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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ  
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS



## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

**In our newsletter you can read about current and upcoming events at the Institute, and other useful information and news**

### The Athens Dialogues Conference

The international conference on Greek culture and its role in modern society, the *Athens Dialogues*, took place at the new Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens on 24-27 November, 2010.

The conference was attended by over 1,700 people, while another 11,000 watched the proceedings online. The conference's live web-link was visited 55,000 times over the four days, while the event was also relayed over the Internet in real time to 50 universities, museums and other institutions around the world.

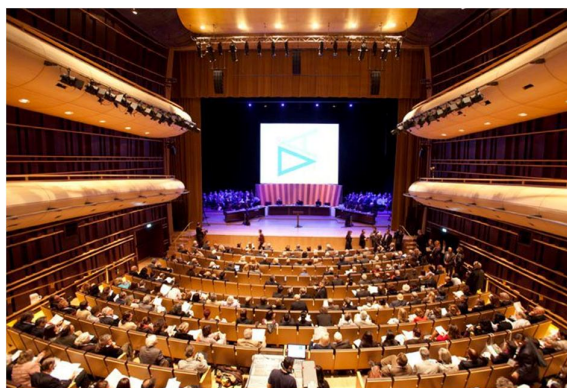


Photo: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/athensdialogues>

Two of the Danish participants, invited by the organisers of the conference, were *Mogens Pelt*, Associate Professor in International History at the Saxo Institute, History Section, University of Copenhagen, and *Poul Pedersen*, Associate Professor, Institute of History and Civilization, University of Southern Denmark. When asked to evaluate the conference, they reported:

#### **Mogens Pelt:**

*I took pleasure in the conference on several levels: first, there was a series of presentations (e.g. Beaton) which were very closely related to my own work, and the quality of the presentations was of a level that provided something new to learn.*

*Furthermore, the design of the conference, including the continuity model and the fact that it brought together e.g. humanists and natural scientists, contributed effectively to a genuine dialogue during discussions, but also in my own thought processes.*

*In addition, the conference created a good framework for meeting colleagues – people, I know but do not see very often - and talking to new people.*

*Generally, it was a successful and skillfully arranged conference, both in terms of content and logistics.*

#### **Poul Pedersen:**

*Several things were interesting - above all, the question whether it is at all possible to discuss the major human issues globally on the basis of Ancient Greece - without the restrictions and dogma that people over the last 1500-2000 years have created e.g. through the great religions and national cultures. That was what man attempted in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, and could the Greeks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century lay the grounds for a new, much needed Enlightenment, it would be a phenomenal achievement - but that might also be naïve to believe. As far as I understood, some speakers felt that it is because of the common human, independent grounds that the Greek tragedies are now performed all over the world - in Africa, Japan and Russia among others, (besides, of course, in the West) - and to a greater extent than ever before in history. Can the ancient Greek philosophy of man, humanism and enlightenment, which was developed by artists and philosophers throughout the last millennium BC, once again become an ideal for a better society and a sustainable development - and this*

time in a global perspective? - Naive? - Maybe, but very brave and very interesting! An emotional highlight for me was when a Chinese participant was given the microphone and powerfully stated to the audience: "We are with you! - We share the same values!"

The Greek organisers and the participating universities and institutions deserve much praise for the "Athens Dialogues" conference.

- See the on-going Athens Dialogues debate and videos at: <http://www.athensdialogues.org/>
- The Onassis Cultural Centre hosts a variety of cultural events, including concerts, dance performances, and art exhibits: [www.sgt.gr](http://www.sgt.gr)

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## Literary Evenings at DIA

Two literary evenings were held at the Danish Institute in the past months. The events were organised by the Danish Embassy in collaboration with the Danish Institute.



Stelios Psaroudakis, Giorgos Georgiadis and Henrik Nordbrandt



Jens Christian Grøndahl, Amb. Tom Nørring, Dir. Rune Frederiksen

On 26 November, the Danish poet Henrik Nordbrandt was invited for the third time for a literary evening in Athens. The evening contained reading in Danish by Henrik Nordbrandt, in Greek by actor Stelios Psaroudakis, and accompanying music (piano: Dimitris Theocharis and double bass: Giorgis Georgiadis). The Greek author Chrysa Spyropoulou made an introduction to modern Danish literature, and the evening was attended by an internationally mixed and interested audience. Several of Henrik Nordbrandt's poems have been translated into Greek by cultural attaché Panagiota Goula and published in Greek literary magazines. These translations have been popular and call for more of Henrik Nordbrandt's work to be published in Greek.

