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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ  
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS



## NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

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

### Athens Dialogues conference and European Youth Competition



The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, in collaboration with EUNIC Greece, of which the Danish Institute is a member, is organizing the “Athens Dialogues” – an international conference on Greek culture and its role in modern society.

Leading thinkers, academics, scientists and intellectuals from all over the world will gather in Athens on 24-27 November 2010 to discuss, debate and open new routes of thought on issues of universal and diachronic interest, such as Identity and Difference, Stories and Histories, Word and Art, Democracy and Governance, Science and Ethics, and Quality of Life.

Within the framework of the Athens Dialogues Conference, a competition will also take place: **the "Culture Past, Culture Future: Youth Competition"**.

The competition, aiming to involve in the Conference the younger generation of Europe, invites students, scientists, researchers, journalists, writers, artists, theorists and aspirant academics, between 21-30 years old, to contribute to the dialogue about the legacy of Greek culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century from an interdisciplinary and diachronic approach.

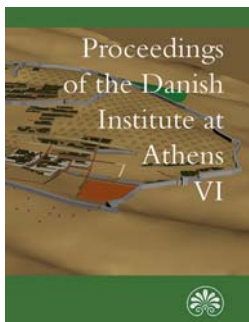
Candidates are invited to submit a paper or essay of up to 3000 words addressing one of the six themes of the conference. Winners will have their projects published on the Athens Dialogue web portal and will be invited to attend the Conference free of charge.

The projects (paper/essay) must be submitted via e-mail by the end of 30 May 2010 (see details on the website below).



For more details, information on the Athens Dialogues conference, terms and conditions of the competition, and entry form can be found at: <http://athensdialogues.org/build2/index.php>

### New publication from The Danish Institute at Athens



The Institute's periodical *Proceedings of the Danish Institute at Athens (PoDIA)* no. VI has been published. It contains preliminary reports on our archaeological activities in Piraeus, Kalydon and Pilion as well as articles on different aspects of Greek archaeology, history and philology from the Classical to the Byzantine period presented by Danish and other international scholars. (See table of contents on our website). The publication can be obtained through Aarhus University Press ([www.unipress.dk](http://www.unipress.dk)).

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## Veronica Mortensen guests European Jazz festival

For this year's jazzfestival, the Danish Institute has invited singer and composer Veronica Mortensen. She has often been referred to as one of the most interesting vocalist within the genre of jazz. Born in Aarhus (Denmark), Veronica Mortensen lived 8 years with her Greek mother in Athens and moved back to Denmark at the age of 20 to pursue a singing career. She studied music at the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus and took her Diploma exam from Rhythmic Conservatory of Copenhagen. She has performed on several CDs and TV-shows, both as a lead singer and as a background vocalist.

She has released 3 albums: "Pieces In A Puzzle" (2003) and "Happiness... is not included" (2007) and "I'm the Girl" (2010), and has performed in concerts in Denmark and abroad, among them at the "Bangkok Heineken Jazz festival" (Thailand), Beijing Jazz festival (China) and at "Ladies' Jazz festival" in Gdynia (Poland). In 2007 Veronica Mortensen received a prize from a Danish Songwriters' Association (DPA), acknowledging her work as a songwriter.



Photo: Stephen Freiheit

Veronica Mortensen has performed in Athens 3 times earlier, as a guest with a local group, as well as with Athens Big Band. This time, she will be performing with her own band from Denmark (Mads Baerentzen: piano, Kristor Broedsgaard: double bass and Anton Eger: drums), playing music from her 3 albums.

More information on Veronica Mortensen at [www.veronica.dk](http://www.veronica.dk)

Concert with Veronica Mortensen on Thursday 27 May at 10-11 p.m. at 'European Jazz-festival' (Tuesday 25 May – Sunday 31 May). Venue: Technopolis, 100 Pireos Str., Gazi. For a preliminary festival program please call +30 210 34 60 981

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## Presidential mansion garden open to public



Photo: [www.greece-athens.com](http://www.greece-athens.com)

The Greek President Karolos Papoulias has opened the presidential mansion garden to the public for the first time in its 113-year history.

The mansion was built in 1897 as the palace for Crown Prince Constantine, and was used as royal residence in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century after a fire destroyed the Royal Palace, which today houses the Greek Parliament. The mansion began being used as the official residence of the Greek president in the 1970s. The area surrounding the mansion was made into a large ornamental garden. The planning of this appears to have been assigned to Ziller's technical office (see below on the exhibition on Ziller). The garden occupies an area of about 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>, and its design in front of the building was similar to that of other neo-classical structures of the period (the Academy, the University, and the National Library). The garden follows a relatively rigid geometric plan of the French type, with symmetrical beds of grass and seasonal flowering plants. The formalism of the composition approaching Herod Atticus Road is alleviated by the perennial plane trees, lindens, palms and cypress trees.

