

Greece and Canada celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations

Exhibition of contemporary art “Open Horizons”
at the Cultural Foundation of Tinos



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Ron Moppett, *GHOST*, 2017

Translated text:

The 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Greece happens currently with the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation this year. To celebrate these two anniversaries, the Canadian Embassy in

Athens has organized an exhibition of modern art "**Open Horizons**" at the Foundation of Tiniian Culture in Tinos, from 1 to 20 August 2017.

The aim of the exhibition is to present to the Greek public the work of three internationally acclaimed Canadian artists, **Ron Moppett, Allyson Glenn** and **Colleen Heslin**. The three Canadian artists go beyond the limits and hierarchies of art. Following artfully innovative roads, 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 facilities that tell stories of a world in liquidity. Works that can resist but also confront the challenges of the Aegean Sea, the vast blue sky, the vast light and, above all, the myriad stories that have been buried in the depths of the island and have been washed out on its shores. The curator of the exhibition is Dr. Caterina Pizania.

For both Canada and Greece, painting and sculpture have largely contributed to shaping the modern idea of independence. This year's celebrations escape the search for those who are purely heroic and national. "At this historic crossover, 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", according to the announcement by the Canadian Embassy in Greece.

Moppett's choice of media also invites and challenges viewers. His thematic hints have been selected from his personal history and travel, the history of art and recent events. Over the years, Ron has shown his grasp of exploring diversity through the way he handles the space: differences between home and abroad, refuge and asylum. Differences that are at the forefront of Greek culture.

Colleen Heslin has completely overturned the painting tradition. Her abstract works resemble paintings, but they are made of faded fabrics that have been dyed, stitched and stretched. These sewn pieces deceive the way we see and perceive the history of painting. Within these canvases, they combines spaces, colors and forms to release an infinite number of narratives for the labor or manual labor and aesthetics.

Allyson Glenn is the same bold color choices, the strong touch, the thick and fast dripping 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 and it is a pleasure to see these works. They continue the long tradition of landscape art that renders the meadows with a contemporary variation and although they depict ruins of landscapes, viewers of the works experience moments of exceptional beauty that prompt them to get to know and understand the current ecological crisis.

