

# Modern artists in Epirus



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# PAVLOS VRELLIS

Born in Ioannina on March 25, 1923, he was left motherless at the age of 4. Nine years later, he lost his father as well. His aunt, Sophia Paramithioti, his mother's sister, raised him and educated him. His artistic nature had already begun to show from his early childhood, when he drew and carved on wood or stone his favorite heroes. His other side was the one that made him move forward and go ahead, though. His lively nature and his love for action and discoveries kept him mentally alert when, as a teenager, he got arrested by the Germans during the Occupation; along with other children they would clean the remains of war material that had not been exploded. When he was 23 -before he got to the School of Fine Arts- he took to making busts. It was then he got engaged in carving, mainly on upright and oblique wood, using tools he made himself. His keen observation and love for this subject, as well as his faith in art and life were his driving forces. Thus, pursuing his dream, he got into the School of Fine Arts in 1949. Unfortunately, his military service during the civil war left him psychological scars; what is more, the whole course of his career, which he painstakingly had started to pursue, fell behind. He was taught artistic anatomy by Apostolakis -on corpses just like medicine students did, and according to him, this knowledge became the '*correct spelling*' of his work. He was also taught History of Art. In 1954, he graduated having both a Theoretical and a Practical Degree.



In 1983, 60 years old at the time, he bought with the retirement payment a land in Bizani village. He planted numerous trees. He traced roads and squares; he made the exterior place in such a way so that it wouldn't be 'visual pollution' to the environment. Finally, the building which would accommodate the museum was given the style of the urban fort architecture of Epirus mainland of the 18th century, absolute respect to tradition being paid. This museum began to receive visitors on July 31, 1995. On July 23, 2010, Pavlos Vrellis passed away.

The wax effigies of the museum are displayed in life size, included in a faithful representation of the environment of their age and revive forms of the local history. The visitor moves along mountains, houses, caves, churches, and alleys, following a non-circular but endless course, ingeniously devised and arranged.

They cover twenty four centuries of Greek history (from 500 BC), with an emphasis on the modern history of [Epirus](#). The museum hosts 37 themes and 150 wax models which represent various historical events. There are three thematic units in the Museum:

- 1) Exhibits prior to 1821 war of independence
- 2) Exhibits from 1821 until 20<sup>TH</sup> century
- 3) References and dedications



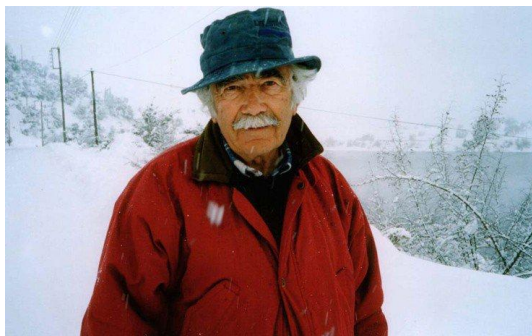
The first unit includes works as the «clandestine school», «benefactors of Epirus», «teachers of the Nation», «Dionysius the Philosopher» and more.



The second one presents wax effigies «freedom force warriors» and wax models of «Ioannis Makrigiannis» «Theodoros Kolokotronis» and «Konstantinos Kanaris».



Some of Vrelli's works decorate private exhibitions in Greece and abroad, while at the same time some of them are exhibited in Ioannina's art gallery.



# YiannisMoralis

Yiannis Moralis (23 April 1916 -20 December 2009) was an important Greek visual artist and part of the so-called "Generation of the 30s"

Born in Arta, in 1916, Moralis moved to Athens with his parents in 1927. From the age of 15 he studied at the Athens School Of Fine Arts under Umbertos and Konstantinos Parthenis. In 1936 he received a grant from this school to study for a year in Rome. After this, he went to Paris to study fresco and mural work in Paris.

Moralis died on December 20,2009 in Athens.

