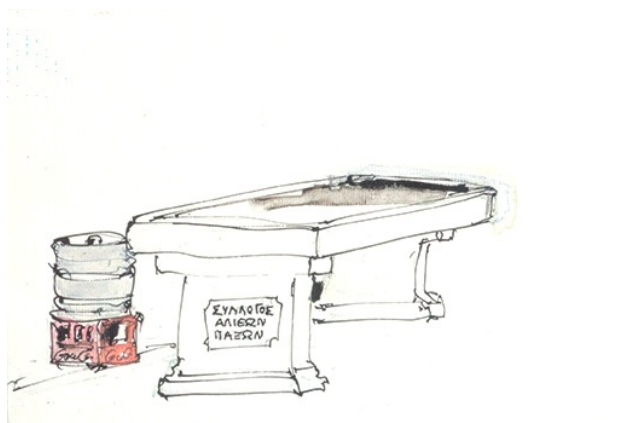


Ένα ταξίδι στους Παξούς A Journey to Paxos



Ακουαρέλες του Πάβλου Χαμπίδη
Watercolours by Pavlos Habidis

CHRIS BOÏCOS
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Paxos

Παξοί

***A Journey to Paxos* by Pavlos Habidis**

“A Journey to Paxos” is a book of **83 watercolors** of the **island of Paxos** in the Ionian sea by the Athenian artist Pavlos Habidis. The book was published by **Chris Boïcos Fine Arts** in July 2014.

“A Journey to Paxos” is accompanied by an introduction by the mayor of Paxos (2002-2014) Mr. Spyros Bogdanos and a text on the artist by Mrs **Katerina Koskina**, **president of the State Museum of Contemporary Art**. The book was designed by Jean Le Moal in Paris and LTH Advertising in Athens.

Paxos is one of the most beautiful islands of Greece and this is the **first time** a book of images of Paxos has been published since 1887 (!), when the Austrian Archduke Ludwig Salvator illustrated the first book on Paxos and Antipaxos with his own sketches.

The book will be presented for the first time in a **book signing by Pavlos Habidis** at the Paxos municipal art gallery in the old customhouse of the port of Loggos on **Sunday 3 August** from 8 to 10:30 pm. The original watercolors from the book will be on **exhibition** at the Loggos municipal art gallery from 3 August to 7 September 2014.

Chris Boïcos Fine Arts is an art gallery based in both **Paxos and Paris**, France. Chris Boïcos, the founder and director of Chris Boïcos Fine Arts, is the former director of the Paris art gallery, Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos (1999-2013). He is of French and Greek origin. He has curated numerous contemporary art exhibitions since 1994 in art galleries, art fairs and also public venues in France, Great Britain, Greece and the USA. He is also a professor of the History of Art in the Paris departments of the universities of California, the University of Southern California, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Delaware.



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Pavlos Habidis

In 2004 Pavlos Habidis completed the "**Carnet d'Athènes**" for **Louis Vuitton**, an album of watercolors of the Greek capital destined for the clients of the Paris luggage designer in his 300 boutiques across the world. The global success of this album encouraged Habidis in his new vocation of watercolorist of world cities.

The "Carnet d'Athènes" was followed by another watercolor book on the Greek port city next to Actium, Preveza, and more watercolor sketches of the island of Aegina, the old Athens suburb, Kifissia, the current book on Paxos and also great European cities from Paris, to Brussels to Istanbul.

Pavlos Habidis captures scenes from the daily life of small towns as well as views of the famous sites of great cities. Like a slightly distracted passerby in a hurry, he occasionally stops, looks and notes a picturesque corner, a cornice, a street lamp, a metro entrance, a bather reading by the seaside, before continuing on his way.

The artist draws from life in ink and colors his drawings later, quietly in the studio. The finished watercolors preserve his first furtively captured impressions and have a tone of seductive lightness. They are imbued with humor and the evident sympathy the artist feels for the architectural details and urban types he comes across in his peregrinations. The lightness of the drawings, which is accentuated by the nervous line and the transparent effects of watercolor, is a rare feature in the rather ponderous world of contemporary art. It recalls the city sketches of 19th century watercolorists like Constantin Guys and also the famous covers of the *New Yorker* magazine, notably those by Saul Steinberg. The humorous treatment of the figures in their urban or island environments also reminds one of the classic drawings of the French illustrator Sempé.



Pavlos Habidis - A Travelling Artist of the 21st Century

(Text by **Katerina Koskina**, President of the board of SMCA - June 2014)

"I first met Pavlos Habidis in Paris in the 1980s, when we were introduced by Alecos Fassianos. I was impressed by this openhearted Greek artist who, despite his resemblance to a Latin American, we all called the "Swede" because of his dual nationality. We saw each other frequently, and I, in turn, introduced him to friends, including my old childhood friend from our summer holidays in Paxos and current colleague, Chris Boïcos. I still have some sketches by Pavlos from those years.

