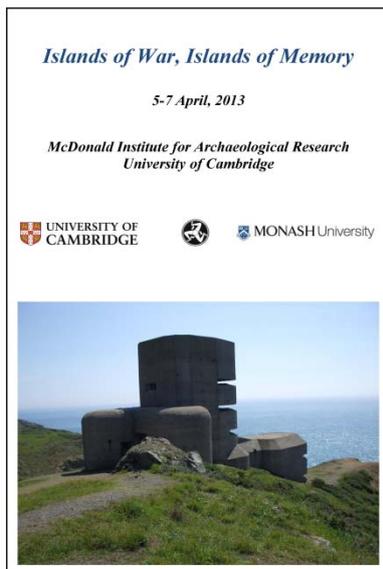


THE NIKOS SOFIALAKIS CENTER OF NEOCLASSICAL SCULPTURE



PRESS RELEASE

THE SCULPTURES OF NIKOS SOFIALAKIS “NARRATE” WORLD WAR II AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



[CONFERENCE PROGRAM](#)

The works of the Cretan sculptor Nikos Sofialakis were presented at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom during the International Conference entitled, ***Islands of War, Islands of Memory***, which was held with especial success on April 5, 6, and 7 2013.

The Conference, which was co-organized by the **University of Cambridge** and **Monash University of Australia**, was held at the **McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge** with the participation of 26 speakers from Universities and Research Centers from around the world.

The Conference focused on the exploration and deeper understanding of the historical and socio-political memory of war as it has been recorded and expressed in the collective consciousness of island peoples.

On Sunday, April 7 2013, the works of Nikos Sofialakis “narrated” the memories of World War II from the island of his birth, Crete, in a paper delivered by Dr. Maria Kagiadaki, Art Historian at the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports (General Secretariat for Culture) and lecturer at the Democritus University of Thrace. Dr. Kagiadaki explored the various manifestations of war heritage in Crete as they have been expressed through artistic and cultural mediums, making extensive references to the sculptures of Nikos Sofialakis.

War and Occupation are two themes that dominate the work of sculptor Nikos Sofialakis (1914-2002), who explored the many facets of war and expressed these in his compositions and portraiture. Characteristic examples include the ***Babe with Bonnet***, the bust of ***Pavlos Gyparis***, the memorial ***Glory*** and a plethora of other wartime monuments from the World War I and World War II period, as well as the ***Child of the Occupation*** and

the **Defender**, works inspired and proposed by the ecumenical Greek author, Nikos Kazantzakis (and which are currently on display at the “130 Years Nikos Kazantzakis” Exhibition at the “Hellenic Cosmos” Museum of the Foundation of the Hellenic World in Athens).

The monumental composition of the *Battle of Crete*, which is set as the Frieze of the Museum-Monument of National Resistance Fighters of Crete in Pateles of Heraklion, Crete, holds a distinctive place in the artist’s work. The composition, measuring a length of 18 meters in Pendelic marble, chronicles the events of the eponymous Battle of Crete, and was commissioned to the sculptor by the head of the Cretan Resistance in World War II, Captain Manolis Badouvas.

Nikos Sofialakis is considered one of the successors of the Ancient Greek Sculptural Tradition, with a work that is intensely anthropocentric and is recognized for its characteristic style that oscillates between Classicism and Realism with the steadfast belief that the classical ideal is ever contemporary, and continues to be stimulating and evocative through time.

Visit the Nikos Sofialakis Center of Neoclassical Sculpture in Ano Ilisia, Athens, Greece (Gazias 12 & Taxilou, www.sofialakis.org) to view the permanent exhibition of the artist’s works which is open to the public free of charge, and to learn more about the life and work of the Cretan sculptor.