



*Institute Mohammed Ali*

PRESS RELEASE

## “PARADOX”

Painting installation by visual artist **Vasilis Zografos**  
at the Institute Mohamed Ali, Kavala, Greece



Opening: Kavala, Saturday 3 July 2010

The **Institute Mohamed Ali for the Research of the Eastern Tradition (I.M.A.R.E.T.)** launches a new cycle of activities within the frame of **I.M.A.R.E.T. Contemporary Art Projects** with “Paradox”, a painting installation by **Vasilis Zografos**, presented at Mohamed Ali’s House, where the Institute is based in Kavala, Greece.

In Vasilis Zografos’s works, the narrative engages with the notion of “paradox” and its definitions as strange, noteworthy, unexpected, incredible, heretic, miraculous... which in a way characterize the creative process and practice. It is the artist’s behavior as author and the creative process itself that lead him away from what one would call current logic, beyond stereotypes and set beliefs, pronouncing theses beyond the ordinary, theses logically unexpected.

Vasilis Zografos’s “canvases depict fading creatures alongside representations of decorative objects and paintings illustrating man’s strained relationship to wildlife. (...) By confining each action or element to a single canvas, Zografos isolates and captures his subjects with all the zeal of an amateur collector assembling a curiosity cabinet. As such, his portraits of animals acquire the symbolic capital of hunting trophies.” (excerpt from a text by curator Stephanie Bertrand)

For the exhibition “Paradox”, the historic building that used to be the house where Mohamed Ali, founder of modern Egypt, was born and raised, becomes a recipient and a shell for contemporary paintings, suggesting new dialogues between the space’s historic elements and the almost uncanny, added interventions that these paintings entice.

The exhibition is curated by Thalea Stefanidou and Lydia Chatziakovou.



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## **INFO:**

Organized by: Institute Mohamed Ali for the Research of the Eastern Tradition (I.M.A.R.E.T.)

I.M.A.R.E.T. Director: Yiannis Melachrinoudis

I.M.A.R.E.T. Contemporary Art Projects Artistic Direction: ArtBOX.gr

Curators: Thalea Stefanidou, Lydia Chatziakovou

Coordination: I.M.A.R.E.T. & ArtBOX.gr

Opening: 3 July 2010, 21.00

Duration: 4/07 - September 2010

## **HOSPITALITY SPONSOR**

*Imaret*

## **COMMUNICATION SPONSOR**

 Alpha Media Group

## **CONTACT:**

ArtBOX.gr | creative arts management

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www.mohamed-ali.org

www.artbox.gr

www.vasiliszografos.com



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## APPENDIX: ARTIST & INSTITUTIONS

### Vasilis Zografos / short bio

Vasilis Zografos was born in Mytilini, Lesvos, in 1965. He studied at the School of Fine Arts of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (1987-1992). Between 1993-1995, he gained a scholarship from the Lilian Voudouri Trust in conjunction with the Dutch State whereby he attended and completed the Masters Degree Course at the Academy of Fine Arts in Groningen, Netherlands. In 2002 he completed a Masters Course at the Polytechnic School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, specializing in the Preservation, Conservation and Restoration of Art Works. Between 2002 and 2007 he taught Painting and Drawing at the Ecole Régionale de Beaux Arts de St. Etienne. He now lives and works in Thessaloniki.

#### RECENT SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2010 I.M.A.R.E.T. Contemporary Art Projects, Kavala, Greece
- 2009 Batagianni Gallery, Athens, Greece
- 2006 Tsatsis Projects/Artforum Gallery, Thessaloniki, Greece

#### RECENT GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2010 Push the envelope, organized by Rachel Moore, Dynamo Project Space, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2010 Breaking Walls - Building Networks, curated by Iara Boubnova, Lydia Chatziakovou, Christos Savvidis, Thalea Stefanidou, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2009 My Wall (parallel project to Walls - 6th Panhellenic Architecture Exhibition), curated by ArtBOX.gr, Patras, Greece
- 2009 Paint-id, curated by Sotirios Bahtsetzis, Alex Mylona Museum, Athens, and Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki (Greece)
- 2009 Nature Project, curated by Giannis Bolis, Villa Kazouli, Athens, Greece
- 2008 Places, curated by Denys Zacharopoulos, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, and Benaki Museum - Pireos, Athens (2007)
- 2007 Recreation "Maid" in Greece, curated by Thalea Stefanidou, Thessaloniki 1st Biennale of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2007 Restart, Art Athina - International Art Fair, Athens, Greece
- 2006 "H2O", Tellogleio Foundation, Thessaloniki, Greece
- 2006 Crossing The Borders - Visual Arts in Greece, curated by Thanassis Moutsopoulos, Greek State Museum, Thessaloniki
- 2006 Positive Charges, curated by Thouli Missirloglou - Vassilis Amanatidis, Thessaloniki Center of Contemporary Art

### The Institute Mohamed Ali for the Research of the Eastern Tradition (I.M.A.R.E.T.) / short presentation

I.M.A.R.E.T. is a non-profit organization established in 2006 with the vision to act as a cultural link between all European and Middle Eastern countries. It is based at Imaret, the great Islamic trust located in Kavala, which was offered by Mohamed Ali to his hometown and which functioned as a centre for secular and religious education and social welfare for 2 centuries. The Institute collaborates with established international institutions from both Middle Eastern and European countries.

