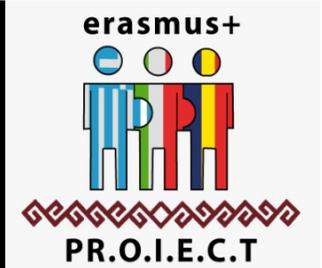




Erasmus+



# THE GREEK REVOLUTION IN FAMOUS PAINTINGS

on the occasion of the 200 years (1821-2021)  
since the Greek War of independence  
against the Ottomans

GENIKO LIKIO HORTIATI, FEBRUARY 2021

# The Greek revolution in famous paintings

The Greek War of Independence in 1821 inspired many artists in Europe, resulting in the creation of famous paintings, which awakened west Europe about the Greek revolution.



Eugène Delacroix,  
renowned French painter

# “Massacre at Chios” by Eugène Delacroix

The French painter **Eugène Delacroix**, through his painting on the **Chios Massacre**, he expresses the thrill for the fight the Greeks put up for independence.



# “Massacre at Chios” by Eugène Delacroix

The painting is now in the Louvre Museum and narrates in its own way the massacre and the sufferings of a enslaved nation.

Eugène Delacroix presents the Massacre of Chios island in 1824, having been inspired by the massacre of thousands of Greeks on Chios island by the Ottomans, which had taken place in retaliation for their uprising.



# “Massacre at Chios” by Eugène Delacroix

Delacroix, captivated by “a creative intoxication”, spent six months to complete his work, while taking great care to visualize each form, often redesigning it from scratch.

One of **the most moving scenes is that of a mother with her baby trying to grab her breast**, a scene taken from a testimony from Boutier’s book.



# “Greece on the Ruins of Missolonghi” by Eugène Delacroix

“Greece in the ruins of Messolonghi” is a painting inspired by the battle of the Greeks in the third siege of Messolonghi. It **depicts the personification of heroic Greece**. She is wearing a Greek traditional costume, unbuttoned on the chest. She is facing the viewer with her hands in a state of despair, and three quarters of her face, facing left. She is standing on the ruins of Messolonghi, which have crushed a fighter. In the background a black man in a yellow turban, symbolizing the enemy, nails a flag to the ground.



# “The Combat of the Giaour and Hassan” by Eugène Delacroix

The general theme includes a passion for revenge and a fight between two different worlds on an exotic battlefield, the Ottoman Greece.

The painting depicts the dramatic climax of the poem “Giaour” when the Giaour - that is, the disloyal - avenges the death of his mistress at the hands of the Turk Hassan.



# “The Combat of the Giaour and Hassan” by Eugène Delacroix

“The Battle of Giaour and Hassan” is one of Eugène Delacroix’s leading early paintings depicting battles.

The painting is inspired by the poem of the philhellene Lord Byron “Giaour” written in 1813 and translated into French in 1824, the year in which Byron died in Greece while fighting for Greece’s independence. Delacroix finished the painting in 1826 and exhibited it in Paris for the benefit of the Greek issue.



# “The Secret School” by Nikolaos Gyzis

According to the legend of the “secret school”, the Ottoman Empire banned the education of occupied Greeks, to ensure their nescience and slavery, resulting in the organization of **night schools by priests ,who secretly taught writing and reading Greek in secret.**

The legend was **imprinted in art.**



# “The arson of the turkish flagship by Kanaris” Nikiforos Lytras

In Lytras' anthropocentric painting, it is not the historical event itself that interests the artist, but **the projection of the heroic act performed by brave people, worthy of imitation.**



# “The arson of the turkish flagship by Kanaris” Nikiforos Lytras

The flaming flagship is in the background of a human action which is projected in a close-up to the viewer. Thus, in contrast to the vague negotiation of depth, where the flagship is lost half-hidden by the smoke, **the realistic performance of the Psarians with Kanaris on the boat gives a direct character to the event**, since the truth is what interests the artist. Based on the narrations of Kanaris, Lytras attributes in every detail the tension of the muscles in the hands of the rowers, the characteristic costumes with the breeches, the belts and the handkerchiefs.



# “The Camp of Karaiskakis”

by Theodoros Vryzakis

This painting depicts the camp of Karaiskakis' in Faliro, where the Greeks were preparing to conquer the Acropolis, which was besieged by the Turks, in April 1827.



