



CHAMBER OF FINE ARTS OF GREECE

LEGAL PERSON OF PUBLIC LAW UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND SPORTS

GREEK NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE IAA

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EETE ANNUAL REPORT

1. **EETE unfolded significant exhibition activity in 2017:**

- **Exhibition VISUAL ARTS AND RESISTANCE 1950-1974**, Jan. 24 to March 12, 2017. Organization: Chamber of Fine Arts of Greece.

Following the exhibition titled “Visual Arts and the Resistance 1936 – 1949”, EETE proceeded to the second phase of the study covering a period from 1950 up to 1974 inclusive.

The period examined in this exhibition was marked by significant events, which determined life in post-war Greece up to the end of the Colonels’ junta.

The exhibition showed 500 art pieces of:

1. Visual artists of the 1950-1974 period, who experienced the events themselves and created works at that time based on those events (political prosecution, executions, imprisonment, exile, political refugees, etc.).
2. Visual artists of that period (1950-1974) who experienced the events themselves, but could not create visual art work during this time due to imprisonment, exile, etc., but created works later.
3. Visual artists who were not in Greece at the time for any reason (as a result of being political refugees, in exile or self-exile), but created artistic work about the 1950-1974 period AT THE TIME.

The showcased works were created in 1950-1977.

Documents were presented from the artistic resistance activity both during the Junta, as well as previously, including engraved proclamations, sketches that were published in both illegitimate and legitimate press and other documents. Papers from the press related to the prosecution of artists, censorship in art, as well as documents from the persons who refused “aid” from the Colonel’s Junta. In addition, papers, as well as art pieces from artists who found themselves self-exiled in socialist countries or in martyr places of forced exile.

The exhibition welcomed over 7,000 people.

- A Small Sculpture Exhibition in October 2017 in Athens and an Engraving Symposium in November 2017 in Piraeus.
- A Visual Arts Exhibition of the Shanghai Visual Artists Association will be held in Athens in November 2017.
- A series of large exhibitions are planned for 2018.

2. **Joint cooperation agreement signed between the Fund of Archaeological Resources and EETE, bringing the works of contemporary visual artists in the shops of public museums and archaeological sites**

In the context of the spirit of spreading Art and the necessity of the social function of the work of contemporary Greek artists, the Chamber of Fine Arts of Greece (EETE) and the Fund of Archaeological Resources and Expropriation (TAP) signed, on March 29, 2017, an agreement, the main target of which is to present, promote and sell the original work of visual artists, as well as reproductions that utilize their form in various ways and using various techniques, inspired by our cultural heritage. The aim of this effort is to connect and create dialogue between contemporary art and Hellenic culture in its various evolution stages. The exhibition and sale of

works (or their reproductions) by TAP will be implemented in suitable areas within museums around the country.

After many months of negotiations, EETE, which is the institutional body for visual artists, in cooperation with TAP, have shaped a common framework of the system for the promotion and sale of designer visual art work, which will be available at the points of sale in museums and archaeological sites.

3. SOCIAL SECURITY – PENSION ISSUE

The issue of the lack of social security and pension for visual artists remains unresolved. EETE submitted yet another proposal for its resolution, which was not accepted. As of 2016, visual artists are included in the health care system that covers “uninsured citizens”.

The pensions awarded by the Ministry of Culture to artists **were cut yet again**, due to the memoranda signed by the government. As it is, these pensions are awarded to very few visual artists, and comprise starvation-ration pensions.

A law has passed, according to which, pensioner artists are not entitled to sell their works, otherwise their pension is decreased further to 40% of the amount, even if they do not actually sell anything.

EETE has initiated a number of mobilizations for these issues.

4. Copyright:

As per the usual practice of recent governments, the expected bill on Copyright in Art, implementing EU directives, was brought to Parliament in the midst of summer.

Yet again, the copyright of creators are reduced and artists’ Collective Management Organizations are hurt, since the bill, which is now state law creates the conditions for the development of numerous private anonymous companies, in every art sector, which will compete to gain maximum profit from the “commodity called Art”, and artists and the public alike will be nothing more than their weaker victims... At the same time, the law places the Collective Management Organizations created and managed by the artists themselves “under supervision”, thus laying down the ground for the death of collective expression in any art discipline, due to the rules of profiteering and the “market”...

The scope of the new law that passed was the incorporation of EU Directive 2014/26, on collective management of copyright and related rights. The EU has adopted from 2003 to date a series of measures in the form of recommendations and directives related to various facets of this issue, such as the extension of copyright and related rights to the owners of audiovisual or musical works production companies, the expansion of the validity of the rights from 50 to 70 years, the regulations of so called “orphan” works. The common characteristics of these regulations is the continued shifting from the notion of “copyright” to the notion of “intellectual property”, which, as such, is

transferred more frequently from creators to entrepreneurs who own Art production and distribution means.

5. **On Art pieces in Public areas**

The BoD of EETE has repeatedly submitted to the Ministry of Culture and jointly responsible Ministries, a “**Legislation request**”, aiming to implement the provision on “1% of Public building and surrounding area budget” to be spent on artistic decoration, which passed in 1997 and has yet to be implemented!

Over the past years, EETE has made repeated interventions to the political leadership regarding the implementation of the law in Metro works. Instead of this implementation, in August we received a letter from ATTIKO METRO S.A. informing us that the governments and the EU have made a legislation provision, but the Metro is excluded from the obligation to implement the law on 1%!!!

EETE submitted yet again an amendment to the “1% law” aiming to
a) set as a prerequisite for the connection to the public power network of public buildings the provision of the relevant expenditure of 1% in the auctioning issues for the construction or repair of these buildings, as well as

b) the expansion of the term “public building” to also include buildings of public use or public interest.

In the course of the discussion of the bill on Copyright, the Communist Party of Greece submitted to Parliament a legislation proposal as per EETE’s suggestion, insisting to the expansion of the meaning of public buildings and the obligation to include 1% of the budget in the auctioning issues for buildings.

Despite that, the government did not approve the legislation proposal...

The failure to implement the law on 1% is not a matter of negligence on the part of governments. In addition, the confusion created in the status quo of public art works is not a matter of ignorance. **It is a matter of choice.**

We need to fight much more than before, in order to ensure that artists have jobs, that artistic tenders are held that judge the creation rather than the name, to have a clear framework about the presence of art in public areas. The people who live this reduction of their lives on a daily basis will be our allies.

And that requires participation, collectivity and struggle.