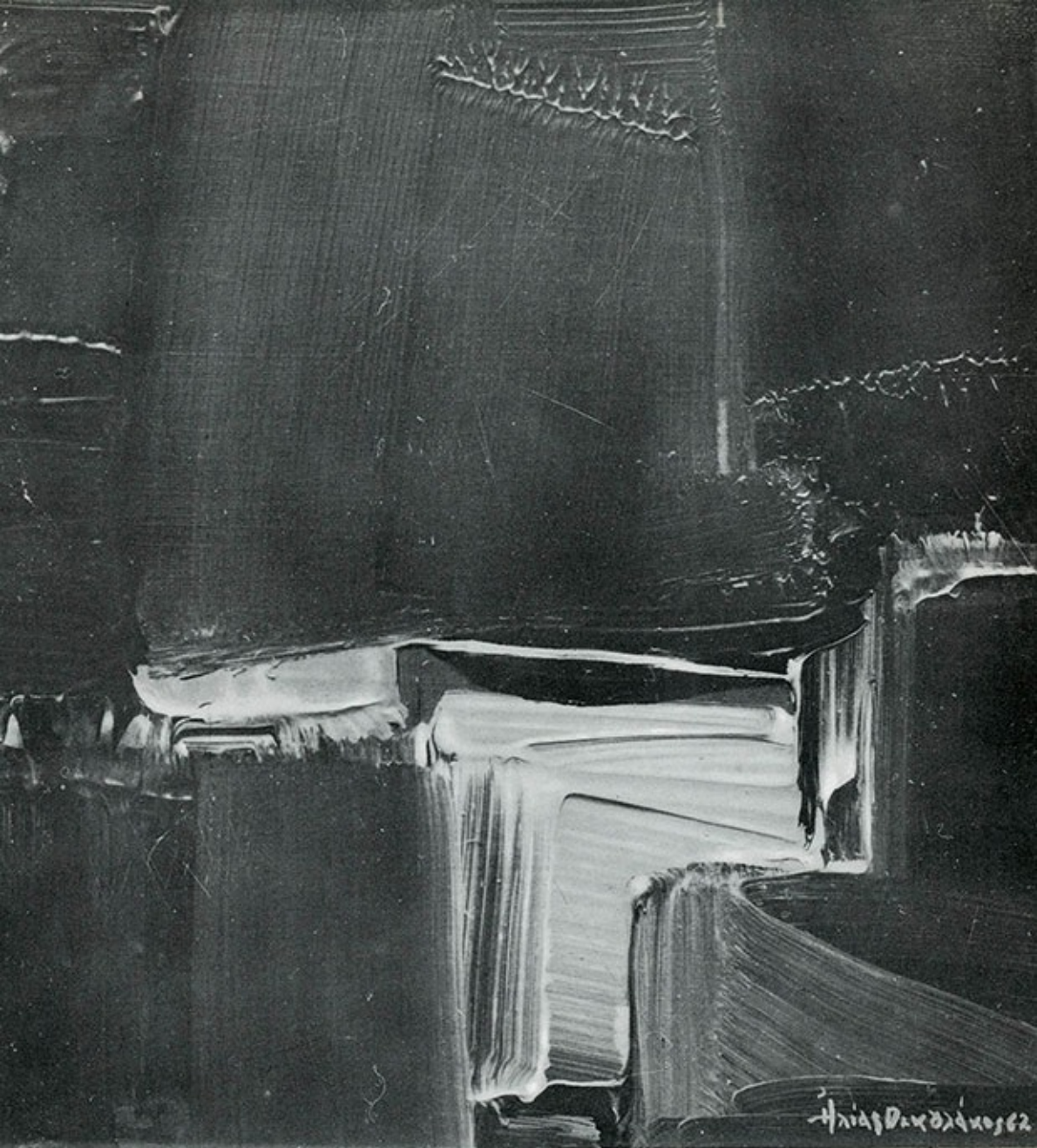


elias dekoulakos

Born in Athens in 1929.

Lives and works in Athens. Teachers at Athens Technological Institute, Doxiades, Dept. of Graphic Arts.

