



Ίδρυμα Θεοφανώ
THEOPHANO
FOUNDATION

THE EMPRESS
THEOPHANO
PRIZE

2022



THE EMPRESS THEOPHANO PRIZE

With Thessaloniki at its heart, a new award of pan-European status and scope was instituted three years ago, the Empress Theophano Prize. With the symbolic selection of the name of Byzantine Empress Theophano – whose contribution was critical in the cultural rebirth of the Western European region – and with the Rotunda as the Award Ceremony setting – a landmark monument signifying the Roman, Byzantine, Orthodox, Ottoman, and Greek influence on the shaping of Europe – the award aims to:

Reward individuals or Organisations for their contribution to the understanding and strengthening of the modern European Idea;

Promote, at this crucial juncture, the recognition of the common heritage shared by different geographic areas of Europe and the historic interdependence of its peoples, as well as their importance to current European cooperation and the relations of Europe with its neighboring cultures;

Underline and highlight the contribution of the parties receiving the Prize, broadening our understanding of the European Union, European cooperation, and our common roots in history.



THE ROTUNDA MONUMENT



The emblematic monument of Thessaloniki was constructed in the early 4th century AD, on the turning point between the pagan with the Christian world, probably as a temple for ancient cult worship or as a mausoleum for Constantine the Great (306-337). This circular, domed building measures 29.80 meters in height, 24.50 meters in diameter, its walls are 6.30 meters thick and can only be compared architecturally to the Pantheon in Rome. Not long after it was built and during the early years of the long-lived Byzantine Empire (330-1453), the Rotunda was turned into a Christian church with the addition of a sanctuary on its eastern side. The interior was decorated with Early Byzantine (4th-6th c. AD) wall mosaics of unique artistry and beauty. It was Thessaloniki's cathedral church (metropolis) between 1524 and 1591, the year in which it was converted to a mosque by the Ottoman conquerors. It remained in use as a mosque until the city's liberation in 1912. Its dedication since that time to Saint George (Agios Georgios) is owing to the small neighboring church of this name. The mosaic decoration of the Rotunda is a masterpiece of Late Antique art.

Text source: galeriuspalace.culture.gr/en/monuments/rotonta/



CEREMONY PROGRAMME

October 11, 2022

- 18:30** Prize Ceremony – Welcome remarks by Presenter **Alexis Papahelas**, journalist and Executive Editor of Kathimerini newspaper
- 18:35** Short film about the Rotunda monument & Theophano Prize
- 18:40** Address by H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms **Katerina Sakellariopoulou**
- 18:50** Welcome speech by **Stavros Andreadis**, Chairman of Governing Council
- 19:00** Prize speech by **Herman Count van Rompuy**, Chairman of Advisory Council
- 19:15** Video about the **West-Eastern Diva Orchestra**
- 19:20** Award Announcement
- 19:25** Prize Winner's speech
- 19:35** Music performance by an octette of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra
- Felix Mendelssohn
String Octet in E-flat major, Op. 20
I. Allegro moderato con fuoco
- Michael Barenboim, Violin (Concertmaster, West-Eastern Divan Orchestra)
Bilal Alnemr, Violin
Yunus Altikanat, Cello
Sary Khalifé, Cello
Miriam Manasherov, Viola
Samir Obaido, Violin
Katrin Spiegel, Viola
David Strongin, Violin
- Video art projection: *Biomes*, by Costas Picadas
- 19:50** Event closing



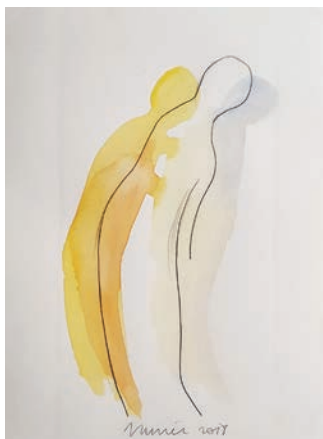
THE AWARD ARTWORK & ARTIST

For the award of the Empress Theophano Prize **Jan Vanriet** made an original watercolour drawing of an elegant woman's silhouette with a warm yellow brush stroke that may refer to the sophistication and the richness of the Byzantine art – this in contrast with a smaller blue stroke referring to the reticence of Carolingian society.

The represented figure is an 'open' one: a person that is willing to receive the specific spiritual, symbolic and educational values of a different culture and to assemble these; a leading woman as an ambassador for both the East and the West of Europe.

An exhibition of Jan Vanriet's work, entitled *Misleading Sun* will be presented at the Museum of Byzantine Culture.

**Exhibition duration:
12/10-13/11/2022**





MUSIC PERFORMANCE

WEST-EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA

In 1999, Daniel Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward W. Said created a workshop for young musicians to promote coexistence and intercultural dialogue. They named the orchestra and workshop after Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's collection of poems *West-Eastern Divan*, a central work for the development of the concept of world culture. An equal number of Israeli and Arab musicians form the base of the ensemble, together with members from Turkey, Iran, and Spain. They meet each summer for rehearsals, followed by an international concert tour. Since its founding the orchestra has proved time and again that music can break down barriers previously considered insurmountable.





VIDEO ART PROJECTION

Biomes, by Costas Picadas

This year, the musical performance will be accompanied by the video art work of Costas Picadas, a renowned Greek visual artist, who lives and creates in New York. Projected on the three arches of the monument, Picadas' work delicately explores the interconnection between Art and Science, highlighting their common therapeutic trait. Inspired by the complexity of the human body and its functions, the artist dives into representations of nature and creates an interesting and innovative point of reference, where (the) Art appeals to the individuality as well as to the collectiveness of human existence.

More information about the artist:

<https://www.costaspicadas.com/>

<https://www.mataroa.gr/el/portrait/costas-picadas/>





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www.theophano.eu