***Evangelos Averoff-Tossizza Foundation /  E. Averoff Μuseum of Modern Greek Art - Metsovo***

PRESS RELEASE

**RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION and CATALOGUE:**

**"Michalis Economou: The alchemy of painting"**

**I. THE EXHIBITION**

The retrospective exhibition ***"Michalis Economou (1884-1933): the alchemy of painting"***will open on Saturday, 30 September 2023, **at the E. Averoff Art Gallery in Metsovo.**The exhibition is dedicated to one of the most significant artists and reformers of Greek painting of the first half of the 20th century, yet one who remains among the least visible and familiar artists to the Greek public. This is the first major retrospective exhibition of Michalis Economou, held 90 years after his death. It is curated by art historian **Dr. Aphrodite Kouria.**

Both the exhibition and the accompanying catalogue are the products of the curator’s primary research and long years of study of the artist. 22 years after the publication of her first monograph, Dr. Kouria is revisiting Economou with a fresh look at this expectational painter, which penetrates into the secrets of his art and highlights the important place he holds in the vanguard of contemporary Greek art.

Michalis Economou developed a unique, personal artistic vernacular, and contributed substantially to the renewal of Greek landscape painting. Of particular importance are Economou’s technique, his experimentations with materials, his handling of colour and supports - all ground-breaking in the context of Greek painting at the time. As the exhibition’s curator, Dr. Aphrodite Kouria, points out: "*A close examination of the art produced by Michalis Economou in the short span of his career (and life) gives one the feeling that the simple, commonplace themes that consistently recur in the artist’s work serve in fact only as pretexts for conquering the 'subject' that preoccupies him, which is his own, inner-psychological 'landscape'. It is as if he is ‘chasing’, from one work to the next, after an ideal landscape that always eludes him (...) The dialectic between representation and abstraction, the material and immaterial, the visual and the tactile, the solid/static and the fluid/fleeting, as well as the illusory qualities of the painted image appear in very interesting variations in Economou's art”.*

CURATOR: Dr **Aphrodite Kouria**, art historian

EXHIBITION DURATION: 1 October 2023 - 15 January 2024

OPENING HOURS: daily (except Tuesdays) from 10 am until 4 pm

The exhibition is held with the financial support and under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and with funding from the Region of Epirus.

**EXHIBITION SPONSORS:** Baron Michael Tossizza Foundation • A.G. Leventis Foundation • Katogi Averoff SA • Electra Hotels & Resorts • Bank of Greece • Anthony E. Comninos Foundation – Karavias Art Insurance •EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES SPONSOR: Cooperative Bank of Epirus• **MEDIA SPONSOR:** ERT

The Gallery’s venues are fully accessible to people with mobility impairments thanks to a donation by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).

**II. CATALOGUE**

The exhibition will be accompanied by a bilingual (Greek/English) deluxe catalogue that will include colour reproductions of the artist's works, texts based on the primary research conducted by curator Dr **Aphrodite Kouria**, photographic documentation, as well as a complete biography of the artist. The catalogue will also feature an analysis by art conservator **Christina Karadima**, which highlights Economou’s complex technique based on a comparative study of 25 representative paintings created by the artist, which are part of museum and private collections or in the possession of the artist's immediate family. Finally, the catalogue will include an in-depth "conversation" between a modern Greek painter, **Giorgos Rorris**, with Michalis Economou’s oeuvre, shedding light on the latter’s timeless legacy.

CATALOGUE SPONSOR: J. F. COSTOPOULOS FOUNDATION

**III. PARALLEL EVENT**

On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition, the Averoff Art Gallery will present the first screening of the **documentary "*The Autobiography of a Portrait: Giorgos Rorris paints Evangelos Averoff*".**The 30-minute film follows the artist over a period of about two and a half months, documenting his creative process from the original commissioning of the work, through his preparatory work and research, his meeting and identification with his subject, the first brushstrokes and the agonizing process, up to the completion of the painting - which will now be exhibited at the Averoff Gallery.

FIRST SCREENING: Metsovo, 29-09-2023, 8.30 p.m.

STREAMING (from 3.10.2023): [Meet the artists | Averoff Museum](https://www.averoffmuseum.gr/en/meet-artists) or [(371) Πινακοθήκη Ε. Αβέρωφ - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCipQScMNaZbb7CJeXHE2F_w)

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SPONSOR: Katogi Averoff S.A.

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For further inquiries and photographic material related to the exhibition please contact:

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