

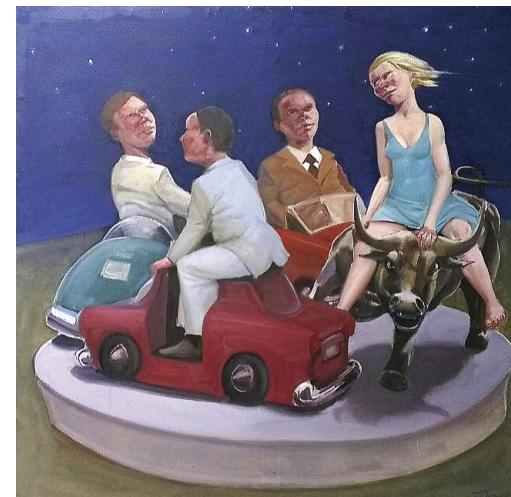


Zenon Jepras

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Playgrounds of Forgetting

October 2014



Alpha C.K.

ART GALLERY

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Front & Back Cover:

Tug o' War [2014]

Oil on canvas

114x200 cm

Opposite Page:

The Abduction of Europa [2012]

Oil on canvas

138x141 cm

(presented at Art-Athina International Contemporary Art Fair, May 2013)



High Flyers [2014]
Oil on canvas
148x148 cm

Playgrounds of Forgetting

In his *Histories* Herodotus tells of a play written by a famous Athenian tragedian that was banned and the author fined because it told the story of the destruction of another Greek city by the Persians which the Athenians found too upsetting. The tragedy was condemned to Lethe (*Λήθη*). Much has been written about the “collective memory” and consequently the willful amnesia of communities keen to reconstruct the past. And this applies as much to each of us as we lurch along the twists and turns of our own personal roller-coasters.

In these paintings, I have taken inspiration from the games children (and adults) play to represent some stories and allegories about the loss of the past and of myths, traditions and rituals that sustain our sense of who we are, where we’ve come from and where we are going.

I’ve always been slightly suspicious and nervous of playground games and fairground rides. It is as though the mass distraction on offer somehow displaces the certainties of solid ground, family and home with a fake, mendacious excitement. I disliked the mild anxiety of total abandonment to sensation, risk and forgetting. Those Carousel horses seemed to rush around in terror of an oncoming disaster, close behind catching up literally like ‘nightmares’. Merry-go-rounds were anything but merry - endless cycles of hope and fear, luck and disappointment, nostalgia and forgetting.

But in our own private luna park, we can’t avoid all the ups and downs, swings and roundabouts that we’ve built to distract and entertain ourselves. As we sit on the Ghost Train that trundles on through the Haunted House of our histories, national and personal, all we can do is keep our hands tucked in by our sides and close our eyes when anything too scary pops up.

And then there’s always the next ride to look forward to.

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The Walled Garden [2014]
Oil on canvas
150x200 cm





Circles of Fear and Happiness [2014]
Oil on canvas
125x148 cm



The Playground of Forgetting [2014]
Oil on canvas
135x200 cm



Train [2014]
Oil on canvas
125x148 cm



Workers [2014]
Oil on canvas
120x148 cm



The Ghost Train [2014]
Oil on canvas
148x148 cm



The Witche's Hat [2014]
Oil on canvas
148x148 cm



Traffic [2014]
Oil on canvas
130x148 cm



Night Carousel [2014]
Oil on canvas
148x130 cm



Uncle Nestor's Mercedes [2014]
Oil on canvas
110x148 cm



A Place of Love and Nostalgia [2014]
Oil on canvas
148x148 cm

Zenon Jepras was born in 1969 in Cardiff, Wales. He graduated with Honors from the Glasgow School of Art. His works are in the Cyprus Contemporary Art State Collection, the Bank of Cyprus Collection, the Laiki Bank Collection, the Central Bank of Cyprus Collection and numerous private collections in Cyprus, Greece and the UK. He has been awarded the Liquitex International Painting Prize by the American Arts Council.

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 2014 *Playgrounds of Forgetting*, Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia
Works, The Lovely Gallery, London
- 2012 *Not Exactly Memory*, Alpha Gallery, Nicosia
- 2011 *Personal Moments*, DP Gallery, Limassol
- 2010 *Out of the Sand*, Alpha Gallery, Nicosia
- 2009 *Gorilla*, Gloria Gallery, Nicosia
Lost Heritage, Gallery K, London
- 2008 *Deconstructing Troy*, Royal Commonwealth Society Club, London
Recent Work, C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia
- 2007 *Small Rooms*, Morfi Gallery, Limassol
- 2006 *Cacophony*, Gallery K, London
Short Stories, Gloria Gallery, Nicosia
- 2004 *Maternity*, Gallery K, Nicosia
- 2003 *Kiss*, Gallery K, London
- 2002 *The Colour of Memory*, Gloria Gallery, Nicosia
- 2001 *Angelopathia*, Gloria Gallery, Nicosia

Group Exhibitions (selection)

- 2013 Art-Athina International Contemporary Art Fair, Athens
- 2012 *a arte do previsível*, Cordoaria Nacional, Lisbon
- 2010 *1960-2010: Glances at Cyprus Art*, Gallery Hotel de Sauroy, Paris
Visual Rhythms, Municipal Cultural Centre-Melina Mercouri, Nicosia
- 2009 *Five Cypriot Artists*, Brom Gallery, Helsinki
- 2008 *Where Do We Go From Here?*, Municipal Arts Centre, Nicosia
- 2005 Municipal Gallery, Thessaloniki
- 2004 *Kulturaljahr der Zehn*, Gallery Tammen & Busch, Berlin
- 2000 *Twelve Cypriot Artists*, Ioannina City Hall, Ιωάννινα
- 1997 Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean, Torino
Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean, Helsinki
Brushstrokes '97, Municipal Cultural Centre-Famagusta Gate, Nicosia
- 1995 *Southwalk Open*, South London Gallery. London
- 1994 *Annual Open*, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh