



**SCAR ONE**, “master of the street style and an expert on sprays,” demonstrates his futuristic landscapes in unique ways, both on walls and on canvas.



**Dimitris Ntokos aka dmsntok** was born in 1984. His beetles are found all over Athens, combined with various patterns, geometrical forms, symbols and illusions, a perspective that flirts with a sharply imaginative and often surreal element.



**Yiakou** is a younger painter / street artist from Athens, whose work takes a more poetic approach to things, as usually he paints / draws beautiful women, gossamer and dreamlike, often accompanied by poems.

Curated by **Connie Mourtoupalas** • Exhibit Design by **Anthony P. Muñoz**

Special thanks to photographers: Julia Tulke, SpirosK, Aristotle Koskinas and Matt Barrett:

**Julia Tulke** is an anthropologist and European ethnologist based in Berlin, Germany. Her research is rooted in anthropology with a strong interest in urban studies and contemporary social movements.

**Spiros Kakouris** was born in Athens in 1981, and lives in the city’s downtown area. Photography is his lifelong passion, though he makes his living in computer programming. He has participated in many exhibitions, and his work has also featured in various magazines, book covers and websites around the world. His work can be seen at [flickr.com/photos/spirosk/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/spirosk/)

**Aristotle Koskinas** is an archaeologist and tourist guide, based in Athens, Greece. You can find him at [aristotleguide.wordpress.com](http://aristotleguide.wordpress.com)

**Matt Barrett** lives in Athens, and has been photographing and writing about Greece since 1995. He can be found at [greektravel.com](http://greektravel.com)

The “Street is my Gallery” includes works by street artists we have not been able to identify.



“ . . . a social diary in public display . . . .”

While on its way to recovery, Greece is still feeling the effects of a six-year economic crisis and its dramatic impact on the daily lives of its people. Their anger and disillusion, coupled with an almost innate resilience, sense of hope and humor, have found the most unlikely spokespeople: a thriving community of graffiti or street artists, who have transformed Greece into an “international cradle” of street art.

“The Street is my Gallery” highlights the work of more than ten such street artists, whose art brightens the frayed walls of abandoned buildings in many neglected neighborhoods, mostly in the capital city of Athens. In the process, their art navigates issues that range from economic hardship to racism, violence, immigration, social alienation, even environmental concerns.

Taking art into the streets, these artists have created a “social diary in public display”. Some have even come to consider the economic crisis as a source of inspiration, and an opportunity to reinvent their art and reassess their lives.

In doing so, they have also provided an outlet for the often raw emotions of the people, especially the young, helping them navigate their own reactions and views, and inspiring a flurry of creative activity and initiatives to improve their surroundings and lives.

*The views and opinions expressed in this exhibition are those of the artists and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Hellenic Museum.*



**Sonke** has been drawing on the streets of Athens since 1995, at the age of eleven. He attributes the melancholy in his work to the economic crisis, the sadness of his fellow Athenians, and the cityscape of Athens itself. He also admits to a more personal matter, a failed romance and separation, after which he began painting his sad princesses and teary-eyed girls.



**Bleeps.gr** has been doing street art since his time at the Bristol Art School, Bristol, UK, (2003-2005). In this show, his work mostly indicates the impact of the Greek economic crisis on the lower middle class. Bleeps.gr keeps a low profile, refusing to be photographed, give his real name, or even attend his own shows.



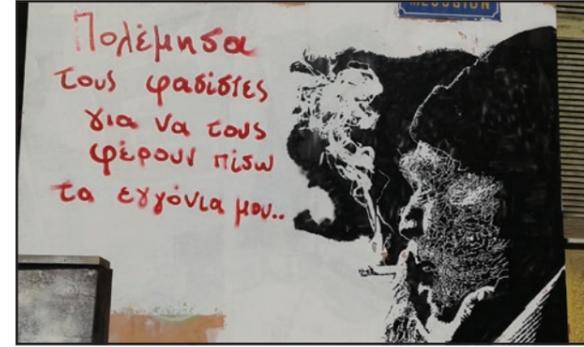
**Dimitris Taxis** is a diaspora Greek born in Szczecin, Poland, now living in Athens. He has been active in street art since 2006, when he ventured into the city for poster paste-ups with Dreyk the Pirate. In both the location and message of his work, Taxis seems to empathize with those living in areas worst hit by the crisis, attempting to 'dress' buildings with imagery of what the residents themselves must be feeling or experiencing.



**Dreyk the Pirate** was born in Athens, where he has been painting in the streets since his early teens. He chose his characteristic sea-themed style because of the deep love all Greeks have for the sea and for travel. People started calling him "pirate" years ago, after he painted his first pirate.



**artist b.** was born in Athens in 1982, and is also an architect with a degree from the University of Thessaly. His yellow and black mermaids, girls with anchor tattoos, humanlike octopuses and other odd creatures, incorporate the frayed walls and broken windows of abandoned houses; his "art brand virus" is taking over the urban landscape with colorful perseverance and cheerful mood.



**MaPet** is a dentist turned stencil street artist. His works are political and often anti-fascist, motivated to provide "information" to counter the enormous influence of "media in Greece". His first attempt at stenciling was in 2006 in Bristol, UK. He has since developed an easy but unique stenciling technique, using a dental drill.



**Cacao Rocks** is a Greek-French street artist born on the island of Corfu. Though started writing graffiti at the age of 12 "just for fun" with his friends, he now views street art as a means of communication, not vandalism. His minimalistic style and a kaleidoscopic sense of coloring and patterning is "the least he can do" to help bring change.



**STMTS**, a young wheatpaste artist born in Athens in 1993, is a student at the Athens School of Fine Arts. Best known for his politically and emotionally charged large-scale drawings of children, especially children of immigrants, he focuses on public art, painting, printmaking and graphic arts. Presented are four original works sent to the National Hellenic Museum by the artist upon hearing of the Museum's plans for this exhibition.



**Wild Drawing aka WD** was born in Bali, Indonesia, and lives in Athens. He studied Fine and Applied Arts, starting off as a street artist in 2000. His work spans the full range of street art, from paste-ups and stencils to installations and freehand murals, always interacting and creating harmony between the location and the work. He work has a highly detailed photo realistic technique, influenced by comics and graphic novels.



**iNO** was born in Athens and is a graduate of the Athens School of Fine Arts. While calling himself a graffiti artist, he is better known for his large murals, which most often remark on contemporary reality in Greece.