

Address of the Governor of the Bank of Greece

Mr. Nicholas C. Garganas

The Bank of Greece takes great pleasure in presenting this exhibition of a selected group of Greek paintings and prints from the Bank's collection and from a number of other Athenian collections. These works were previously displayed in the Atrium of the Eccles Building of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C. from September 30 to December 3, 2002, in an exhibition jointly organized by the Bank of Greece and the Federal Reserve Board's Fine Arts Program.

This exhibition here in Athens coincides with the 75th anniversary of the Bank of Greece and attests to the Bank's distinct and multi-faceted contribution to Greek cultural life. The thirty-nine works on display represent the spirit and evolution of Greek art during the one hundred years from 1830 to 1930 and depict the beauty of the Greek landscape and the Greek character. Indeed, the genuineness of Greek art has always laid in its profoundly humanistic and universal qualities.

This is a marvellous occasion for us all to appreciate the emergence of modern Greek painting in those formative years following Greece's independence. Art not only reproduces what we see; it helps us better understand what we see. I hope that this exhibition will help us better understand our past during the century after the establishment of the modern Greek state.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the former Governor of the Bank of Greece and now Vice-President of the European Central Bank Lucas Papademos and to his wife Shanna for fostering the idea of an exhibition in Washington D.C. and for their contribution to the successful organisation of the exhibition.

I am also grateful to the National Gallery-Alexandros Soutzos Museum, the Yannis Tsarouchis Foundation, and the individual collectors for readily agreeing to loan works from their collections.

Last but not least, I wish to thank all those who, in one way or another, have contributed to the successful organization of this event.

Nicholas C. Garganas
Governor of the Bank of Greece