- 1956 Diploma of the School of Fine Arts, Athens.
- 1957 5th Panhellenic Exhibition.
- 1958 Painting award, Municipality of Athenians.
- 1960 6th Panhellenic Exhibition.
- 1961 International Exhibition in Tunis.
2nd Biennale of young artists, Paris
1st Panhellenic Exhibition of Young Artists, (2nd prize).
- 1962 Exhibition "Peace and Life", Zygos Gallery, Athens.
One man exhibition, Techni Gallery, Thessaloniki.
2nd Panhellenic Exhibition of Young Artists, (2nd prize).
- 1963 One man exhibition, Zygos Gallery, Athens.
Participation in "Young Greek Painters", organized by the Greek department of the International Assoc. of Art Critics. (A.I.C.A.)
7th Panhellenic Exhibition.
- 1963-64 5th Biennale, Alexandria, Egypt.



Ηλίας Δαχολύκος

from (ideas)



christos iefakis

was born in Soufli, Thrace, in 1906 and studied in the National School of Art in Athens. Later he went to the Instituto di Restauro in Rome where he specialized in frescoes and mosaics. His relative work was shown during the 9th Byzantine Congress, 1953, in Thessaloniki. He took part in the 2nd Mediterranean Biennale, Alexandria (1958) and in the Biennale of Sao Paulo (1961). He has had his work exhibited in either group or individual shows, in Paris, Florence, Chicago, Beograd, Constantinople etc., as well as in Athens and Thessaloniki. Since 1961 he is a professor of painting at the School of Architecture, University of Thessaloniki.



painting 1963

emanuel piladakis

Painter-Printmaker. Born, 1927, Alexandria, Egypt. Greek descent.

- 1959 BA (Art Education) University of Oregon, USA.
1960 Ed M (Education), Oregon State University, USA.
1960-62 Instructor, Art and Art Educ. Oregon State Univ. USA.
1962 American Academy, Athens, Greece. Chairman, Art Dept.

exhibitions: u.s.a.

- 1957-1962 Portland Art Museum, Oregon
1959-1962 Seattle Art Museum, Washington
1959-1961 Spokane Art Museum, Washington
1960 Oakland Art Museum, California
1960-1961 San Francisco Art Museum, California
1960-1961 Pasadena Art Museum, California
1961-1962 "Henry Gallery", Seattle, Washington
1961 Flint Institute of Art, Michigan. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Roque Valley Art Center, Oregon. Oregon Centennial Art Exhibition, Portland. Wichitta Falls Art Gallery, Texas. Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, (Invitational). "Pacific Profile". West Coast Young Artists, (Invitational). Pietrantonio Galleries, New York.
1962 Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, Wisconsin. Salt Lake Art Center, Utah. Northern Illinois University, Dekalb. Fresno Arts Center, California. Hunterdon Art Center, New Jersey. Silvermine Guild of Artists, Connecticut. Seattle's World Fair, Fine Arts Pavilion, (Invitational).
1963 Prints from Greece, U.S.A., Tour.

england

- 1962 Drian Galleries, London

greece

- 1960-1963 Panhellenic Exhibitions of Art, Athens.
1960 Parnassos Galleries, Athens.

ONE MAN EXHIBITIONS:

- 1959-1962 Oregon State University, Corvallis, USA.
1961 Collector's Gallery, Portland, Oregon, USA.
1963 Pierce College, Athens, Greece. "Nees Morphes" Galleries, Athens, Greece.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 1956 Scholarship. Kappa Pi (U.S.A. National Art Honorary).
1957 1st prize. Kappa Pi, Nebraska.
1958-1961 Numerous prizes. Oregon State Fair, Salem.
1958-1960 Certificates of Merit. Latham Foundation.
1959 Honorable Mention. Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, USA.
1961 Purchase Award. Henry Gallery, Washington. Honorable Mention, San Francisco Museum of Art, California, USA.
1963 Decoration. St. Mark Cross for contributions to culture.

COLLECTIONS:

Honorable M. O. Hatfield, Governor of Oregon, Portland Art Museum, Oregon State University, Henry Gallery, Hunterdon Art Center, Ford Motor Co., U.S. National Bank of Oregon, Methodist Church, Corvallis, Oregon, Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University, Conn. U.S. Information Service, Athens. Drian Galleries, London, and in many private collections in the U.S.A., England and Greece. Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene.



surface





nikos sahinis

Born in Thessaloniki where he resides since 1924. Bachelor of Law and Political Sciences, University of Thessaloniki. Studied Painting with P. Rengos and later with the American painter Roy Moyer. Has exhibited his works since 1943. One-man Shows: Athens: "Parnassos" 1954, "Zygos" 1958, "American Hellenic Union" 1961, Athens Hilton Gallery 1963; Thessaloniki: 1950, 1954, 1957, 1959 and 1961.