On 27 January, the Danish author Jens Christian Grøndahl visited the Danish Institute. It was his first meeting with his Greek audience, and he took both the audience and the press by storm. The author was an excellent communicator, and the event turned out to be an exciting presentation of his most central themes: between freedom and responsibility and the destiny of modern man. The evening, which was very well attended, started with an introduction to the author and his work by cultural attaché Panagiota Goula, followed by an interview /discussion session between the author and Panagiota Goula, and Greek author Amanda Michalopoulou. The Greek publisher POLIS has already released two of his novels, "Heartbeat" and "Virginia".

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## DIA's upcoming events

Our Spring programme has been announced! Check our website [www.diathens.com](http://www.diathens.com) for updates.

**\*Wednesday 9 March at 7 p.m.:** *Between Polis and Chora: Danish Investigations in Olbia and the Chersonesean Chora.* Lecture in English by *Pia Guldager Bilde*, MA, Associate Professor at the University of Aarhus, former director of the Danish National Research Centre for Black Sea Studies.



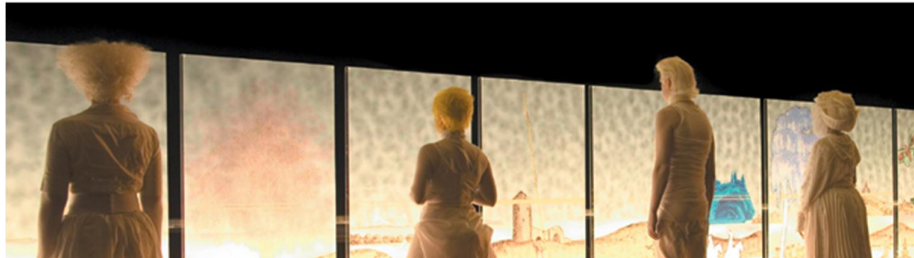
**\*Tuesday 15 March after 7 p.m.:** Opening of the art exhibition *'Greener on the other side'* – a cross genre project at *Gallery Kaplanon 5* in Athens. Oil paintings exhibited with music and sound-art compositions, by the artist *Canuto Kallan* and the musician and composer *Morten Carlsen*.  
*Venue:* Kaplanon 5, Kolonaki, Athens. Tel.: 210 3390946.  
Entrance is free.  
*Opening hours:* Wednesday/Saturday: 12-3 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 6-9 p.m. Sunday/Monday closed.  
Until 2 April.

**\*Wednesday 16 March at 7 p.m.:** *Steen Steensen Blicher and the Greek Tragedy*. Lecture in Danish by *Helle Bie Frisman*, MA, followed by screening of the silent movie *øThe Hand of Fateö* (org. title *øPræsten i Vejlbjø, August Blom 1922*), based on the crime novel of the same name from 1829 by the Danish author Steen Steensen Blicher. Organised in collaboration with the Scandinavian Church in Athens.

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Danisharts.dk

**DanishArts.dk** - a guide for international partners looking for funding



A central internet portal for all foreign artists, art organisations and arts bodies wishing to apply for funding or looking for partners in Denmark with whom to collaborate on international cultural exchange projects have been created.

[www.danisharts.dk](http://www.danisharts.dk) is the Danish Arts Agency's new English website. The site offers information on arts funding schemes administered by the Danish Arts Agency within the areas of the visual arts, music, literature and the performing arts, and it provides details of grants for cross-sectoral arts projects. In addition, you can find information regarding grants within the fields of film, design, crafts and architecture, administered by other organisations responsible for international cultural exchange. The new website comes as an extension of an initiative under the Danish government's internationalisation strategy, the aim of which is to make net-based information on Danish arts funding more comprehensible and accessible to users outside of Denmark.

