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Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland



The Greek Connection:
Irish Poets and Contemporary Greece

LIVING / WRITING INNER AND OUTER LANDSCAPES OF IRISH AND GREEK POETS poetry symposium

organised by
The University of Athens, Greece & The University of Lodz, Poland

4-5 December 2015

co-organisers and venues:

British School at Athens (Souidias 52)
Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens (Notara 51a)

This celebration of poetry's creation of landscapes provides an opportunity for a meeting of Irish and Greek poets, scholars, and international visitors. Situated at two extremes of Europe, Ireland and Greece share some character-making traits of their landscapes: a largely insular structure, an intimate relation with the sea, and historical parallels up to the present day.

Traditionally, landscapes of poetry, environment and the soul influence one another, and today more than ever this influence has become international. Some of the invited Irish poets have been inspired to create the landscapes of their writing by their Greek experience, just as their Greek counterparts have been inspired by Ireland.

Tourism and travel offers an opportunity for such (self-)discovery but the same, or even more so, holds about reading, writing, or translation as spiritual travel into different places and into one's own inner world. Cases of intercultural translation, exploration of other cultures through language, the meeting with the Other all complement and expand the notion of space provided by poetry. As opposed to prose including travel writing, poetry disposes of more concise means of landscape representation, and yet often performs in a more convincing and memorable way.

Poets create acts of environmental imagination that “potentially register and energise engagement with the world,” for instance by sending readers to places “where they would otherwise never physically go” or “affecting one’s caring for the physical world” (Lawrence Buell, *Writing for an Endangered World 2*).

This poetry symposium (meaning both an academic discussion and a convivial meeting) encourages the expansion of our landscapes, both inner and outer, Irish and Greek.

This invited event is open to the general public.

The event is held in the framework of the project IRELLAS (*The Greek Connection: Irish Poets and Contemporary Greece*), a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship run by Dr. Joanna Kruczkowska (University of Lodz, Poland) in cooperation with Prof. Evangelia Sakelliou (Head of the English Language and Literature Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece).

With special thanks to the H.E. The Ambassador of Ireland to the Hellenic Republic, Noel Kilkenny.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Prof. Evangelia Sakelliou (University of Athens)
Prof. Jerzy Jarniewicz (University of Lodz)
Dr. Joanna Kruczkowska (University of Athens / University of Lodz, MC IEF)
Prof. William Schultz (University of Athens)

GUESTS:

Irish and Greek poets

Harry Clifton
Theo Dorgan
Leontia Flynn
Paula Meehan
Caitriona O’Reilly

Yiorgos Chouliaras
Anna Griva
Liana Sakelliou
Nasos Vayenas
Haris Vlavianos

Scholars and poets

Dr. Rowena Fowler (independent scholar, formerly University of Bristol) – Comparative Literature (Modern Greek / Irish)
Prof. Jerzy Jarniewicz (University of Lodz) – Irish Literature
Prof. David Ricks (King’s College, London) – Modern Greek Literature
Prof. William Schultz (University of Athens) – Creative Writing Theory
Dr. Joanna Kruczkowska (University of Athens / Lodz) – Comparative Literature (Modern Greek / Irish)

PROGRAMME

In Memoriam: Spyros Iliopoulos (1951-2013)

(Professor at the University of Athens, Greek translator of W. B. Yeats)

Friday, 4 Dec 2015

9:00-14:30 : academic session (British School at Athens)

9:00 – welcoming addresses:

H.E. The Ambassador of Ireland to the Hellenic Republic, Noel Kilkenny
Director of the British School at Athens, Prof. John Bennet

9:15-10:00

Harry Clifton (poet, former Ireland Professor of Poetry)

“Reacting to Yeats”

(lecture marking the Yeats Year)

10:00-10:30

Prof. William Schultz (University of Athens)

“Heaney’s Re-coloring of Wordsworth’s Imagination”

10:30-11:00

Prof. David Ricks (King's College London)

“*Rus in urbe?* The Poetry of Tellos Agras”

11:00-11:30

Caitriona O’Reilly (poet, former editor of *Poetry Ireland Review*)

“Poetry and the Wilderness”

11:30-12:00

Coffee break

12:00-12:30

Dr. Leontia Flynn (poet, Queen’s University Belfast)

“Poetry and Technology”

12:30-13:00

Prof. Jerzy Jarniewicz (poet, University of Lodz)

“‘A green leaf of language’. Female speakers in the Poetry of Eilean ni Chuilleanain and Nuala ni Dhomhnaill”

13:00-13:30

Dr. Rowena Fowler (independent scholar, formerly University of Bristol)

“Starlight and Electric Light: Seamus Heaney’s Greece”

13:30-14:00

Dr. Joanna Kruczkowska (University of Athens / University of Lodz)

“Irish poets on Paros: Desmond O’Grady, Derek Mahon and Michael Longley”

14:00-14:30

Yiorgos Chouliaras (poet, diplomat)

“Greece, Ireland, Poetry: A Single Topic in Three Words?”