The garden is open Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Entrance from Vas. Georghiou B', 2. Entrance free.

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## Upcoming events at the Danish Institute

\* **Friday 23 April at 8 p.m.** The Danish Institute, in collaboration with The Danish Embassy and Plant a Tree Greece, continues the focus on the environment at the event "Personal Green Responsibility". Speakers are *Søren Hermansen*, environmental leader of the Samsø project, and *Panos Valambous-Koundouras*, founder of Plant a Tree Greece. The island of Samsø in Denmark went from being totally dependent on oil in 1997, to being a net exporter of electricity to the mainland in less than 6 years. Plant a Tree Greece takes small but concrete steps to make Greece



greener and calls for the need for education and replication of best practices from Scandinavian countries, while trying to involve more individuals who can take matters into their own hands using experiences gained in other countries.



\* **Monday 26 April at 8 p.m.** "Renaissance Tragedy - a Greek or Roman Revival?". Lecture in English by dr.phil. *Patrick Kragelund*, Director at The Danish National Art Library.

\* **Monday 10 May 7-9 p.m.** The work of the Hellenic Institute of Marine Archaeology, 2009. Presentations on underwater surveys and excavations. The work of H.I.M.A.: A synopsis by Yannis G. Lolos, in English. Pagasetikos Gulf by Elias Spondylis, in Greek, Argosaronikos Gulf by Christos S. Agouridis, in English.

\* **Wednesday 19 May at 8 p.m.** Concert with saxophonist Giorgos Daravelis. Works by mainly Danish, Jewish and German composers.

\* **Thursday 27 May at 10-11 p.m.** Concert with Veronica Mortensen at European Jazzfestival, Technopolis, Piraeos 100, Gazi (see above).

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### Cultural calendar and announcements

- At the **Byzantine and Christian Museum**, the exhibition "Byzantium & modern art. The reception of Byzantine art in Greek painting in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century" is on display until 15 June. Vas. Sofias 22, tel: 2107211027.
- For those interested in ancient Greek tragedies, the play "ΤΡΩΑΔΕΣ" (The Women of Troy) can be seen at the **Theatre of Neos Kosmos**, Antisthenous 7 & Tharypou, Neos Kosmos, tel: 2019212900. Until 2 may.
- **The National Gallery** shows the exhibition "Ernst Ziller-Architect, 1837-1923". Ziller was a Saxon architect, who later became a Greek national. A student of the Danish architect Theofilus Hansen, he designed, among others, buildings in central Athens, such as the Megaro Stathatou which is part of the Museum of Cycladic Art (and which, in 2009, housed the Danish Institute's exhibition with works by Palle Nielsen), and the National Theatre.
- The annual **Athens Video Art Festival** takes place on 7-9 May in Technopolis, Piraeos 100, Gazi. The main theme this year is "Feel Free to Feel Green". [www.athensvideoartfestival.gr](http://www.athensvideoartfestival.gr)
- At **The House of Cyprus**, 3 parallel exhibitions by the Photograph Company of Cyprus take place: "Poetry meets Photography", "Cyprus", and "International internet exhibition of digital photography", as part of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. 12-24 April. The house of Cyprus, Herakleitou 10, Kolonaki, tel: 2103641217.
- **The New Digital Planetarium** is supposedly one of Europe's finest, and worth a visit. Among others, they show the films "The 7 Wonders of the World", and "Death of the Stars". Syngrou Avenue 387, Paleo Faliro, tel: 2109469600.
- Until 30 May, **The Foundation of the Hellenic World** hosts the exhibition "Miro of Majorca" with several works by the famous artist. The exhibition is in co/operation with the Cervantes Institute. Piraeos 254, Tavros. Tel: 212 2540000, [www.fhw.gr](http://www.fhw.gr)
- At the **Benaki Museum**, the Danish Embassy hosts two lectures as part of the Nordic project "Nordic Diffractions of European Architecture". On 21 April, Bjarke Ingels from the Danish drawing office B.I.G will speak, and on 14 May a lecture by an architect from the Danish company Lundgaard & Tranberg. Both lectures will be in English with simultaneous Greek translation. Benaki Museum, Piraeos 138, 7.30 p.m. Free entrance.
- **The Danish Institute** is now on **Facebook!** For updates, information and more, join the group *The Danish Institute at Athens / Det Danske Institut i Athen*.