



ITHAKAS

Zenon Jepras

Front Cover

Mother's Day

oil on canvas

168x145

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Zenon Jepras

JUNE 2021 • ALPHA C.K. ART GALLERY



7/1/20

What These Ithakas Mean

*Σὰ βγείς στόν πηγαίμὸ γιά τήν Ἰθάκη,
νά εὐχέσαι νάσαι μακρὺς ὁ δρόμος,
γεμάτος περιπέτειες, γεμάτος γνώσεις.*

*As you set out for Ithaka
hope the voyage is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.*

So begins the famous poem of C P Kavafy about the journey of Odysseus back to his rocky island home. Just as generations of sailors can empathize with the vagaries of the sea, so artists and writers down through the ages have re-imagined the myth. In contemporary allegorical and symbolic terms we characterize the many trials and obstacles, monsters and temptations that block and distract from life's path. Odysseus is the Everyman that elevates us all from merely human Nobodies tiptoeing through the everyday, to captains of spectacular adventure. Like the Poet, it is the painter's job to recognize the heroic in everyone who navigates through the turmoil of events, the existential threats and anxieties that come at us everyday. But in so doing, as the destination comes into view, we grow richer and wiser; the paint dries, the layers thicken.

*Κι ἂν πτωχική τήν βροῆς, ἡ Ἰθάκη δὲν σέ γέλασε.
Ἔτσι σοφὸς ποὺ ἔγινες, μὲ τόση πείρα,
ἤδη θὰ τὸ κατάλαβες ἢ Ἰθάκες τί σημαίνουν.*

*And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you will have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.*

[C.P. Kavafy "Ithaka". Translation copyright © 1975 by Edmund Keeley. Princeton University Press]

Zenon Jepras, 2021

Opposite Page

Odysseus Unbound (original version)

oil on canvas

180x160





The Moths of Ithaka
oil on canvas
150x200



Scylla
oil on canvas
180x160



The Raft
oil on canvas
180x150



The Lotus Eaters
oil on canvas
200x150



*Circe's Private
Members Club*
oil on canvas
200x150



Diogenes of Green Lanes
oil on canvas
162x240



The Ring
oil on canvas
180x150



*Polyphemus's
Cocktail Bar*
oil on canvas
180x160



The Rule of Six
oil on canvas
160x168



Artists' Group Therapy
oil on canvas
150x150



Έχω Πατάρια
oil on canvas
200x150



ZENON JEPRAS

He was born in 1969 in Cardiff, Wales. He studied painting at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland from where he graduated with Honors.

A genuine figurative artist, Jepras' work focuses strongly on the tradition of narrative painting and telling stories through the using the language of painting - colour, texture, emotion and symbolism. Mythology and history blend with current social and political trends to produce powerful and vivid that create a narrative for the viewer to decode and unravel.

He presented his work in many solo and group exhibitions in Cyprus, Greece, the UK, Portugal, and Germany. His work is in the permanent collections of the Cypriot State Collection of Contemporary Art, the Central Bank of Cyprus Collection, the Bank of Cyprus Collection, the Nikos Pattichis Collection, the Luciano Benetton Collection and in numerous private collections in Cyprus, Greece, the US and the UK. He is the 1993 winner of the "Liquitex International Painting Prize", awarded by the American Art Council, New York.

Solo Exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 *How to Be Happy*, Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia
- 2017 *Killing Time*, Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia
- 2015 *Zenon Jepras: Painting*, Morfi Gallery, Limassol
- 2014 *Playgrounds of Forgetting*, Alpha C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia
- 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
- 2009 *Lost Heritage*, Gallery K, London
- 2008 *Deconstructing Troy*, Royal Commonwealth Society Club, London
- 2008 *Recent Work*, C.K. Art Gallery, Nicosia
- 2007 *Small Rooms*, Morfi Gallery, Limassol
- 2006 *Cacophony*, Gallery K, London
- 2006 *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)

- 2014 *The Lovely Gallery*, London
- 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
- 2010 *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, Ioannina

Alpha C.K.

ART GALLERY

Makarios Ave. & 3 Papanikoli str. 1077 Nicosia Cyprus
T +357 22751325 info@ackgallery.com
www.ackgallery.com