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ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΤΗΣ ΔΑΝΙΑΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΘΗΝΑ
THE DANISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

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

Green Future, Jazz and Poetry at the Danish Institute

A co-operation between the Danish Institute and the Danish Embassy in Athens has led to a two-day event dedicated to a green future. The events take place at The Danish Institute on 23-24 October.

A Greek and a Danish scholar meet and exchange experiences, ideas and points of view on **Friday 23 October starting at 8 p.m.**

Lecture, discussion and dialogue with the audience with **Carsten Beck**, Director of Research at Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies, and **Elias Messinas**, architect and founder of the international environmental NGO *Ecoweek*.

One of the most decisive mega-trends of the century is climate change. Climate change will affect us all; on a European as well as global level. With the COP15 Conference in Copenhagen the world is approaching a tipping point: How will we tackle the problem of climate change, will we do it together and what are the consequences? Politicians as well as companies will have to act - so will people. If we want to change the world to a sustainable future, we need to change certain habits and ways of modern life. How will we do that? Why will we do that? And will it cost us?



On **Saturday 24 October at 8 p.m.**, Greek actress **Larissa Vergou** will read poems from the work "Alphabet" by the late Danish poet, **Inger Christensen** (1935-2009). Her work — lyrical, philosophical, self-referential and exquisitely mathematical — was a cornerstone of modern Scandinavian poetry. Widely regarded as Denmark's most eminent poet, she was routinely mentioned as a

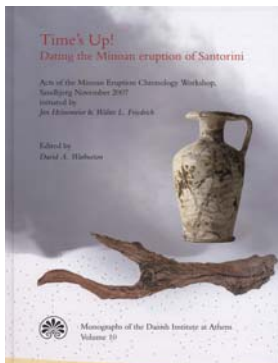
contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature. "Alphabet" is a 1981 poem about the fragility of nature in the shadow of the cold war. It takes its structure from the Fibonacci numbers - a sequence that resonates throughout the natural world, informing, among other things, the arrangement of scales on a pine cone.

Musical intervals and a concert by the Danish "New Jungle Orchestra" will follow. The orchestra was formed in 1980 and named after the legendary growling "jungle" sound of the early Duke Ellington Orchestra, some of whose compositions they have appropriately covered. Other major jazz influences to be heard are names like Carla Bley, Gil Evans and Charles Mingus. Today, however, these are not only jazz greats that - along with with a huge number of non-Western musics - have contributed to the world of the New



Jungle Orchestra. They also indicate the level of innovation and artistry, on which the orchestra during its 20-year existence has placed itself, as one of the most original, intense and enjoyable groups to be heard on today's global music scene.

Time's Up! Dating the Minoan eruption of Santorini



Last year in December, the Danish Institute hosted a lecture on a groundbreaking discovery, which caused dispute between scientists and archaeologists.

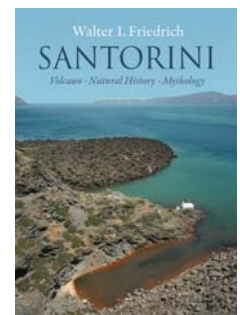
Archaeologists have dated the Minoan eruption of Santorini by means of archaeological evidence linked to the historical chronology of Ancient Egypt to c. 1520 BC. Now scientists have challenged the archaeological evidence by using radiocarbon to determine a date 100 years earlier - causing a serious conflict between the two methods.

An olive tree that was buried alive by the Minoan eruption of Santorini gives us a direct and precise radiocarbon date of the catastrophic event: The volcano erupted 1613 ± 13 (calendar years) BC. The information of an olive branch with 72 growth rings was used for radiocarbon dating using wiggle matching technique. Radiocarbon dating from archaeological sites on Santorini and from surrounding islands, and from the Tell el-Daba site in the Nile Delta supports the date from the olive tree. However, archaeological evidence linked to the Historical Chronology of Ancient Egypt suggests that the eruption must have happened after the beginning of the New Kingdom in Egypt (1520 BC). This finding constitutes a serious conflict between the methods of Science and those of the Humanities.

This conflict is presented in Vol. 10 of the Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens. The book will be presented on **Monday 26 October at 8 p.m.** at the Danish Institute by the editor **David A. Warburton** and on this occasion, **Thomas M. Brogan** and **Chrysa Sofianou** will present new evidence of the eruption from their excavations in Crete, while **Walter Friedrich** and **Jan Heinemeier** will reveal new carbon 14 dates from a second olive tree buried by the eruption.

Furthermore, geologist and archaeologist **Dr. Walter Friedrich** from Aarhus University, Denmark will in a lecture on **Thursday 29 October at 8 p.m.** at the Danish Institute talk about how he has examined whether the "home harbour" of the shipsfresco from Akrotiri is still visible on Santorini. Satellite images, long forgotten old texts and a 35 years long work on the geology of Santorini, helped him identify the harbor depicted on the ships- fresco with the still existing harbour of Balos near Akrotiri on Santorini. If it is correct, then the settlement at Akrotiri had at least two harbours in the Bronze Age: one facing to the south to Crete and one facing to the north, on the inner side of the caldera.

On this occasion, Dr. Friedrich will present his latest book on these findings "Santorini: Volcano-Natural History-Mythology".



