

Cross-cultural Communication Through Art

Ekeheiria: The "truce of God" (literally, "holding of hands") was observed in ancient Greece as early as 776 B.C. during the Olympiad, a festival dedicated to Zeus that included athletic and art competitions. During the Olympic Truce, conflicts ceased allowing athletes, artists and spectators to travel to Olympia, participate in the Olympic Games and return to their homelands in safety. It was then that the basis of the Olympic Movement began to evolve into a philosophy of life, exalting and combining the qualities of body and mind in a balanced whole. Out of this philosophy, the Olympic ideals were born, placing noble competition, sport, peace, culture and education at the very core of Greek civilization.

The concept of this exhibition was inspired by the values and practices of the Olympic Movement. Since it is little known today that art competitions were a significant part of the Olympiad, we have called citizens of the international community such as diplomats and artists, to revive an Olympic Arts Festival dedicated to the Olympic Truce.

The exhibition *Olympic Truce: Pieces of Peace* brings together a wide array of visual and performance artists to investigate the intersection of art and politics. It represents a break with the traditional concepts of the natural preordained supremacy of the mainstream art. Diversity and change are championed here, as well as, the relationships between the local and the global.

Artists who do not hail from the mainstream have been able to profit from this worldwide horizon and thus connect up in a dialectic unity. The focus on individual works as pieces of a whole is meant to allow the viewer to navigate through routes of diversity leading to multiple personal journals and journeys, unique to each artist. Their intellects, views, experiences and creative practice are examined as valuable contributions to their history of human values and visions. In their creative consciousness, Ekeheiria is interpreted as a definition with a twofold message: "holding of hands" against warfare and "holding of hands" for peace.

Dr. Zoe Kosmidou
Cultural Counselor
Embassy of Greece

Foreword

This exhibition of the works of 70 acclaimed artists from the international community, titled *Olympic Truce: Pieces of Peace* is a collaborative effort between the Embassies in Washington, their headquarters in their national capitals and their artists. The Embassy of Greece is proud to host such an important event.

There could not have been a better example of such a wonderful gathering from all corners around the globe to introduce new dimensions and new areas of cooperation, creativity and communication.

I am certain that all the contributions to the project and the scope of the Olympic Truce, Peace and Unity will lead to a dynamic artistic expression taking under consideration the diversities and similarities of the human kind.

I would like to personally and warmly thank each person who has responded to our call for their enthusiasm and support. Their presence has honored our effort to begin a dialogue through the arts and encourage our hopes to look into a more colorful future.

Finally, I would like to thank the Delegation of the European Commission in the United States for generously offering their premises to the exhibition.

George Savvaides
Ambassador of Greece to the USA



Embassy of Greece
Cultural Program
2211 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20008

above image: Maro Mihalakakis, Ekeheiria, 2004, Shaved velvet fabric, 95" x 50" cover image: Mark Kosab, The Calling, 2004, Acrylic on Canvas, 100 cm x 150 cm designer: Robert Villator

OLYMPIC ARTS FESTIVAL 2004

OLYMPIC TRUCE PIECES OF PEACE



A multinational project on Peace and Unity. Countries from the five continents across the globe exhibit artwork and present performing arts from their distinct cultures.

