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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2022

**THE MUSES IN SOUTHAMPTON PRESENTS SOLO EXHIBITION OF
SCULPTOR GEORGE PETRIDES**

The show features larger than life-size sculptures inspired by six key periods in Hellenic history

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — **The Muses** (111 St Andrews Road) is pleased to present the traveling exhibition ***Hellenic Heads: George Petrides***, a solo exhibition of sculptures by the international artist. This exhibition will be on view from **June 16 to Sept. 5, 2022**.

Marking the occasion of the centennial of the destruction of Smyrna in 1922 and the bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence, Petrides's exhibition is a personal exploration into his Greek background, seeking to understand the cultural influences that have shaped him and the people closest to him.

"Our community is honored to host the extraordinary art of sculptor George Petrides, which honors important periods in our Hellenic history, from the fifth century B.C. to the present day," said Father Alex Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of The Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in the Hamptons.

Starting with a rigorous research process, including archaeological artifacts, academic sources, family stories and historical photographs, Petrides studied six important periods from 2,500 years ago to the present:

- Classical Greek Period (510 BC to 323 BC)
- Byzantine Period (330 AD to 1453 AD)
- Greek War of Independence (1821 to 1829)
- Destruction of Smyrna (1922)
- Nazi occupation and Greek Civil War (1941 to 1949)
- The Present

"One of these sculptures honors the memory of those who died and lived through the Asia Minor Catastrophe of 1922," Father Alex said. "As our Archdiocese celebrates its centennial, we can never forget that 100 years ago, people died as martyrs for our faith. Another work honors female leaders—who are frequently overlooked—of the Greek War of Independence (1821-1829) which

was initiated and sustained by our faith. George’s beautiful art reminds all of us—not only Greek Orthodox Christians—of our Hellenic foundations so we can wisely use today to create a better day tomorrow for all humankind.”

Petrides’s creative process is of his own invention. He often begins by sculpting in clay from a live model or historical photographs. Next, the clay piece is scanned in 3-D, and the digital file is manipulated using sculpting software. Then it is 3D printed or CNC milled in a size that is up to two-and-a-half times lifesize. Petrides then reworks the piece by hand, using power tools and construction materials. Often the sculpture is then cast in bronze in Greece, using the same lost-wax process that was used by the ancient Greeks 2,500 years ago. Finally, various patinas are applied in a rich expressionistic manner.

“As a Greek-American—born in Athens and having spent more than half my life in New York City—I have always been interested in my Greek roots, initially absorbing them through my family members: a grandmother who escaped the destruction of Smyrna in 1922 and parents who lived through the 1940s Nazi occupation and ensuing Greek civil war,” Petrides said. “I continued studying these topics at Harvard College, where I studied Classical Greek literature, philosophy and history, as well as four visits to Mount Athos, where I was steeped in art and culture from the Byzantine period.”

This presentation is the second installation of Petrides’s solo show, following its world premiere at the Embassy of Greece in the U.S. in Washington, D.C. After *The Muses*, *Hellenic Heads* will travel to other venues in the United States and continue on to European venues in 2023. Details are forthcoming and to be announced on www.petrides.art.

“*Hellenic Heads* is an artistic dialogue between the past and present, elucidating the universal character of Greek culture and its fundamental role in shaping Greek identity,” said Eleftheria Gkoufa, cultural manager. “This traveling exhibition highlights the necessity of art and the importance of the creator in modern society and conveys intercultural dialogue through cultural diplomacy. Cultural diplomacy is key to the mutual understanding of other nations and their cultural heritage, as it examines human development through artistic creation.”

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ABOUT THE MUSES

The Muses (111 St Andrews Road, Southampton, N.Y.) is one of the pre-eminent cultural centers on Long Island. It was founded in 2013, with the intention of honoring and promoting Hellenic culture, the morningstar of the Western world, in the Hamptons and surrounding areas. It is associated with the Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons, The Dormition of the Virgin Mary, at the same address.

The Muses’s gallery is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment by contacting 917-860-0932 or info@petrides.art.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

George Petrides, the international sculptor who lives and works in New York City and Athens, Greece, creates abstracted figurative sculpture in sizes ranging from a few inches to more than lifesize, combining the timeless with the contemporary. Born in Athens in 1964 and raised there and in New York, he is steeped in ancient Greek sculpture and the works that were influenced by it (Donatello, Michelangelo, Auguste Rodin, Aristide Maillol, et al.) as well as the 20th-century modernists who re-interpreted these traditions. He closely follows contemporary figurative sculptors, especially those who reference ancient Greek art, such as Charles Ray and Huma Bhabha as well as the many other artists who are part of a resurgence in figurative sculpture.

Growing up in a family of artists and businesspeople, Petrides's first career was in finance. At the age of 32, he took his first-ever art class. He continued to study and make art part-time for more than 20 years, taking drawing, painting and sculpture classes at the New York Studio School, The Art Students League in New York and L'Academie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. In 2017, Petrides dedicated himself to making art full-time. Since then he has had solo shows in Dubai, Mykonos and Monaco. From December 2021 to February 2022, he had a two-artist show with the renowned Greek-American abstract painter Nassos Daphnis at the Consulate of Greece in New York, in which he presented some of his small sculptures. He has also participated in group shows in Athens, London and New York. Later this year, he expects to have a second solo show in Dubai, in which he will present his Emirates Collection.

For more information please see www.petrides.art, [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).