The globally unique existence of an Arab monument in a non-islamic country constitutes I.M.A.R.E.T. CONTEMPORARY ART PROJECTS an ideal institution for true intercultural dialogue through contemporary art.

In December 2009, the Institute launched its contemporary art activities, under the Artistic Direction of ArtBOX.gr. In collaboration with the Institute of Contemporary



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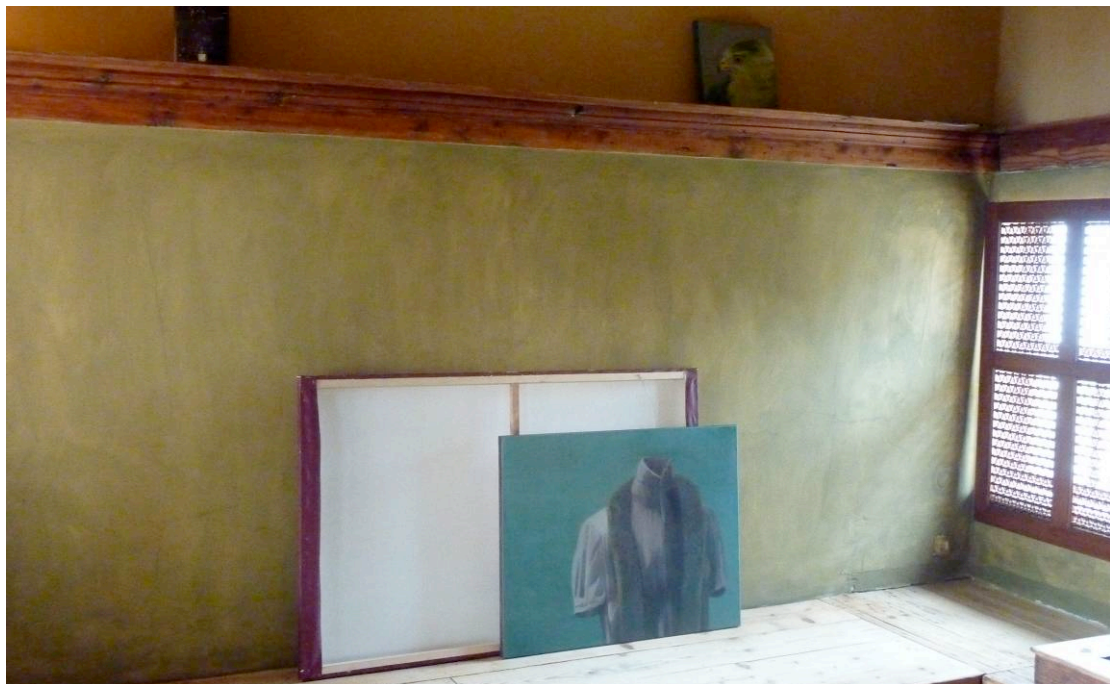
Art - ICA, Sofia, and with internationally established curator Iara Boubnova, a workshop of artists from Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria took place. During the workshop, the artists discussed around the possibilities of presenting contemporary art works within the Institute's spaces and presented their work in various locations around the Institute. The workshop functioned as a preparatory meeting that led to the exhibition "Breaking Walls - Building Networks" with the participation of artists from Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria (Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece, 16-31 January 2010).

#### [ArtBOX.gr](#) | creative arts management / short presentation

ArtBOX | creative arts management was founded in 1999 by Christos Savvidis. Lydia Chatziakovou is a permanent collaborator since 2004. ArtBOX aims to plan, organize, coordinate, curate contemporary visual arts projects, such as exhibitions, residencies, workshops, conferences etc.

ArtBOX was one of the founders of Forum European Cultural Exchanges, and has also been Forum's coordinator since 2000. Between 2004 and 2008 ArtBOX was the Director of the annual visual arts festival "Action Field". Between 2006 and 2008, ArtBOX undertook the artistic direction of Art Athina-international art fair of Athens. Last summer, ArtBOX coorganized and co-curated the project "Making Words" within the 53rd international exhibition of the Venice Biennale.

Most recently, ArtBOX has been appointed Arts Management Director of the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art (Thessaloniki, Greece) and Artistic Director of the Institute Mohamed Ali for the Research of the Eastern Tradition (I.M.A.R.E.T. - Kavala, Greece).



*photo taken during the exhibition preparation*