Olympic Truce: Pieces of Peace

December 13 – December 17, 2004 • The Delegation of the European Commission



COUNTRIES AND ARTISTS

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|---|--|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|--|----|---|----|---|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | AFGANISTAN
Abraham Habibzai
<i>Passed Storm</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
23" x 4" | 7 | AZERBAIJAN
Eljar Alimirzayev
<i>Tightrope Walker</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
36 1/2 x 41 | 14 | CHILE
Joan Belmar
<i>Athens 2004. The Olympic Adventure</i> , 2004
Collage of Paper and Glass
60" x 36" | 20 | CZECH REPUBLIC
Peter Sis
<i>Labyrinth</i> , 1999
Giclee print (cover for his book <i>Tibet Through the Red Box</i>)
Shaved velvet fabric
17" x 17" | 26 | GREECE
Maro Mihalakakos
<i>EKEXEIPIA Ekecheiria</i>
(In Greek: Holding of Hands), 2004
Shaved velvet fabric
95" x 50" | 33 | LEBANON
Riad Asali
<i>East-West Sides</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas | 40 | NETHERLANDS
MVRDV Architect Firm
<i>Photographs</i> , 2004
of the design proposal scale model for the Olympic Village of the New York City bid for the Olympics 2012 | 46 | PHILIPPINES
Nilo M. Santiago, 2004
<i>Peace and the Olympic Spirit</i>
Acrylic
24" x 36" | 53 | SINGAPORE
Jimmy Quek Prabhakara
<i>Bodhi Tree</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
32" x 25" | 60 | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Katherine Williams
<i>Trying to hold it together</i> , 1998
Watercolor on Paper
17 1/2 x 23 1/2" | 66 | MALTA
(No image provided prior to printing)
Charles Cassar
<i>Vaguely Farxiem</i> , 2002
Watercolor
28" x 35" |
| 2 | ALBANIA
Genti Korini
<i>Torso I</i> , 2004
Acrylic and Enamel
50" h x 34" w | 8 | BAHAMAS
Lillian Blades
<i>No Time to Be Shy</i> , 1996
Acrylic on Canvas
32 x 48 1/2" | 15 | CHINA
Li Xiaoke
<i>Home</i> , 2004
Ink on Paper
300 cm wide x 152 high
Beijing Organizing Committee for the XXIX Olympiad | 21 | ECUADOR
Gabriel Gross
<i>Finish Line</i> , 2002
Oil on Canvas
60 h x 36 w (each piece of triptich) | 27 | HAITI
Mireille Délice
<i>Ogou Ferai</i> , 2004
Beads embroidered on satin
34" 1/2 x 30" | 34 | LIECHTENSTEIN
Elisabeth Büchel
<i>Spirit</i> , 2003
Oil on Canvas
120 cm x 80 cm | 41 | NEW ZEALAND
Antonia Macedo
<i>Freedom</i> , 2004
Fujichrome Velvia Photograph
24 x 20" | 47 | POLAND
Lubomir Tomaszewski
<i>Prometheus</i> , 2004
Seared Image on Paper
45" x 33" | 54 | SLOVAK REPUBLIC
Rudolf Krivos
<i>Torso</i> , 1970
Oil on canvas
40" x 25" | 61 | TURKEY
Tayfun Erdogmus
<i>Untitled</i>
Mixed Media
14 1/2 x 11 1/8" | 67 | ARGENTINA (performance)
Dancers: Carina Losano
<i>Tango</i> |
| 3 | ALGERIA
Mira Naporowska
<i>Fete de Tameriasset</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
21 x 30" | 9 | BELGIUM - Flemish Representation
Marc Lambrechts
<i>Temple of the Gods I</i> , 1991
Oil on Plaster in Metal frame
27 x 27" | 16 | COLOMBIA
Gina Maria Echeverry
<i>Music of the Soul</i> , 2004
Acrylic on Canvas
48 h x 36 w | 22 | EL SALVADOR
Rafael Varela
<i>Maze of Dreams</i> , 2002
Acrylic
32 h x 32 w | 28 | HONDURAS
Marluce Morales
<i>Peace</i> , 2003
30" x 50" | 35 | LITHUANIA
Daiva Kaireviciute
<i>Red</i> , 2004
Drawing on Silk
150 cm x 90 cm | 42 | PAKISTAN
Talha Rathore
<i>Subway Series III</i> , 1999
Gouache, Ink and blockprinting on wall paper
19 x 14 7/8" | 48 | PORTUGAL
Isidro de Moraes Pereira
<i>The Metropolis</i> , 2002
Acrylic on Canvas
32" x 36" | 55 | SOUTH AFRICA
Yolanda Prinsloo
<i>Jabalapi</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas ?
