

### 3 Famous Canadian artists in Tinos

The Liberal Newspaper

Greece

2017-07-19

<http://www.liberal.gr/artnews/arthro/153854/politistika-dromena/trexonta/3-kataxiomenoi-kanadoi-kallitechnes-stin-tino.html>



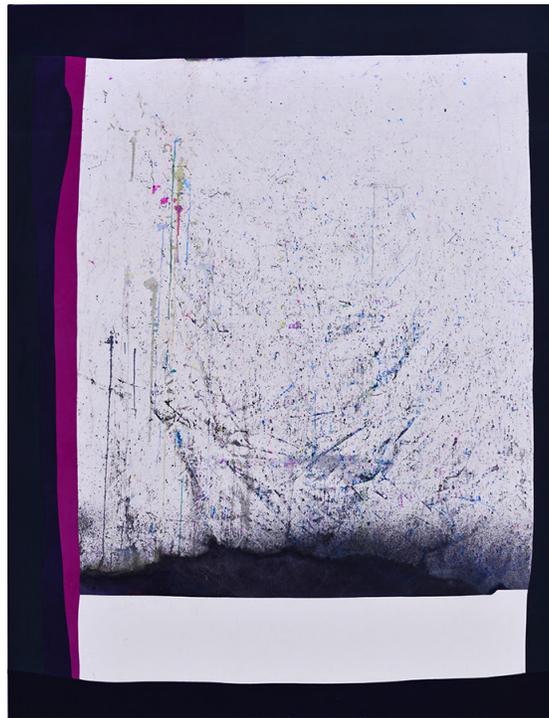
© Ron Moppett & TrepanierBaer Gallery

In August, an exhibition of particular importance is being launched at the Foundation of Tinian Culture in Tinos. The exhibition titled "*Open Horizons*", edited by Dr. Caterina Pizania, aims to recommend to Greek audiences the work of three famous Canadian artists: Ron Moppett, Allyson Glenn and Colleen Heslin. The exhibition is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation (1867-2017) and the 75th anniversary of Greek-Canadian diplomatic relations.

All three artists are at the forefront of the Canadian art community. They go beyond the prescribed limits and hierarchies of art, which is evident in how the audience responds to their award-winning visual practices. In artfully innovative ways, they refer to the vastness of the nature of the Canadian landscape and illustrate it. They prefer to cover the canvas,

sometimes expanding the works on the floor, creating installations, artistically loud, telling stories of a world in liquidity; projects that can resist and confront the challenges of the Aegean Sea - the endless blue Horizon, plenty of light, and above all, the myriad stories that have been buried in the depths and washed out of its shores.

Ron Moppett has a strange, almost open-minded ability to gather and combine intense colors and a variety of materials and objects (some high and pop culture, some of which have gathered over the years) into paintings and installations, Invite, but also challenge viewers. His thematic hints have been selected from his personal history and travel, the history of art and recent events. Throughout the years, Ron has shown his grasp of exploring diversity through the way it handles the space: differences between home and abroad, refuge and asylum. Differences that are at the forefront of Greek culture.



© Colleen Heslin & Monte Clark Gallery

Colleen Heslin has completely overturned the painting traditions. Her abstract works resemble paintings, however, they are made of faded fabrics, which they have painted, sewed and stretched. These stitched pieces deceive the ways in which we see and perceive the history of painting. Within its canvases, it combines spaces, colors and forms to release an infinite number of narratives for the labor of manual labor and aesthetics.



© Allyson Glenn & Barbara Reimer

Allyson Glenn is the same bold in color choices, the strong touch, the thick and fast dropping of color and sensitivity on the canvas, with a particular interest in the problems associated with the destruction of the environment. Once again, she is performing painting, which is a pleasure to see. It continues the long tradition of landscape art that renders the meadows with a contemporary variation  $\times$  and although it depicts ruins of landscapes, viewers of the works view the moments of exceptional beauty that prompt them to become acquainted with and understand the present ecological crisis.

### *The Background*

Both Canada and Greece became nations during the nineteenth century. Both countries recovered from their historical past the "heroic" element in their people and their national landscapes. Both introduced concepts of art and its institutions from Western Europe. In both countries, painting and sculpture have contributed widely to shaping the modern idea of independence, and since the nineteenth century, both countries have had parallel experiences in understanding and solving the issue of Canadianism and respectively, "Hellenicity" of art and artists. In the context of the 2017 celebrations, it is counterproductive to continue to look for what is purely heroic and national; this would strengthen the world's foreclosure practices that we are witnessing every day. Practices that have reached us in the social, political and economic chaos that has affected everyday life throughout the world over the last decade. At the present historic juncture, art exploring

current themes through personal stories can become the common ground, the foundation for productive cultural exchanges between Canadian artists and Greek art audiences.

Tinos is the island that offered Greece its "fathers" in painting and sculpture. Its history goes back to the past, up to the Neolithic times, and has been associated with Poseidon, the god of the sea, and Aeolus, the god of the winds, has also been associated with Demeter and Dionysus. The Venetians invaded Tinos in 1207, and since then Tinos has produced marble craftsmen who have worked professionally for centuries in Western Europe in the field of public building architecture. This is why they had wealth and access abroad. The painters and sculptors from Tinos played an important role as teachers in Munich, Germany, Paris and finally in Greece, after its emancipation by the Ottomans. Here, they played an important role in the establishment of the Athens School of Fine Arts. Among its famous artists are the painters Nikolaos Gyzis and Nikiforos Lytras and the sculptor Giannoulis Halepas. The Archaeological Museum of Tinos, the Museum of Marble Craft (which exhibits works of artists from Tinos) and the Kostas Tsoklis Museum are located in Tinos.

*A few words about the venue*

The Cultural Foundation of Tinos was founded (2002) to promote artists from Tinos. It houses the works of Giannoulis Chalepas (permanent collection), as well as a gallery hosting domestic and international traveling exhibitions, especially during the summer, during which Tinos is the meeting point of people belonging to the spiritual leadership of Greece. Tinos has been the favorite vacation spot of the philosopher Cornelius Castoriadis and the writer Vassilis Alexakis, to name just two of the famous intellectuals and artists who prefer Tinos as a summer destination. In August, the Tinos Culture Foundation organizes the Tinos Jazz Festival and the Tinos World Music Festival (Tinos World Music Festival).

"Open Horizons, An Exhibition", Cultural Foundation of Tinos

Duration of exhibition: 1 - 20 August 2017