El Greco

El Greco (DomenikosTheotokopoulos) was born in Heraklion, Crete in 1541. As a young man he studied Byzantine icon painting in Crete. He moved to Venice in 1567 where he continued to study painting. In 1570 he went to Rome. In1577 he moved to Spain in Toledo, where he lived and worked until the end of his life (1614).

El Greco had a very individual style. His paintings show both Byzantine and Italian styles. They also show strong Catholic elements from Spain.

Some of his most famous paintings are “The Lost Supper”, “Dormition of the Virgin”, “Virgin Mary”, “Christ on the Cross”, “Crucifixion”, “The Disrobing of Christ” etc.

He is one of the most famous painters of the 16th century. His paintings influenced many famous artists after him, for example Picasso and Cezanne. El Greco’s paintings adorn the largest museums and private collections.

Manos Hatzidakis

Manos Hatzidakis was born in Xanthi on October 23, 1925.

He wrote music for the Greek films “Stella” (1955),“Madalena” (1960), “See you in Corfu” (1960), “Alice, my love” (1963).

He wrote music for many international films such as Elia Kazan’s “America America” (1963), Andrew Morton’s “It happened in Athens” (1962), Dassin’s “Top Kapi” (1964), “Never on Sunday” (1960) for which he won an Oscar.

He also wrote music for the Greek National Theatre. He worked with director KarolosKoun and composed the music for the play “A Streetcar named Desire”, starring Melina Mercuri. From this collaboration a great classic song resulted, named “Paper Moon”. Another famous song, “The Myth”, was performed for the first time by N. Mouschouri in the theatrical performance “Lysistrati” (Aristophanes) in the ancient theatres of Epidaurus and Irodio.

He composed music for poems written by Elytis (Nobel Prize winner), Seferis (Nobel Prize winner), Gatsos etc.

He also composed music for the documentary of Wolfgang Muller-Sehn “Greece, the land of dreams” (1960). The songs “Athina” and “The White Rose of Athens” are included in this work and performed by Nana Mouschouri.

He produced instrumental LP’s, like “The Smile of Joconda”. He wrote four books and created “The orchestra of Colours”. He died in 1994and with Mikis Theodorakis is considered the greatest composer of Greece.