

BIOGRAPHY

Wassili Lepanto's road to art was paved by his studies of literature and painting. In contrast to the Germans who, searching for the land of the Greek with their soul migrated South, he felt drawn North. The Greek who was born in 1940 in Perdikowrisi / Nafpaktos went to Germany, to the country of the big rivers, the wide valleys and the castles and medieval fortifications; things of which the fairy stories tell and which he had read about in his books. Here in the "Athens of the North", as Heidelberg had been called in the period of the Romantics, the man who grew up in Athens has found his second homeland.

Here in Heidelberg from 1964 he read German Studies, History, History of Art and Philosophy

1975 Academic support staff at the German Department

1076/77 Recipient of a bursary from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

1978 obtained his PhD in German Studies

1979 Offer of a position as assistant lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Athens. After careful consideration he declines.

1991/92 Guest lecturer at the University of Heidelberg

Publication of several academic works:

Heinrich von Kleist, "The Single Combat" (1978)

Theories about Grammar and Practical Usage of Language (1978)

Max Frisch, "Homo Faber" (1978)

Essays:

Lessing, "Miss Sara Sampson" (1979), "Thomas Müntzer"(1979), "The Importance of Charlemagne and his Court for the Development of Old High German (1979) ...and others

His studies of literature and history of art led him to become an artist himself and that was, as the philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer put it, like a second birth, "he became a painter and it turned out that he was born to be a painter".

Parallel to his exhibitions in Paris, Bonn, Vienna, Stuttgart, Helsinki, Athens, New York, Geneva, Florence he also wrote on the theory of art, e.g. the manifesto "Art for Mankind or for an Ecological Art"(1983), the artist's diary "Early Spring"(1993), "Ability and Art"(1991)...and others

1995 Completion of a mural in six parts, entitled "Occident" commissioned by the University of Heidelberg

1996 Retrospective exhibition in The Palace of the United Nations in Geneva and in Athens in the Melina Mercouri Cultural Centre

1997 Was awarded the Willibald-Kramm-Prize for art by the mayor of Heidelberg, Beate Weber

Retrospective exhibition in the Kunstpalast Düsseldorf

2000 Lepanto opened his own art gallery in the old town of Heidelberg

2003 Solo exhibition "Landscapes – Positive Utopias" in the Federal Headquarters of the German Green Party

2006 The Kurpfälzische Museum in Heidelberg exhibited Lepanto's life work under the title "Ecological Art"

Several cultural/political activities in his hometown, e.g.

- 1985 Protection of the University Square from modernisation
- 2001 Protest against the felling of a weeping willow in the inner castle yard (he collected 11,000 supporting signatures in three weeks)
- 2006 Fight for the neo-classical columns at Friedrich-Ebert-Platz (he collected 10,500 signatures in 4 weeks)
- 2009 Founds cultural pressure group "Caring for and Preserving Heidelberg" for the protection of Heidelberg's old town from architectural "modernisms"; in the same year Lepanto gained a seat on Heidelberg's City Council
- 2011 Lepanto became a candidate for the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg
- The artist is currently organising a retrospective exhibition of his life work at the Benaki Museum in his hometown Athens