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## The Greek Sale, 19 May 2015

# THE PRESS RELEASE

**VIEWINGS**

**HOTEL GRANDE BRETAGNE, Athens: 17th to 19th of April**
**CONINGSBY GALLERY, London: 24th of April to 2nd of May**
**CYPRIA, Nicosia: 13th to 19th of May**

Cypria's next Greek Sale will be held on the evening of the 19th of May 2015 at Cypria, Nicosia. The auction will feature works by Volanakis, Lytras, Gaitis, Spyropoulos, Moralis, Parthenis, Tsarouchis, Vasiliou, Akrithakis, Stamos, Kanthos, Kkashialos, Votsis and Stephanides.

The inaugural preview will be held at Athens' Grande Bretagne Hotel from the 17th to the 19th of April. A preview will follow at London's Coningsby Gallery from the 24th of April to the 1st of May. A final preview will then be held in Cyprus from 13th to 19th of May at Cypria, Nicosia. The viewings will include 90 works by Greek artists spanning, mainly, the mid-nineteenth and twentieth century.

Marinos Vrachimis, co-director of Cypria commented: 'We are privileged to present these works. They are strong and rare examples by these exceptional artists. They are entering the market after considerable time in private hands, at a time when new markets and younger generations rediscover Greek art.'

Highlights include the *Transport Individuel* by Yannis Gaitis, *The Greek brig Aris* by Konstantinos Volanakis, *Quince* by Nikiforos Lytras, *Image E P* by Yiannis Spyropoulos and a 1966 landscape by Cypriot painter Telemachos Kanthos.

Ritsa Kyriacou, managing director of Cypria, commented: 'The art market is still strong. We see this around the world. Even during times of economic austerity, art's investment value is seen to be gaining importance.'

'An increase in foreign bidders of Greek art has also been apparent, signifying that Greek art is gaining greater appreciation by international collectors both in its artistic and investment value. We believe this will trigger an increase in rare works entering the market from private collections,' said Kyriacou.

## AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

***Transport Individuel*** **(**185 x 60 x 48 cm) is a prime example from Gaitis' series of constructions of painted wood and metal called *Le Cyclistes*. In *Transport Individuel,* the painter's emblematic figurine little man escapes the crowd, finding his way alone in the world, more confident in his individuality. Yannis Gaitis (1923 - 1984) is caustic as well as humorous in his critique of society, manifesting it through the interactions of his figurine with its environment. At times the figure loses his identity as he is lost in a crowd of other identical figures, and at other times his identity is celebrated.

**Volanakis's *Greek brig Aris*** **(**100 x 80 cm, oil on canvas) depicts the Greek fire ship *Aris* known for its participation in naval clashes during Ottoman times. The vessel became famous after the action fought at Navarino on May the 8th, 1825. Constantinos Volanakis (1837- 1907), a great nineteenth century master of seascapes, is meticulous in his detailing and dramatic in atmosphere. On another level, *Greek brig Aris* alludes to the charged atmosphere of the era, capturing its mystique as *Aris* sails confidently on ruffling seas, under threatening skies.

**Yiannis Spyropoulos**' *Image EP* (80 x 65 cm, mixed media on canvas) enters the market after over five decades in private hands. One the most internationally acclaimed Greek artists, he has pioneered abstract art in Greece, basing his art on what is seen in modern art terms as the *essence*. A believer of abstract art, he challenges viewers to *see* and not to seek messages on the canvas. He is renowned for having often said: "I pant, I don't explain…"

***Quince*** (28 x 20 cm, oil on canvas) is a strong example of a Lytras still life. Nikiforos Lytras (1832-1904) is the emblematic painter of Greek painting. Representative of the Munich School, Lytras transformed Greek painting, ridding it of its provincial elements. Steering away from romantic influences, Lytras approached art through the rigidity and discipline of academic realism.

**Kanthos**'s landscape (50 x 71 cm, oil on canvas) captures the euphoria that permeated Cyprus during the years that followed the island's independence. It is a time of idyllic calmness and optimism which the painter shows rejoice in. His tangible, bold greens and clear-cut lines exude confidence whilst also soothing us.

## NOTE FOR EDITORS

Cypria is a private auction house, founded in 2006. In the year of its launch, Cypria successfully held the island's first major sale of 19th and 20th century Greek and Cypriot art. It achieved great success and started a wave of Greek sale auctions in Cyprus which continue to date, changing the landscape of the art market in Cyprus.

Cypria is a pioneer in showcasing significant Greek art and is also committed to including the finest Cypriot art. Our success to date includes the attainment of record prices.
With art now being increasingly considered an advisable and profitable investment, Cypria remains devoted to upholding its level of success by dealing with selected works of high artistic value, as well as offering unparalleled service and expertise.

**for more information**

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