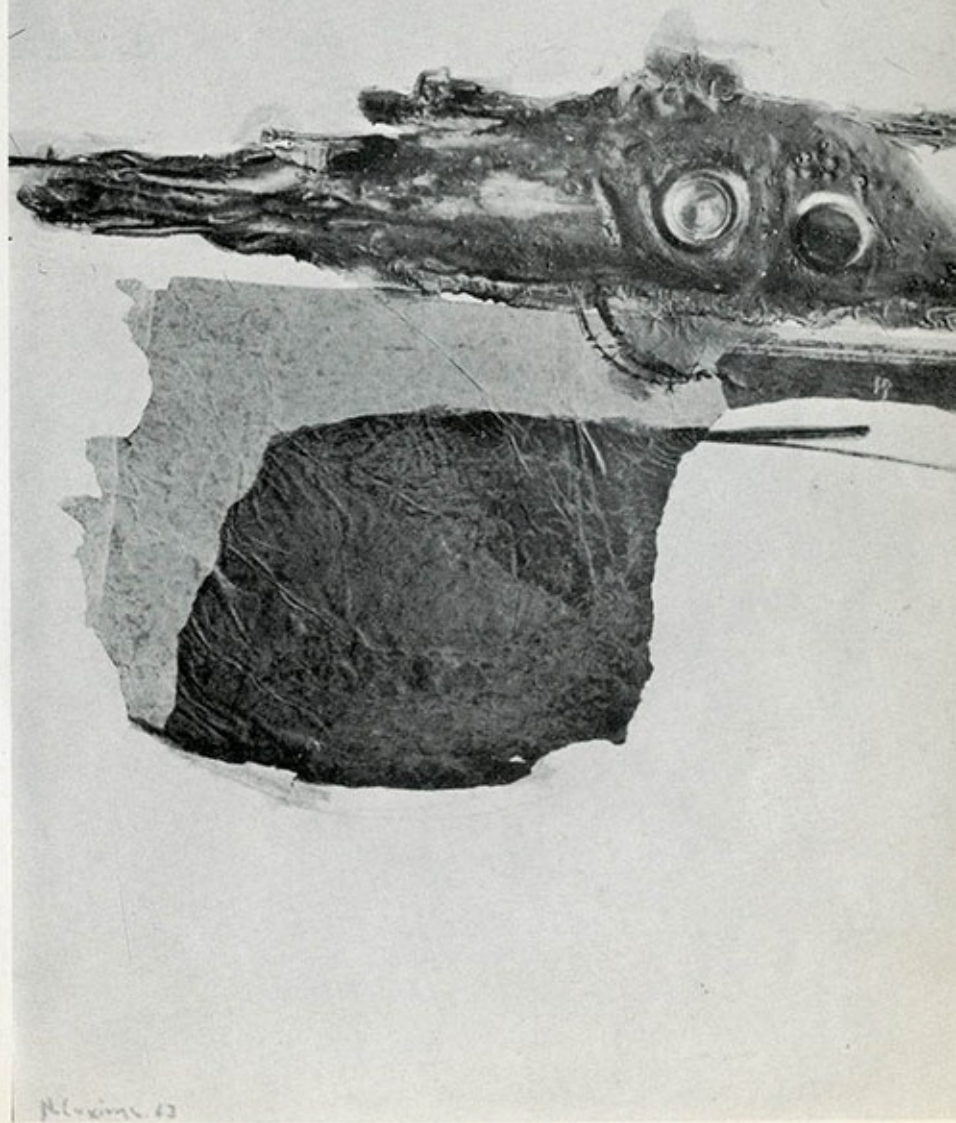
Has participated in all Panhellenic Exhibitions since 1948 and in many group shows.

Received 4 prizes awarded by the Municipality of Thessaloniki and a prize of the Painting Competition of 1960 sponsored by the Commercial Bank and the Ionian and Popular Bank of Greece.

Has exhibited his work abroad: 1954 United States; 1959-60 Salon d'Art Libre, Paris; 1962 Galleria Giotto, Florence; 1963 Drian Gallery, London.

Applied art: Posters, Illustrations for books, Window-dressing; Designs scenery and costumes for the State Theatre of Northern Greece.

His works are to be found in numerous public and private collections in Greece and abroad.