## WORKS

Some of Moralis' most famous works include:

- Two Friends (1946)
- Pregnant Woman (1948)
- Seated Nude (1952)
- Funeral Composition (1958)

From the 1970s, he moved from the realistic depictions of the human form of his earlier works towards a geometric stylization incorporating curves.



Moralis is a classic. Not a classicist. The former approaches the laws of classic form organically, out of inner necessity. In a certain respect, he invents them; he then proceeds to test their validity on the great models of the past. The latter memorises, imitates them. Like all true classics, Moralis pursued an anthropocentric art. His portraits dating from the Occupation

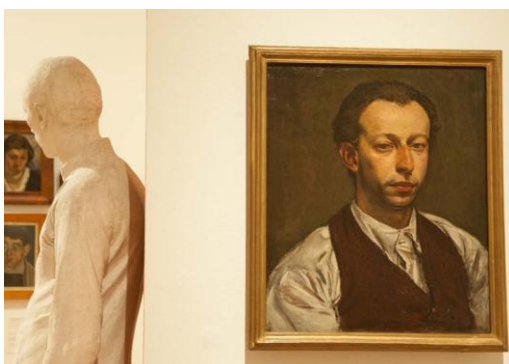
and the Civil War count amongst the most valuable works of the 20th century.

The origins of Moralis's artistic creation are the visual reality and the human aspect of the subject. In no case is it limited to the external realistic description, but with the emphasis on noun and shaping, the completeness of the design and the color inwardness, it always aims to reach the defining core of its subjects.



There are 151 works by Yannis Moralis in the National Gallery collection – oil and acrylic paintings, drawings, prints – made between 1934 and 1982. Of these, 37 only are paintings, mostly oils, and nine were previously acquired or came from the Koutlidis collection. The remaining 28 form part of the artist's major donation to the National Gallery, totaling 113 works, according to the decision of the foundation's Board dated July 5, of 1988. The 28 unique works in the donation, chosen by the artist himself, span the period 1934-1968.

Yannis Moralis was one of the most popular artists of 20th-century Greece: pioneering painter, talented print-maker, gifted set designer and inspiring academic teacher. Through his paintings, sculptures, architectural commissions, record covers, and book illustrations, the exhibition aims to shed light on the artist's progress from one decade to the other, bringing unknown facets of his life and work to the fore.



# Theodoros Papayiannis

Theodoros Papayiannis was born in Elliniko, Ioannina, in 1942.

From 1961 to 1966 he studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts on a scholarship, next to Yiannis Pappas.

In 1967 he studied ancient Greek Art and the Art of the Mediterranean Basin, on a two-year domestic Scholarship from the Government Scholarship Service (I.K.Y). His Mediterranean journeys took him to Egypt, Asia Minor, Cyprus, South Italy and Sicily.



## Work

Papagiannis has exhibited his work in 30 solo exhibitions and in many group exhibitions in Greece and in other countries. His work includes busts and statues of prominent personalities, medals, coins and large sculptural compositions. His sculptures stand in many public places in Greece and abroad, and are held in public and private collections of museums and galleries like the National Gallery of Greece, the North Museum, National Sculpture Gallery, Presidential Palace, Pierides Gallery, Thessaloniki Museum, Gallery of the National Bank Cultural Foundation, Rhodes Municipal Gallery, Municipal Gallery of Patras, Florina Art Gallery, Averoff Gallery in Metsovo and Kouvoutsaki Gallery in Kifissia. The Municipal Art Gallery of Ioannina has examples of his work.

### Some of his most incredible works are:

1986 : Eleftherios Venizelos, Ioannina.

Eleftherios Venizelos, General Sapountzaki, Archbishop Spyridon, General Headquarters 1912-1913, Hani Emin Aga, Ioannina.

Markos Avgeris, G. Kotzioulas, Lambridis, Hatzikostas, Ioannina.

Brother Samuel, Moscho Tzavella, Souli.

Kosmas Aetolos, Teachers College, Ioannina.

Konstantinos Frouzoz, Society for Epirot Studies, Ioannina

Themistocles Rigas, Paramythia.