

Vana Xenou

Vana Xenou was born in Athens in 1949, at a time when Greece was trying to emerge from a critical socio-political period of its history. Her memories of the family business, where salvaged pieces of 19th-century Athenian buildings in the process of being demolished were brought, became for her an irresistible impulse to delve into the past with the intention of establishing a dialogue with the present.

She studied painting and stage designing at the School of Fine Arts in Athens (1968-1973). In 1973, she entered the «École Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs» in Paris, which she attended for a year. She then pursued her studies in painting and mosaics at the «École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts», Paris (1974-1978), while simultaneously attending seminars on aesthetics and philosophy.

Vana Xenou is currently a full professor at the Department of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA).

She was the candidate for Greece in 2008 for the «Women of Europe» award, instituted by the International Association for the Promotion of Women of Europe.

She has held an important number of solo shows with a thematic approach (selection):

- D’après l’Odalisque de Paul Outerbridge (1978-1987).
- Artistic exploration in the world of Lewis Carroll (1980-1991).
- D’après Judith et Holopherne de Artémisia Gentileschi (1983).
- D’après Lucrece de Lucas Cranach (1984-1986).
- Angels, Earth and Heaven (1989).
- Eleusinian mysteries, 4 groups of works exhibited in as many locations (1990-2000).
- Hyperion or the Hermit in Greece (1989-1998).
- In 2000, following an invitation from the French Ministry of Culture and the Association Sculptures au Palais Royal, she held an exhibition on the Eleusinian mysteries in the museum premises of the Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière in Paris. The exhibition was organized under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sciences.
- In 2004, she held the exhibition «Eleusis-Perasma» (Arriving-Crossing) at the abandoned CRONOS factory in Elefsina, under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Elefsina.
- Psychagogia (2005)
- 2007-2008 «Arrivée-Passage», Jardins du Palais Royal, Paris. With the support of the French Ministry of Culture and Communications – Délégation aux Arts Plastiques and Direction de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine, and the Association «Sculptures au Palais Royal», under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of Greece in France.
- 2010 «The Soul of the Place», National Gardens, Athens. Organized by the Municipality of Athens, the City of Athens Cultural Organization and the Board of the National Gardens, with the support of the State Museum of Contemporary Art (Thessaloniki).
- 2012 «Passage», Installation, Spiromilios Arcade, Citylink, Athens.

Vana Xenou has also participated in numerous group exhibitions, in Greece and abroad, organized by the National Gallery, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and international agencies such as the European Foundation for Fine Arts and the European Parliament, as well as in art galleries. These exhibitions (selection) include the: I.C.C. (Antwerp/Brussels, Belgium); National Museum of Women in the Arts (Washington, USA); Mitchell Museum (Illinois, USA); Trammel Crow Center in Dallas (Texas, USA); Kunstverein (Berlin, Germany); Hjørring Museum (Denmark); Antikenmuseum (Basel, Switzerland); Macedonian Centre of Contemporary Art (Thessaloniki); Benaki Museum (Athens); Megaro V. Kouloura; Pierides Art Gallery (Athens); Municipal Gallery

of Athens; Fondation Européenne de la Science et de la Culture (Madrid/Bilbao/Barcelona, Spain); Musée d'Ephèbes (Cap d'Agde, France); E. Averof Gallery (Metsovo); Museum of Dalarna Falun (Sweden); Château de Vianden (Luxemburg); Centre of Contemporary Art (Larissa); Goulandris Museum (Andros); L'art contemporain dans les Universités (France); Espace Le Bellevue, Biarritz (France); Museo Valenciano de la Ilustración y de la Modernidad (Valencia, Spain); Byzantine and Christian Museum of Athens; National Museum of Contemporary Art (Athens); State Museum of Contemporary Art (Thessaloniki); Lazarist Monastery (Thessaloniki); Villa Kazoulis (Kifissia); Greek House in Beijing (China); Zappeion Megaron (Athens); Hellenic American Union (Athens); Gennadeios Library (Athens); European Cultural Centre at Delphi, Sismanoglio Megaro (Istanbul, Turkey).