



Performing
Arts Center

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Press Release

Contact: Jeff Fulmer, 702-651-4720
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CSN ARTSPACE GALLERY EXHIBITION

Metaphysical Greece: Selected Drawings – John “Yanni” Fotiadis

Friday, October 7, 2022, through Saturday, December 7, 2022
North Las Vegas Campus • Artspace Gallery

The College of Southern Nevada, School of Arts & Letters and Department of Fine Arts will host an exhibition of drawings by New Jersey based artist, architect, musician, designer, comedian, historian, philosopher and educator, John “Yanni” Fotiadis. *Metaphysical Greece: Selected Drawings* will open Friday, October 7, 2022, and will run through Saturday, December 7, 2022, in the Artspace Gallery on the North Las Vegas Campus of the College of Southern Nevada. A special Preview, Gallery Talk, and Artist Reception with refreshments will take place of Thursday October 6, 2022 starting at 6 p.m.

Fotiadis started drawing and developed a love of visual Art from an early age. His artwork has explored various themes and techniques but has always been primarily inspired by the imagery of his early childhood years when he spent extended summers in Greece. In recent years, Fotiadis’s trips to Greece have focused on an immersion in classical antiquity. What has resulted is his open-ended drawing project started in 2019, called “The Solace of Antiquity”. The drawings in this project, done in graphite, colored pencil, and charcoal, document the ruins of ancient sites, and explore the effects of the luminous Aegean light on the architectural remnants there. Equally informed by philosophy and academic drawing techniques rooted in optical theory, Fotiadis’s drawings reveal the unique and visceral metaphysical character of these ancient places that transcends space and time.

Speaking of his work, Fotiadis says; “Classical antiquity is omnipresent and inescapable in Greece, woven into the cultural legacy of the country physically, psychologically, intellectually, and emotionally. It is an immense, epic, unavoidable, and at times, mysterious and overwhelming presence, mostly surviving today through architectural fragments. The sites I visited and the images I sketched and photographed in 2019 and returned to in 2021 took me into a metaphysical world of paradoxes and dualities: the permanent and the ephemeral, the living and the dead, the present and the distant past, and all of it illuminated through a prism of that otherworldly light. The year that followed, in a which a global pandemic brought the world to a halt, gave me the unexpected opportunity to take those quickly made sketches on site and develop them into deeper, clearer and more refined drawings.

The drawings exhibited in “Metaphysical Greece” taken from different drawing series, represent my various explorations of these ideas and, to a degree, their culmination until now. While I consider them crude facsimiles of “reality” in the Platonic sense, my hope is they will allow the observer of these works to step into that metaphysical world that I’ve been lucky enough to inhabit, and to see what I have seen, even if momentarily. More importantly, my hope is that these drawings illustrate the idea that the world we are aware of and inhabit (and often take for granted) can be incredibly profound and revealing, if we only allow ourselves to open our eyes and “see.”

The CSN Artspace Gallery and all art gallery events are free, family friendly, and open to the public. Gallery hours are from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Artspace Gallery is located upstairs above the main entrance lobby on the North Las Vegas campus located at 3200 E. Cheyenne Avenue, one-mile East of I-15 North.

For more information, please call (702) 651-4146

<http://www.csn.edu/artgallery>

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