

JANNIS SPYROPOULOS

recent paintings



NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON D. C.
September 19th to October 19th, 1969

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
SHELDON MEMORIAL ART GALLERY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
November 11th to December 7th, 1969

Spyropoulos is an international artist, whose paintings seem as much at home in New York as they do in Athens, Venice, or Munich. We understand his language, and can place him in the context of the art of our times. Yet he remains the most Greek of painters, with a sense of specific environment sustaining everything he does, and the tradition of a great cultural expression implicit in his work. The *genius loci* is strong within him.

His evolution has been an interesting and an inevitable one. His youthful work was full of the most specific sense of physical and personal surroundings—descriptive, illustrative. It exhibited a spirit which was eager, joyous, curious. All of the themes which the young artist who is happily a part of his world appear—landscape, studio still life, scenes of streets and crowds of people, port scenes and seascapes, figures, portraits, nudes. By 1950 these myriad subjects began to coalesce into a style which became more and more disciplined and controlled. Descriptive elements began to be obscured as the totality of a complete and mature style emerged.

Today the artist's work is highly abstract, but all of its specific origins, its love of place, are reflected in a positive quality which keep it from ever being vague or illusory. The paintings of Spyropoulos invariably have a strong sense of what I would call the architecture of nature—its formal structure, its sense of order, its respect for the great and eternal laws of balance, gravitation, and growth.

It is the combination of technical discipline with emotional and intuitive expression which marks his work as something of a rarity in the painting of our times.

In his recent work, block-like forms build themselves into cyclopean structures which seem to give order to an elemental universe, with sudden vistas of cool distances and accents of energetic declarative contrasting color against monochromatic earth-tones.

It is essentially a humanistic world which Spyropoulos gives us, even in the abstract language he employs. There is no trace here of the shattering experience which the head-on encounter of man and machine has forced on so many of the urbanists of our times. The angular forms which he employs are the shapes with which nature cleaves its own being, not the sharp-edged forms of man-made industrial things. At a time when the artist's world seems to become more and more either completely an exploration of inward sensations and tensions, or a reflection of an utterly man-made environment, it is an invigorating and life-enhancing experience to participate in an art whose roots are deep in the earth. It is always the penetrating grasping of the experience of rock and soil and sea and sky, transformed and transfigured by the artist's spirit, which claim these as expressions of a depth and sensitivity seldom encountered today.

ALLEN S. WELLER, Dean
College of Fine and Applied Arts,
Director of Krannert Art Museum,
University of Illinois

THE PAINTER JANNIS SPYROPOULOS

1912. Born in Pylos, Greece. He studied at the School of Fine Arts in Athens between 1933 and 1938 and received his diploma there. In 1938, after winning a scholarship from the Academy of Athens, he went to Paris where he stayed until 1940, studying at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts and at several Academies. He spent the war years in Athens. His work has been widely exhibited in his country and abroad.

GROUP SHOWS

1946. International Art Exhibition, Cairo - Egypt.
1948. Panhellenic Exhibitions of art. Participation in the exhibitions of Greek Contemporary Art in Rome - 1953, Belgrade - 1954, Malmö and Götteborg - 1955, Galerie R. Creuze Paris - 1959, Helsinki - 1960, Touring Exhibition of Greek Art in Cyprus 1069.
1955. Biennale of Alexandria - Egypt.
1957. Biennale of Sao - Paulo - Brazil.
1958. One of the Candidates for the Guggenheim Prize, New York.
1959. Touring Exhibition of «8 Greek Painters» in USA, organised by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C.
Touring Exhibition of «12 Greek Artists» in Canada.
International Exhibitions of the Colgate and Virginia Universities Art Galleries, USA.
Summer International, World House Art Galleries, New York.
Painting International, organized by the Jewish Federations of USA, New York.
1960. One of the Greek Representatives at the Venice Biennale, at which he was awarded the UNESCO PRIZE
Group shows of the New European School, Anvers and Lausanne
International of art, the Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo - N.Y.
1961. Touring Exhibiton of the «Venice Prize Winners in 1960» organized by the American Federation of Arts in USA.
Print International, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.
International of Painting, Wolframs - Eschenbach, W. Germany.
CARNEGIE INTERNATIONAL OF ART, Pittsburgh - Penn.
1962. Touring Exhibition of the Abbott Laboratories Collection in USA organized by AFA.
20th Century Painting, Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem - Israel.
Print International, Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio.
Touring Exhibition and one of the Candidates for the Premio Marzotto.
1963. International Seminar of Art, Fairleigh Dickinson Univ., Madison N.J.
1964. DOCUMENTA III, Kassel - W. Germany.
CARNEGIE INTERNATIONAL, Pittsburgh - Penn.
1965. International Exhibition of Art, EUROPAHAUS, Vienna - Austria.
Selection from the Carnegie International, J.L. Hudson Art Gall., Detroit - Mich.
"Spontaneous Creation, an International Exhibition, organized by the AFA, in USA.
1966. International Exhibition of Art, at the Brandeis University, organized by UNESCO.
Print International, Biennale of Cracovie - Poland.
GALERIES PILOTES Musée Cantonal, Lausanne - Switzerland.
Collectors Club Exhibition of Art, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis - Minnesota.
1967. Contemporary Greek Art, Delft Museum of Fine Arts, Delft - Holland. EXPO, 1967, Montreal - Canada.
1968. Painting International, Toronto Art Gallery, Toronto - Canada.