Years passed, our paths diverged and after a long time, thanks to Chris, whose acquaintance with Pavlos had in the meanwhile developed into a friendship and a professional relationship, I rediscovered Pavlos's work. Inspired by the Neo-Expressionist art movements of the 1980s and the "wild" painting of that era, his old works have little to do with the delicacy of his current sketches and watercolours. Other than the speed and mastery of the sketching, there is little to indicate that these are the creations of the same artist. The thick, resonant silhouettes of the early drawings have been replaced by fine, incisive lines that compose allusively complete images – frozen snapshots – of urban and rural landscapes. The earthy colours of the early work have given way to delicate, tinted washes beautifully set against the untouched, off-white ground of the watercolour paper.

Pavlos Habidis has developed into a modern travelling artist who records with thoroughness, consistency and skill not only the attractive architectural details and anecdotal scenes of the cities or islands he visits, but also their unique atmosphere and specific social and geographic characteristics. This requires not only a talent for the artistic rendition of light, colour and detail but also a strong emotional investment in the place depicted, a sympathy for the subject that is a reflection of the artist's own vision.

The immortalization of Greek landscapes by a travelling artist today has nothing in common with the 19th-century tradition, when topographical painting in Greece served the purpose of recording the character of a newly founded state with a glorious past: the new nation's archaeological sites and natural beauties and its classical origins and values. Topographical art in the 21st century, especially when executed in watercolour or drawing, is a self-consciously anachronistic undertaking, a classic travel diary put together based on the artist's own personal choices and for his pleasure. Its aesthetic and artistic value lies in its tracking of the present character of the Greek hinterland – the impressive variety of its landscapes, society and architecture – rendered in a tangible gestural manner, avoiding the banal photographic techniques of the digital era.

Under no circumstances must such a travel diary be seen merely as a stylish tourist guide. It is rather an anthology of genuine local cultural data as yet untouched by the overwhelming onslaught of mass tourism.

Pavlos, we welcome you and thank you for having approached our island in this way."



In his paintings on canvas Habidis often depicts the figure of a symbolic young man, nude or sometimes dressed, always in a frontal pose, looking like a modern *Kouros* and accompanied by the animals or fruits of an ancient Greek farm. These slightly primitive characters painted in Mediterranean colors - ochres, blacks, earth reds – seem the young descendants of Byzantine figures, Picasso's models or those of modern Greek painters like Yannis Tsarouhis. Sometimes dreamy, sometimes in pain, always tender and melancholy they have followed the artist since the beginning of his career marking the stages, moods, evolution and continuity in his artistic path.



The book *A Journey to Paxos* by Pavlos Habidis is visible on:
www.boicosfinearts.com

**For a selection of watercolors from the book please contact Chris Boïcos
or Sofia Kouva at:**

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Pavlos Habidis



Pavlos Habidis was born in 1957 in Thessaloniki in Greece.

In 1976 he moved to Sweden where he received his BA in the History of Art and Philosophy at the University of Lund.

In 1987-88 he studied printmaking under William Hayter at the Atelier 17 in Paris, France.

He has lived since 1980 in Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Brussels and in Sweden.

He divides his time between Greece and France since 2010.

Personal Exhibitions:

- 2014 *A Journey to Paxos* Municipal Art Gallery, Loggos, Paxos, Greece.
- 2012 *Kifisia – The Drawings*, Tsihritzi Foundation for the Visual Arts, Kifisia, Greece.
- 2011 *Sketches of Aegina*, Museum of the History of Folk Art, Aegina, Greece.
- 2011 *Athens, the Small Drawings*, Genesis gallery, Athens, Greece.
- 2011 *The Preveza Scrapbook*, Spartioti Art Gallery, Preveza, Greece.
- 2010 Espace Periple, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2010 *Athens-Brussels-Paris* Ianos Art Space , Athens, Greece.
- 2009 T. Kambani Gallery, Voula, Greece.
- 2008 *Bastille-Kerameikos* - Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.
Espace Périple, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2007 TAGG, Athens, Greece.
- 2006 Leon Keuninckx, Grand Rechain, Belgium.
Castello Galeazza, Bologna, Italy.
- 2005 *Aquarelles du Carnet d'Athènes de Louis Vuitton*, Arphil and Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.
ZM Gallery, Thessaloniki, Greece.
To Milo art gallery, Athens, Greece.
- 2004 Presentation of the “Carnet de voyage: Athènes” with 117 watercolor drawings by Pavlos Habidis.
Published by Louis Vuitton (Paris). Foundation of the Hellenic World, Athens:
Espace Périple, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2002 Palazzo Montefano, Bologna, Italy.
Art Center X, Larissa, Greece.
- 2000 Gallery Z.M., Thessaloniki, Greece.
Pavlos Habidis-Emmanuelle Mellot Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.
- 1999 Titanium Gallery, Athens, Greece.
- 1998 Palazzo Montefano, Bologna, Italy.
Galerie Pascal Odille, Paris, France.
- 1995 Paratiritis Gallery, Thessaloniki, Greece.