Obsidian Workshop at the Danish Institute

On Saturday 26 September, The Danish Institute hosted an international Obsidian workshop. A team consisting of international experts presented the latest research concerning use of and trade with obsidian from the Stone and Bronze Age. Details and program can be found on our website:

www.diathens.com



Great success with the Palle Nielsen and Armsrock exhibition in Athens

The exhibition with works by the Danish graphic artist, Palle Nielsen and the Danish street-artist, Armsrock, opened at the Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art on 22 September. It will run until Sunday 25 October.

The exhibition, which is a collaboration between the Danish Institute, The Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art and Vejle Art Museum, was opened by the Danish Ambassador in Athens, Tom Nørring. On the opening night, curator Signe Jacobsen from Vejle Art Museum gave the guests a guided tour through the exhibition and the world of Palle Nielsen.



Photo: left: Director of the Danish Institute Erik Hallager, Armsrock, Assistant Director of the Danish Institute Sine Riisager, Ambassador Tom Nørring in front of some of Armsrock's works. Right: Curator Signe Jacobsen undertakes a guided tour of the exhibition.

The exhibition has been very well visited throughout the period, and both the Greek public and the media has shown great interest in both Palle Nielsen and Armsrock.

Video on the Palle Nielsen exhibition with curator Stavroula Oikonomou (in Greek):

<http://www.naftemporiki.gr/video/video.asp?id=19260&s=0>

Video on Youtube in English about Armsrock and his creative process at the Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art for the exhibition "Man, Dream and Fear" with works by Palle Nielsen and Armsrock.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXN8qFFRW9g>

New Archaeological Museum of Nikopolis



Until the year 1940, the "Archaeological Museum of Preveza – Nikopolis" was lodged inside an Ottoman mosque inside the city of Preveza. In the year 1940, the mosque was bombed by Italian aircrafts and was partially destroyed. Some of the exhibits were stolen. After the 2nd World War, the mosque was demolished by the state, and in 1965, a small Archeological Museum inside the walls of ancient Nikopolis was built.

In 1998 the foundation was laid for a New Archaeological Museum of Nikopolis 5 km north of Preveza. The new museum opened a few weeks ago, end of September 2009. The museum contains collections of architectural parts and sculpture from the ancient city and offerings from the cemetery of Nikopolis, and many important new exhibits are displayed in the new museum, several of which were found at the site of the Monument of Augustus in the period 1995-2005.

Opening hours: 08.00-14.30. For further details, please call the museum. Tel: 26820-41336.

Upcoming events at the Danish Institute

*Friday 23 October at 8 p.m.

"Green future – how? Greek challenges – Danish experiences – future solutions"

Lecture, discussion, and dialogue with the audience in English. Participants: *Carsten Beck*, Director of Research at Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies, and *Elias Messinas*, architect and founder of the international environmental NGO *Ecoweek*.

The event takes place in cooperation with the Danish Embassy.

*Saturday 24 October at 8 p.m.

"Green Jazz and Poetry". Concert with *Pierre Dørge* and his *New Jungle Orchestra* with intervals of poetry reading of poems by Inger Christensen in Greek translation

The event takes place in cooperation with the Danish Embassy.

*Monday 26 October at 8 p.m.: "Time's Up! Dating the Minoan eruption of Santorini". Book presentation by editor David A. Warburton and contributors Thomas M. Brogan, Chrysa Sofianou, Walter L. Friedrich and Jan Heinemeier.

*Thursday 29 October at 8 p.m.: "New light on old frescoes". Lecture and presentation of the publication "Santorini: Volcano, Natural history, Mythology" by Dr. Walter L. Friedrich, Department of Geology, University of Aarhus.

*Monday 9 November at 8 p.m.

"Raos: a new late MB and early LB site with frescoes on the southern part of the caldera, Thera"

Lecture in English *Dr. Marisa Marthari*, Director of the KA' Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities.

Cultural calendar and announcements

- The Benaki Museum is currently showing the exhibition *LINA FANOYRAKIS : Jewellery 1989 – 2009*.
The exhibition presents a selection of jewelry created by Lina Diamantopoulou Fanouraki, which will be exhibited alongside the Benaki Museum permanent collection, in the rooms housing the Museum's collections of prehistoric, Ancient Greek and Roman art. Until 23 November. The Benaki Museum, Koumbari 1, Kolonaki, tel: 2103671000. For further details, see www.benaki.gr
- The Athens Concert Hall, Megaron Mousikis, has a rich program for the autumn, with many different concerts with both Greek and international performers, and other activities, among those a Japanese Week on 22-28 November. It is a tribute to contemporary Japan including concerts, lectures, music workshops, performing arts, etc. For a full autumn program, please visit www.megaron.gr, or contact: Megaron The Athens Concert Hall, Vass. Sophias & Kokkali, 115 21 Athens, tel: 2107282333.
- The exhibition *Le goût à la grecque – The birth of Neoclassicism in France. Masterpieces from the Musée du Louvre* is currently on display in the National Gallery. Until 11 January, 2010. The exhibits, most of them coming from the Musée du Louvre, include paintings, sculptures, tapestries, drawings and prints, as well as furniture and miscellaneous objects, such as candlesticks, silverware and porcelain, vases, snuff boxes, watches, etc.
The exhibition spans the period of the reign of Louis XV. This short period of time marked the transition from the highly ornamental Rococo style to a classicizing artistic trend, inspired by the Greek antiquity. The National Gallery of Athens, Michalakopoulou 1 & Vas. Konstantinou 50, 115 28 Athens. Tel.: 2107235857, 2107235937-8