ONE — MAN — SHOWS.

1950. Parnassos Art Gallery - Athens.

1959. World House Art Galleries, New York.
 1960. Techni Gallery, Salonica - Greece.
 1961. World House Galleries, New York.
 Molton Gallery, London.
 Galleria Gian Ferrari, Milan.
 Kursaal - Ostend, organized by the Cultural Center of the city.
 1962. Portland Art Museum, Portland - Oregon.
 Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell - New Mexico.
 Neue Galerie im Künstler Haus, Munich.
 Institute of Art History, Mainz - W. Germany.
 Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana - Ill.
 1963. Jerrold Morris International Gallery, Toronto - Canada.
 World House Galleries, New York.
 Theater Der Stadt Lünen, Westfalen - W. Germany.
 1964. Sheaffer Art Gallery, "Grinnell College,, Iowa.
 Fränkische, Nürnberg, W. Germany.
 Galerie DES DEUX MONDES, TWA Flight Center, J.F. Kennedy
 Airport, New York.
 Frankfurter Kunstkabinett, Frankfurt A.M., W. Germany.
 PALAIS DES BEAUX ARTS, Brussels - Belgium.
 1965. David Jones Art Galleries, Sydney - Australia.
 Galerie Arnaud - Paris.
 1966. The Israel National Museum - Jerusalem, Israel.
 1967. Nicosia, Hilton Art Gallery, organized by the Ministry of Edu-
 cation in Cyprus.
 1968. David Jones Art Galleries, Sydney - Australia.
 1969. Byron Gallery - New York.

COLLECTIONS

Musée d'Art Moderne - Paris.
 S.R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.
 The Israel National Museum, Jerusalem - Israel.
 Musée d' Art Moderne - Brussels, Belgium.
 Worcester Art Museum, Worcester - Mass.
 Museum for Contemporary Art, Dallas - Texas.
 Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell - New Mexico.
 Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio.
 Bezalel National Museum - Jerusalem, Israel.
 Musée d' Art Moderne, Belgrade - Yugoslavia.
 Musée Des Beaux Arts - Ostend - Belgium.
 Krannert Art Museum, University of Ill. Urbana - Illinois.
 The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska -
 Lincoln - Nebr.
 Toronto National Art Gallery, Toronto - Canada.
 City of Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland - New Zealand.
 Famagusta Art Gallery, Cyprus.
 Athens National Art Gallery, Athens.
 Bundy Art Gallery, Waitsfield - Vermont.
 Institute of Art History, Mainz - W. Germany.
 Grinnell Art College, Grinnell - Iowa.
 Fairleigh Dickinson University Art Gallery, Madison N.J.
 The Ben and Abby Grey Foundation, Saint Paul - Minnesota.
 TOWNHALLS : Athens - Greece.
 Hamilton - Canada.
 Rathaus, Lünen - Westfalen, W. Germany
 Royal Palace of Greece.
 Ministries of Presidence, Labor, Education, Foreign Affairs,
 Greece.
 Presidential Palace of Cyprus, Nicosia.
 Numerous private collections in Greece and abroad.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

UNESCO PRIZE at the 30th Venice Biennale, June 1960.
 Commander of the Royal Order of the Phoenix, Athens, 1966.
 Golden Medal of the City of Ostend, June 1961.



Από την Washington
με βαθύς χαίρειους
παιχνύς και την ευκολλη