40 x 60" | 62 | UNITED KINGDOM
Angela Hennessy
<i>Message from Sadako</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
4" h x 3" w | 67 | INDONESIA (performance)
Dancers: Erna Santi Widyastuti,
Catur Candra Sukei
<i>Jaipongan Dance</i> |
| 4 | ANGOLA
Maly Guzmão
<i>Dancing Baobab Trees</i> , 2002
Watercolor on Canvas
145 h" x 114" w | 10 | BOLIVIA
Enrique Arnal
<i>La Partida</i> , 2004
Acrylic on cartonboard
28 x 22" | 17 | COMMONWEALTH OF THE DOMINICA
David G. Wilson
<i>Dreaming</i> , 2004
Acrylic on canvas
34" x 30" | 23 | EGYPT
Chant Avedissan
<i>Om Kasloum</i>
Monotype
28 x 35" | 29 | HUNGARY
István Nadler
<i>M.M. Nr. 14</i> , 2001
oil on canvas
6"10" x 5" | 36 | MEXICO
Irene Clouthier
<i>Happy Series: Poetry Dog Tags</i> 2004
Digital Art on Plexis Glass
30" x 25" | 43 | PANAMA
Carlos Arboleda
<i>The Mystery of the Mass</i> , 1970
Oil on Canvas
24 x 30" | 49 | QATAR
Yousuf Ahmed
<i>Untitled</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
43 x 43" | 56 | SRI LANKA
Nirmala Kumari Semasinghe
<i>Olinda Play</i>
Oil on Canvas
17" x 20" | 63 | UNITED STATES
Robert Rauschenberg
<i>Pull Series: Hoarfrost Editions</i> , 1974
Transfer of offset lithographed and newspaper images, collage of paper bags and fabric (silk taffeta and cheesecloth)
85" x 48" | | |
| 5 | ARMENIA
Emma Grigorian
<i>Mother and Child</i> , 1996
Acrylic /tempera
31 x 26 1/4" | 11 | BRAZIL
Lara Oliveira
<i>Horizon II</i> , 2003
Oil on canvas
24" x 24" | 19 | CYPRUS
Maria Loizidou
<i>Lets Get Lost</i> , 2000
Mattress fabric, cotton filling, steel
48" x 16" | 24 | ESTONIA
Mark Kostabi
<i>The Calling</i> , 2004
Acrylic on Canvas
100 cm x 150 cm | 30 | ITALY
Giancarlo Impiglia
<i>Crowd</i> , 1987
Signed limited edition print
120 cm x 80 cm. | 37 | MONGOLIA
Dasher Chagnoat
<i>Inspiration</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
36" x 24" | 44 | PARAGUAY
Josefina Pla
<i>Grecia</i>
Etching
13 x 17 1/2" | 50 | ROMANIA
Alexandra Nechita
<i>Luceafarul - the Morning Star</i> , 2004
Lithograph
32 x 33" | 57 | SWEDEN
Mia Enell
<i>Over the Sea</i> , 2004
video still | 64 | URUGUAY
Daniel Castro
<i>Untitled</i> , 2004
Acrylic on Canvas
50 cm x 60 cm | | |
| 6 | AUSTRIA
Ilona Elisabeth Guenther-Primas
<i>The Peace Dancers</i> , 1991-1992
Tapestry
270 cm x 150 cm | 12 | BULGARIA
Stoimen Stoilov
<i>Antiquum Theatrum IX</i>
1 m x 80 cm | 18 | CUBA
Jacqueline Maggi
<i>2000 Hours of Patience</i> , 2004
Mixed media (silk, ebony, silver wire, etc)
4" x 6" | 25 | FRANCE
Fernand Leger
<i>Ciseaux dans les Fleurs</i>
Tapestry
250 cm x 210 cm | 31 | JORDAN
Jan Kassey
<i>Touch</i>
Photograph
20" x 20" | 38 | MOROCCO
Mohammed Melehi
<i>La Dausa Du Samurai</i> , 2004
Oil on Canvas
43" x 32" | 45 | PERU
Jorge Arrunategui
<i>Discovering Peace</i>
Acrylic, Pastel and pigment on canvas
4.3 h x 3.7 w | 51 | RUSSIA
Anastasia Simes, 2004
<i>Bones of Life</i>
Acrylic on Canvas | 58 | SYRIA
Saad Yagan
<i>Saadouri, The Wise and the Woman</i>
Oil on Wood
24 3/4" | 65 | VIETNAM
Thai Tham Poong Din
<i>Untitled</i> , 1998
Watercolor on paper (scroll)
57" x 39" | | |
| | | 13 | CANADA
Kathleen Knowling
<i>Greeting Gannets</i> , 1986
Oil Pastel on Paper
97 x 76 cm | | | 27 | HAITI
Mireille Délice
<i>Ogou Ferai</i> , 2004
Beads embroidered on satin
34" 1/2 x 30" | 32 | KOREA
B. G. Muhn
<i>Soonja</i> , 2004
Colored Pencil
16" x 12" | 39 | NEPAL
Aarya Rajbhandari
<i>Olympiad</i> , 2004
Acrylic on Canvas
18.5 x 24.5" | 52 | SAUDI ARABIA
Haya Al-Hossain
<i>New Beginning</i> , 2003
Acrylic on Wood
48 x 32" | 59 | TAJIKISTAN
Sukhrob Kurbanov
<i>Falsafai Khayami (Khayami Philosophy)</i> , 1996
Oil on Canvas
32 x 32" | | | | | | |