



PRESS RELEASE

**The Municipality of Athens presents
LYDIA VENIERI's
BYRONIC CODEX**

Film and Installation at the
Gallery of the Municipality of Athens
Leonidou & Millerou
10436, Metaxourgeio
T. +30 21 0323 1841

Curated by **Katerina Koskina**, Dr. of Art History, Museologist,
Advisor to the Mayor of Athens on Culture

Exhibition duration: April 11th - May 8th, 2022

At the beginning of the last decade, Lydia Venieri began creating a series of paintings on paper on the life of Lord George Gordon Byron (1788-1824). This series captivated her so much that by 2017, she had created more than 720 works. She studied historical sources, revisited facts, searched for clues and figures directly or indirectly related to the life and work of the central figure of her research, and devoted herself to expressing the story in her way. Venieri's numerous works composed a narrative and an original visual biography of the important poet, writer, and symbol of European Romanticism, who loved Greece and breathed his last breath in Messolonghi in 1824. This project was named *Byronic Codex* by the artist, and in essence, they are her version of elements and conditions that are key in approaching life, work, position, struggle, and Byron's end. This large body of work, a complete artistic proposal of its creator, creates a mosaic that constitutes a painting narrative so dense that it could lead to a comic book or a film of this personality of the world of intellect and literature that by his choice was fatally connected with Greece.

Lydia Venieri's rich narrative discourse - although faithfully following the aesthetics and atmosphere of the time in which the story unfolds - is illustrated with modern and alternating visual writing and with great freedom. The idea of "painting" a film was consolidated and became a request.

In the context of the actions for the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek Revolution, the Municipality of Athens embraced the idea of creating an original film,

which is not only an artistic treatise but also the submission of the personal reading of history by a contemporary Greek artist with an international career.

We considered that the presentation of the narrative visual portrait in the form of a film would be incomplete if it were not framed by the other "protagonist," the paintings of Lydia Venieri. Thus, the projection at the Municipality Gallery in Metaxourgeio is embedded within the many works that compose it.

Venieri's film and installation were funded by ***CultureisAthens***, a program which is part of the Municipality of Athens' 3-year plan to upgrade, highlight and integrate the cultural fabric of Athens, and support artists, particularly during the pandemic.

The opening of the exhibition will take place on **Monday the 11th from 17.00 to 21.00**

Curated by Katerina Koskina

Exhibition duration: April 11th - May 8th, 2022

Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 11:00 - 19:00

Saturday - Sunday 10:00 - 15:00

Monday closed

Admission for the public is free.

The entrance to the exhibition space will be conditional on meeting the applicable health protocols.

The use of a medical mask is mandatory during the stay of the public in the exhibition space.

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The Duel

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image: https://www.dropbox.com/s/5v5hzmjid81bbzo/lydia_venieri%3Dbyronic-codex-085-the_duel.jpg?dl=0

The Christian Slave Girl

press quality

image: https://www.dropbox.com/s/vud67dl6az74o04/lydia_venieri%3Dbyronic-codex-121-the_christian_slave_girl.jpg?dl=0

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George Gordon Noel Byron

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