Visit the website: [www.danisharts.dk](http://www.danisharts.dk)

Read more: <http://www.kunst.dk/english/aboutthissite/>

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### Cultural calendar and announcements



\*The Danish/Greek jazz singer and composer, *Veronica Mortensen*, gives a concert in Athens with the Greek *Yiotis Samaras Quartet* on Tuesday 22 February at 10.30 p.m. at *GASOLINE, Gargittion 23 A, Gkazi (metro Keramikos)* tel: 210 3469396. Entrance free.

\*The Museum of Islamic Art shows the exhibition *øTwenty-two poems by C.P.Cavafy. Twelve pictures by H. Ksenosö*. *Asomaton 22 & Dipyrou, Kerameikos*. Tel: 210 3251311. Until 20 March.

\*Photos from the life and works of Nikos Kazantzakis, his books and scripts are on display at an exhibition at *Stoa tou Vivliou, Pezmazoglou 5, Athens*.

Tel: 210 3253989. Entrance free. Until 30 March.

\*The exhibition *øPARIS 1900, Art Nouveau and Modernism - Treasures from the Petit Palais, City of Paris Fine Art Museumö* is currently shown at the National Gallery. The exhibition features around 200 exhibits, both paintings and jewellery.

See more at: <http://www.nationalgallery.gr/site/content.php> and visit the exhibition at *the National Gallery, Vas. Konstantinou 50*. Tel: 210 7235937-8. Until 28 February.







\*There is still time to visit the exhibition with works by the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. The exhibition *Edvard Munch, beyond the scream* includes 80 of his graphic works from the Collection of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. *The Museum Herakleidon – experience in visual art. Herakleidon 16, Thissio.* Tel: 210 3461981. <http://www.herakleidon-art.gr/index.cfm>. Until 27 February.

\*For those interested in attending an ancient Greek tragedy, the theatre *Ideotheatron* shows the tragedy *Prometheus Unbound* by Aeschylus every Saturday at 9.15 p.m. until 16 April. *Stournari 57 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Septemvriou, Exarchia.* Book tickets at: Tel: 210 5237543 / 6937392566.

\* The Greek *Orchestra of Colours* performs the concert *Aristophanes x 3* at the Onassis Cultural Centre. The programme features music written by three renowned contemporary Greek composers for stage productions of Aristophanes' comedies. Conductor: Miltos Logiadis. Composers: Dimitris Papadimitriou: Score for *The Birds*, Yiorgos Kouroupos: Score for *Lysistrata*, and Thodoros Antoniou: Score for *The Frogs*. Read more about the event: <http://www.sgt.gr/en/programme/event/97>. Venue: *The Onassis Cultural Centre, 107-109 Syngrou Avenue, Athens. Information/Tickets: 210 9005800. Concert on 27 February at 8.30 p.m., Main stage.*



Photo: *The Benaki Museum*

\* An exhibition on the life and work of the Greek painter *Ioannis Altamouras* opens at the Pireos Annex of the Benaki Museum on 30 March.

Ioannis Altamouras (1852-1878) was the son of Saverio Altamouras, an Italian painter, and Eleni Boukouri-Altamoura, the first Greek female painter, and daughter of an aristocratic family from the island of Spetses. Altamouras' precocious artistic talent and inclination were encouraged from a young age, culminating in his studies at the School of Fine Arts in Athens under Nikiforos Lytras after which he was sent by King George I to Copenhagen on a painting scholarship. Ironically, Altamouras' passion for

seascapes brought his life to a premature end, when a long-term chest ailment was aggravated by his studies in Denmark and his time exposed to the pernicious seaside climate in Greece.

A total of 250 works by Altamouras will be shown, most of which will be publicly exhibited for the first time. The exhibition will include some of his mother's work. In addition, family- and historical documents and objects will also be exhibited. The family played an important role in the Greek War of Independence. During the exhibition, a documentary on Eleni and Ioannis Altamouras will be screened for the first time.

The exhibition, curated by Eleni Kypraiou, has been facilitated by the Danish Embassy in collaboration with the Danish Arts Council. Parts of the exhibition will continue to Skagen Museum in Denmark, in cooperation with the Danish Embassy.

Venue: *The Benaki Museum, Piraeos 138, Athens, tel: 210 3453111. Opening hours: Tues.-Thurs.-Sun.: 10 a.m. -6 p.m., Fri.-Sat.: 10 a.m. -8 p.m. Until 30 May.*