1994 Stalke Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.

1993 Nishiazabu Asacloth Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

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SEIBU Ikebukuro Gallery, Tokyo, Japan.

1989 Bistborno Gallery, Malmö, Sweden.

1987 Hydrochoos Gallery, Athens, Greece.

1979 Clemens Lund Gallery, Lund, Sweden

Group Exhibitions:

2014 *Paxos - Landscapes and Myths II*, Chris Boïcos Fine Arts, Paxos, Greece.

Pausanias, Ianos Art Space, Athens, Greece.

Riders on the Storm, Genesis Gallery, Athens, Greece.

2013 *Paxos - Landscapes and Myths*, Chris Boïcos Fine Arts, Paxos, Greece.

Kavafeia, Gezira Art Center, Cairo, Egypt

Thesmophoria, Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece.

Black and White Dreams, Hania Art, Hania, Crete, Greece.

The Gaze of Narcissus, Hania Art, Hania, Crete, Greece.

I Never Promised you a Rose Garden, Genesis Gallery, Athens, Greece.

Kavafis, Ianos Art Space, Athens, Greece.

Passages, Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

The Clark Lawrence collection, Casa del Mantegna, Mantua, Italy.

2012 *Passages*, Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

Smyrna: 90 post cards, Ianos Art Space, Athens, Greece.

Saturday in Athens, Greece., Genesis gallery, Athens, Greece.

Human Resources, Genesis gallery, Athens, Greece.

To be... Homage to William Shakespeare, Ianos Art Space, Athens, Greece.

Kaplanon Art Space, Athens, Greece.

Oinopoieion, Lemos Center, Athens, Greece.

2011 *Homage to Papadiamantis*, Melina Merkouri Cultural Center, Athens, Greece.

2010 *Anthropina Metra*, Melina Merkouri Cultural Center, Athens, Greece.

Museum of the History of Folk Art, Athens, Greece.

Tracing Istanbul, Tehnopolis, Athens, Greece.

Tracing Istanbul, Greek Consulate, Istanbul and Orthodox church of Chalke, Chalke, Turkey.

Brinies 2010, Kranidi, Porto Heli, Greece.

Ersi's Gallery, Athens, Greece.

2009 Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

Eros et Thanatos Galerie Chantal Bamberger, Strasbourg, France.

Ersi's Gallery, Athens, Greece.

Ianos Art Space, Athens, Greece.

2008 Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

2007 *Beyond Art* TAGG, Athens, Greece.

P 37 Gallery, Athens, Greece.

2006 *Sacre du Printemps* Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

2005 Leon Keuninckx, Grand Rechain, Belgium.

Art Center X, Larissa, Greece.

2004 *Natures Mortes* Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

2003 Yayannos Gallery, Mykonos, Greece.

Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

Infopunt Europa Van de Provinti, Antwerp, Belgium

2002 Spring Exhibition Art Center X, Larissa, Greece.

Nus Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.

- Bell Studio, Chicago IL USA.
 Yayannos Gallery, Athens, Greece.
 Art Center X, Larissa, Greece.
- 2001 Galerie Léon Keuninckx, Grand-Rechain, Belgium.
Works on Paper, Jennifer Norback Fine Art, Chicago IL, USA.
- 1999 European Parliament, Strasbourg, France.
 Galerie Léon Keuninckx, Grand-Rechain, Belgium.
 Galerie Stalke, Copenhagen, Denmark.
Works on Paper, Galerie Beckel Odille Boïcos, Paris, France.
 Galerie du Pont-Neuf, Brussels, Belgium.
- 1998 Galerie Léon Keuninckx, Grand-Rechain, Belgium.
- 1997 *Le corps et l'âme – Le Nu*, Galerie Cornette-Pajarin, Paris, France.
 Parateritis Art Center, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 1996 Stalke Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.
 Galerie Toft, Paris, France.
- 1994 *Artistes grecques à Paris* Maison de l'Europe, Paris, France.
 Swedish Art Association, Paris, France.
- 1992 Swedish Art Association, Paris, France.
- 1991 SAGA, Gallery Zaar-Johanson, Paris, France.
 Tornvall Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden.
 Nalepa Gallery, Berlin, Germany.
- 1990 Stalke Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 1989 Galerie Est, Paris, France.
 Galerie Trosa Kvarn, Trosa, Sweden.
- 1978 Clemens Gallery, Lund, Sweden.
 Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden

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