

## ARISTI CULTURAL INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES DECEMBER 2024 PROGRAMME

### *Engraving Horizons: Works from the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina*

9 December 2024–5 January 2025

**Filothei Binta, Giannis Karagiannopoulos, Afrodite Grigoriou, Antonis Koufalexis, Evangelos Voulgaris, Vasiliki Siatara, Marina Pappa, Xenia Giannoulatou, Renos Sinos, Anastasia Skatzi, Rania Stathopoulou, Gianna Kalogianni, Konstantinos Papamichalopoulos, Loukas Theocharous, Chrisovalando Grigoriadou, Sofia Pappa, Anna Mitsi**

Aristi Cultural Initiative is a programme focused on cultivating and fostering Art and Culture in the north-western Epirus region, in Northern Greece. Founded in 2024 under the auspices of Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas and its founder Vasilis Iosifidis, the initiative is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment to cultivate the relationship between Fine Arts, Culture, History, and Architecture across the region of Zagori, registered under the UNESCO World Heritage List. With a programme of rotating exhibitions in the Atop building at Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas, the initiative aims to support the development of contemporary art and contribute to promoting the modern-era cultural heritage as well as participating to local cultural life.

Aristi Cultural Initiative (ACI) is delighted to announce *Engraving Horizons: Works from the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina*, marking the start of a year of exhibitions celebrating Fine Arts, History and Culture across the Greek northern region of Zagori. The initiative is driven by a passion to support the development of emerging contemporary artists and practices, and to share these discoveries with the public.

*Engraving Horizons* is an exhibition of works from the printmaking studio at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Ioannina. It offers a rare opportunity to explore etching, drypoint, woodblock, linoleum, and mixed media works of Fine artists and master printmakers in a single setting. While the works and techniques are distinct in atmosphere and character, they convene in the insight they share around appreciation for precision and skill, and collective acumen for the specialised knowledge imposed by the form beyond solely visual aims or concern for aesthetics.

*Engraving Horizons* is structured around the works of **17 artists**: Filothei Binta, Giannis Karagiannopoulos, Afrodite Grigoriou, Antonis Koufalexis, Evangelos Voulgaris, Vasiliki Siatara, Marina Pappa, Xenia Giannoulatou, Renos Sinos, Anastasia Skatzi, Rania Stathopoulou, Gianna Kalogianni, Konstantinos Papamichalopoulos, Loukas Theocharous, Chrisovalando Grigoriadou, Sofia Pappa, Anna Mitsi. Occupying the full exhibition floor in the Atop building, the viewer witnesses a compelling group show where artists draw from unique heritages and intertwined multidisciplinary practices.

Traditional **Etching**, one of the important techniques for old master prints, is a process of cutting into the unprotected parts of a metal surface to incise a design into the plaque. The incised plate (usually of copper, zinc or steel) will then hold the ink in order to create the image. **Drypoint** is a different technique for creating an intaglio print in which the artist incises lines and burrs manually into the plate, with a hard-pointed needle of sharp metal or a diamond point to create rough areas that will hold the ink. In principle, the method is practically identical to engraving. Traditionally the plate was copper, but now, acetate, zinc, or plexiglas are also commonly used. **Woodblock** printing is a form of relief printing based on the principle that the areas not meant for printing, are carved out. Colors will then be applied to the surfaces and lines at the original level, which is then transferred onto a piece of paper by rubbing or through a printing press, resulting in a reversed image. It is one of the oldest printing techniques, initially utilized for book pages, carving stamps and seals, and subsequently for



Konstantinos Papamichalopoulos  
The Hermit  
Woodcut and egg-tempera on  
paper  
145 x 40 cm

images. **Linoleum** is a form of block printing that involves carving a pattern or design into a linoleum, rubber or vinyl surface with a sharp knife, a V-shaped chisel or a gouge, with the raised uncarved areas representing a mirror image of the parts to show printed. The recesses carved out leave the design in relief and it is the raised design that the ink is applied to, and then transferred to the paper when pressure is applied by hand or a printing press. **Mixed media**, in visual art, is a term used to describe artworks in which more than one medium has been employed. Assemblages and collages are common examples of art using different media. In printmaking, mixed media refers to a reproduction of an original, where each copy will have original unique variations, features, and/ or elements. The artist starts with the original work that will then be transferred and printed on paper. Reproductions referred to as mixed media are uploaded digitally through scanning, and printed on paper.

The printmaking studio experience at University of Ioannina aims at raising awareness as regards to the age-old art form, characteristics, and distinctive features that differentiate Printmaking from Painting and Sculpture. Through the teaching process—both on a theoretical and on a practical level, the expressive potential, completeness and personality of the art form are established and cultivated. The studio is housed on the 1st floor of the building complex of the First University Hall of Residence, in an area of 135 square meters. It has 50 workstations, as well as equipment for applying the techniques of woodcut, lithography and copperplate.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### For more information, images or any other press enquiries please contact:

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

### Exhibition dates

Saturday 9th December 2024 until 5 January 2025

### Exhibition opening

Sunday 8th December 2024

4pm–7:30pm

### Admission: FREE

Monday-Sunday, 2pm–9pm or by appointment

### Address

Atop

Aristi Mountain Resort

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<https://www.aristi.eu/en>

<https://arts.uoi.gr/web/en/>

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1695/>

## ARISTI MOUNTAIN RESORT & VILLAS

Perched in Aristi village, Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas blends traditional charm with nature's palette, offering a unique year-round experience in the enchanting area of Zagori, Greece, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A Beyond Green member and 5 times awarded as "World's Leading Eco-Lodge", in World Travel Awards, the experience at Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas is an immersive journey within the timeless beauty of the Greek mountains. With luxurious suites, a farm, an indoor and outdoor Spa and the awarded Salvia

restaurant, every moment harmonizes with nature's vibrant colors. The resort employs water conservation programs, uses only traditional building techniques and traditional materials, and supports local food producers by sourcing free-range meat, fresh cheeses and vegetables, and regional wines. The resort co-founded the Zagori Excellence Network, which works to support community businesses, preserve local churches, and promote sustainable tourism practices.

Human presence in the Zagorohoria area was detected as far as the Upper Paleolithic period (14,000 – 8,000 BC), and due to its remoteness, the region and its centuries-old architectural, culinary, and farming traditions have largely remained intact. We aim to sustain long term relationships with the collaborators, fellows and participants that we engage with. Sharing Zagori's heritage with visitors and new audiences is core to this project.

#### **VASILIS IOSIFIDIS**

Vasilis Iosifidis is the businessman behind the environmentally conscious Greek hideaway Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas, in the mountainous paradise of Zagori, which was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Mr. Iosifidis built his family's home here and, in 2006, completed the construction of the Resort. *I felt the beauty of this place needed to be shared and for this reason decided to build a hotel, so people could enjoy the same views and landscape that I was so fortunate to have encountered.* The resort's visionary founder found a personal haven in the village of Aristi. The discovery sparked a vision in 1999: to transform Aristi into a destination for those seeking authenticity. Collaborating with architect Thomas Tsatsopoulos, they spent three years crafting Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas, overlooking the Vikos Gorge and the Towers of Astraka.