Moderator: Dr. Mina Karavanta (University of Athens)

18:00-21:00 : Greek poetry reading (British School at Athens)

Welcoming address:

Dean of the School of Philosophy of the University of Athens, Prof. Eleni Karamalengou

Yiorgos Chouliaras

Anna Griva

Liana Sakelliou

Nasos Vayenas

Haris Vlavianos

English translations of the Greek poems

Moderator: Prof. Maro Germanou (University of Athens)

[wine & small buffet]

Saturday, 5 Dec 2015

10:00-11:30 : round table discussion (Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens)

“Ireland and Greece: Landscape, Poetry, History”

Symposium participants:

Irish, Greek, Polish and American poets and scholars, the public

Moderator: Dr. Joanna Kruczkowska (University of Athens/University of Lodz)

11:30-12:00

Coffee break

12:00-15:00 : poetry workshops (Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens)

12:00-13:00

Paula Meehan

13:00-14:00

Theo Dorgan

14:00-15:00

Haris Vlavianos

18:00-21:00 : Irish poetry reading and music (British School at Athens)

Attended by H.E. The Ambassador of Ireland to the Hellenic Republic, Noel Kilkenny

Poetry:

Harry Clifton (former Ireland Professor of Poetry)

Theo Dorgan

Leontia Flynn

Paula Meehan (Ireland Professor of Poetry)

Caitriona O'Reilly

Greek translations of the Irish poems:

Nelly Bouradani: Caitriona O'Reilly, Harry Clifton; Nicolas Gogos: Caitriona O'Reilly; Artemis Griva: Leontia Flynn; Marcia Israelides: Harry Clifton; Socrates Kabouropoulos: Theo Dorgan, Paula Meehan, Harry Clifton

Moderator: Dr. Anna Despotopoulou (University of Athens)

Music:

Prof. Fran O'Rourke (University College Dublin)

guitar

Traditional songs associated with the work of W. B. Yeats and James Joyce

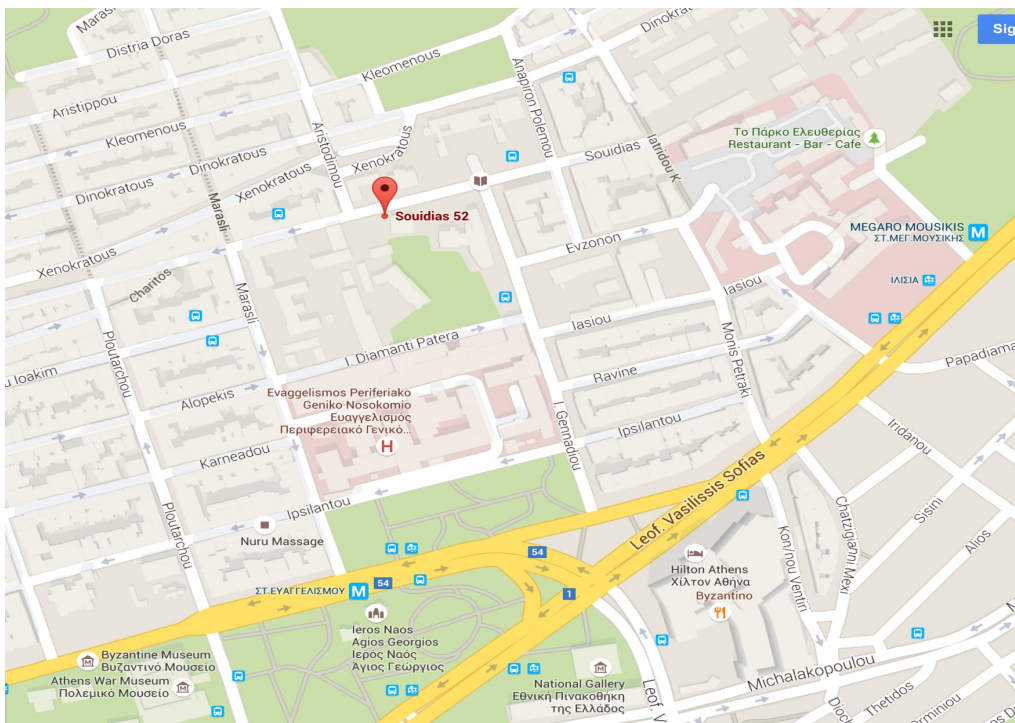
[\[wine & small buffet\]](#)

Venues:

British School at Athens

Upper House

entrance: Soudias 52



Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens

Notara 51a