# “The Camp of Karaiskakis”

by Theodoros Vryzakis

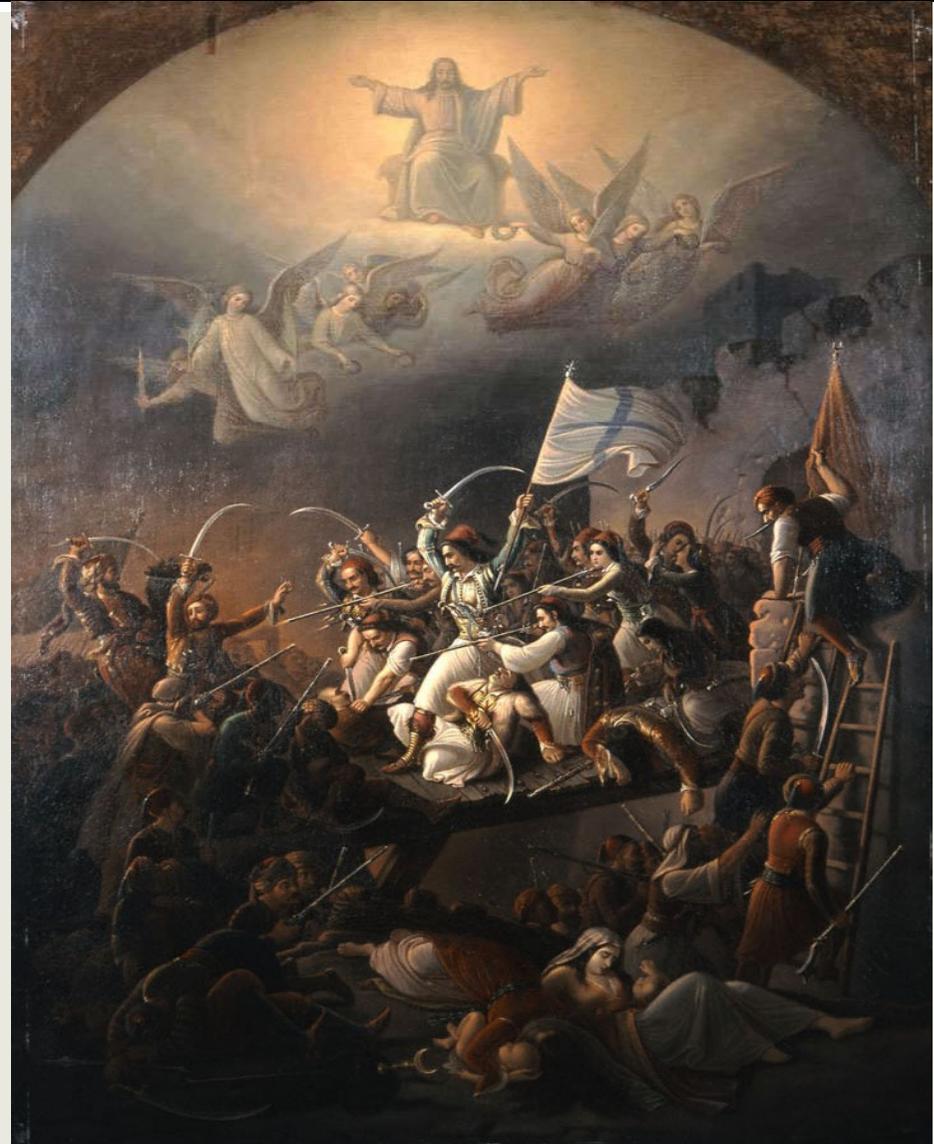
Greeks and Philhellenes are lined up in a zone on the first level, while a middle level on the right leads the gaze to the hill, where the army chiefs examine the battlefield. The Acropolis can be seen in the background on the left. In the center, a Greek rests on [an ancient marble](#), a reference to the Greeks' ancient heritage.



# “The Sortie of Messolonghi”

by Theodoros Vryzakis

This important painting commemorates one of the most tragic and famous episodes of the Uprising, the heroic sortie of the inhabitants of the city of Messolonghi on the night of April 10, 1826.



# “Grateful Hellas” by Theodoros Vryzakis

“Grateful Hellas” is a painting of the Greek artist, Theodoros Vryzakis, created in 1858.

This is a work with special symbolism, since it depicts Greece in the form of a young crowned woman, dressed in ancient terms, in the midst of fighters of the Revolution of 1821, having broken the chains of slavery from her feet.



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P30 Activity

High School of Hortiatis

Thank you for your attention!