«the bird» 1963 combined technique



cosmas xenakis

Born in Roumania in 1925

1948 Diploma of Architect in Athens

1955-58 In Paris

1958-60 In Iraq

1960-63 In Greece

1963 In Spain

– Member of the "Société Européenne de Culture".

painting exhibitions

1948: ATHENS, "Panhellenic Exhibition"

1949: ATHENS, with group "Armos"

1952: ATHENS, with group "Armos" and "Panhellenic Exhibition"

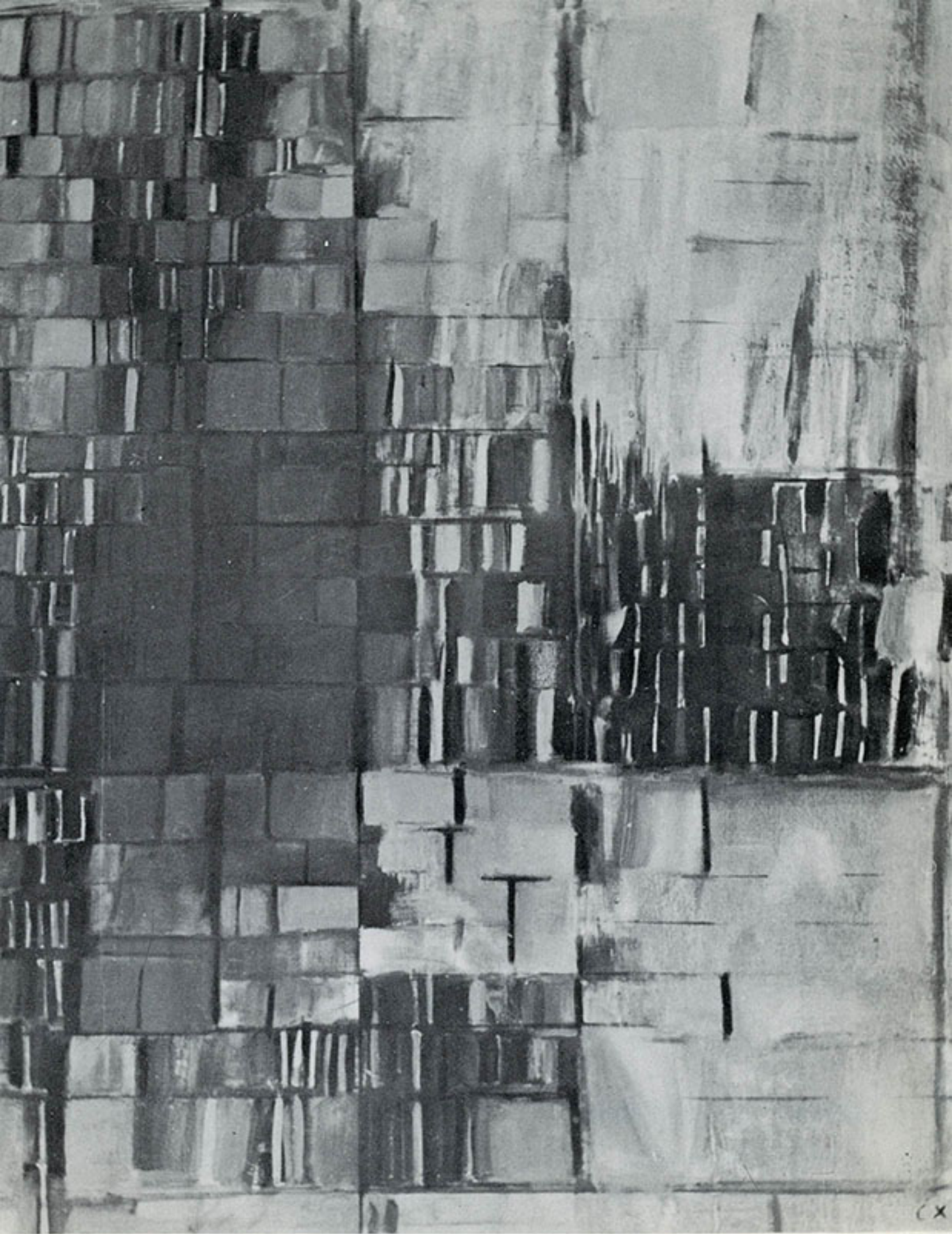
1955: SWEDEN, and ITALY, with a group organized by the Greek government

1956: BRUXELES, with a group of Paris painters

1958: ATHENS, personal exhibition (Pein Gallery)

1960: ATHENS, personal exhibition (Armos Gallery)

1962: ATHENS, personal exhibition (A.T.I. Gallery)



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