



**“My own Iliad”**  
George Koumouros

**Archaeological Museum of Delphi**  
June 15 – July 21, 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

The **opening of the exhibition** of drawings by the Cypriot painter **George Koumouros** entitled **“My own Iliad”** will take place on **Saturday, 15 June 2013 at 20.30**, at the **Archaeological Museum of Delphi** organized by the **10<sup>th</sup> Euphorate of Prehistoric & Classical Antiquities** of the General Secretariat of Culture of the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, Culture & Sports, **under the auspices of the Regional Unit of Fokida and the Municipality of Delphi** and **with the support of the Ministry of Education & Culture of the Republic of Cyprus**, in presence of the artist, and of the **art historian & exhibition curator**, PhD. candidate, **Megakles Rogakos**,.

The exhibition will present the 35 original sketches, pencil on paper, created by the artist during the year 2008 in Cyprus and the United Kingdom, and corresponding to an equal number of episodes in Homer’s *Iliad*.

The exhibition album (a bilingual publication in Greek and English) includes **George Koumouros’** drawings accompanied by his own explicative captions, translated from Greek into English by **Angela Lyras**; literary notes, with reference to the protagonists and events of the Homeric *Iliad* depicted in the artist’s works, written by **Michael Alexandris**, philologist and associate of the Society of Euboean Studies, edited and translated by **Dr Antony Makrinos**, teaching fellow at the Department of Greek & Latin at UCL; it also features a critical appraisal of the artist’s oeuvre and more especially of the drawings, by Professor Emeritus of Art History and Academician, **Dr Chrysanthos Christou**.

“... In the themes of his, (George Koumouros), painting one may note that he prefers to present compositions in which the human figure plays a crucial role; he often uses bold expressionist colours, and often experiments with symbolic tendencies and the limited delineation of forms. Some of his typical painting efforts reveal a certain shift towards the elliptical morphoplastic vocabulary as well as known and established features, styles and types of surrealism. And his drawings tend wholly in this direction, pencils on forms, subjects and figures of Homeric *Iliad*. ...”. **Dr Chrysanthos Christou**, Professor Emeritus of Art History and Academician



What the artist has said about his work:

“ ... Recently, I had to draw strength from the myths. Or, rather, to hide inside mythical forms in order to continue to exist and endure. I had to dig deep within me to find the ideas beneath the words. Curiously, I re-encountered Homer, my “own” *Iliad* at its roots. That is, the *Iliad* of my childhood, which extrapolated over time into contemporary situations. Individual or collective.

In difficult times, where I could have only a piece of paper and a pencil in my hands, I created sketches. Black and white. Lights and shadows only. A long and lonely route through Homer’s passageways. I followed it, as I did when I was a child, without prejudice, without commitments, without conventions and handed-down morals. So, I wove the myth from the beginning, encountering my “own” *Iliad*; yet, with Homer always present to judge me and offer me counsel.” **George Koumouros**, painter

#### **Further information**

Exhibition duration: 15 June – 21 July 2013

Opening hours: Daily 09.00 - 16.00

[odysseus.culture.gr](http://odysseus.culture.gr) , [www.anaplous.net](http://www.anaplous.net)

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#### **The project “My Own Iliad” would not have been realized without the collaboration and sponsorship of the following:**

- ✓ **Main sponsors:** Ministry of Education & Culture of the Republic of Cyprus; “Anaplous”
- ✓ **Hospitality sponsors:** Union of Hotels of Delphi “Phoebus Apollo”; Restaurant - Hotel INIOHOS
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- ✓ **Reception offered by:** Melopoleion; SEMELI winery
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### **Short note with reference to the Archaeological Museum of Delphi and the spectrum of the cultural activities offered to the public**

The Archaeological Museum of Delphi, designed by the architect Alexandros Tombazis, was inaugurated in 2004 just prior to the Athens Olympic Games, and is the result of rehabilitating and extending the original building. The original museum, designed by the French architect Albert Tournaire, was inaugurated in May, 1903, to house ancient artifacts discovered during excavations of the French Archaeological School between 1892 -1902. For the new 21st century museum building the principles of bioclimatic design were applied, maximizing energy conservation and the utilization of natural light, which is a contributing factor in displaying the museum exhibits in the natural environment of the sanctuary.

In the renovated halls of the museum, where natural light prevails, and whence the outside environment of the sanctuary, the famous Delphic landscape, is visible, the visitor can admire some of the most important masterpieces of the ancient and classic era: the demonic Sphinx of Naxos, the superb figures on the frieze of the Siphnian Treasury, the Argive heroes Kleobis and Biton, Agias by Lysippos, and above all the Charioteer, the statue of the young athlete, winner of the Pythian Games in the early 5th c. BC, offered to Apollo by the tyrant of Sicily, Polykallos.

The Archaeological Museum of Delphi, one of the most important public museums of Greece, has close to 300.000 visitors annually from all over the world, and has been declared the honoree museum for the year 2013 by the Greek Committee of the International Committee of Museums (ICOM). Despite the current adverse financial situation, the museum staff offer, free of charge, unique educational programs for students of all ages, for handicapped persons, art workshops for adults, lectures of scientific interest, temporary exhibitions related to archaeology or contemporary art, art-workshops and tours for persons with impaired vision.

In parallel, the digitization of the museum collections and archives, the implementation of a program funded by NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework) making the best of the archaeological site of Delphi with special care for the handicapped, and the effort to realize projects that will show the peripheral archaeological sites connected with the archaeological site of Delphi to best advantage, contribute decisively not only to the preservation and the promotion of the monuments of the Delphic sanctuary, but also to the spread of the Delphic spirit and ideal.

#### **Notes:**

- ✓ **On the day of the opening of the exhibition, the Museum of Delphi will close at 16:00.**
- ✓ **On June 16, 2013, from 10:00 - 13:30** , with the cooperation of 10th Ephorate of Prehistoric & Classical Antiquities, the **1st Voluntary Blood Donation** will take place at the Archaeological Museum of Delphi, commemorating the International Day of Blood Donors (June 14).