# Manthos Vathes

# aesthethics

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"He Hath ruled, Men shall learn wisdom, by affliction schooled"

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# Prologue

I would not like anyone to see me or my work through the eyes of an historian, a philosopher, a writer, a physicist. But I ask you to see me from the life-inscriber's point of view. I would like to be regarded as such, as a noble life-inscriber. Therefore, whoever learned to see life from this perspective, he will become my best friend! Because, my view is that life-inscribing is *Being* itself. The shapes, the words, this painted grammar and its use for communication, were all from the outset, equipment and inventions of the greatest life-inscribers in history. Just take a look at Samuel Morse, the creator of Morse code.

So I hope that the experts and the educated will forgive me, since I am intervening and dismantling the logic of their space in a way that is ungrateful, unsightly and barbaric. But if they see me as I said in the beginning, as a life-inscriber who was shaped by our previous century, then I may be vindicated. Yes, I refer to that messy century, which begun in foxholes and war drums, as all beginnings do, and was eventually formed upon that constitution of liberty, which was overflowing with modernism and avant-garde. In that century of spectacles, and art for art's sake, in that spectacle of "the most terrible, most questionable and perhaps also most hopeful of all spectacles..." and in the century which made me understand and verify the words of that morphologist "and became ugly to look upon, in the eyes of him who has the gift of sight" who made me become who I am.

These are all true, of oblivion, however, the noblest feature of myself, I found in Michael Kasialos, Theophilos Hatzimichail, Joseph Kosuth, and in the idea of the Museum. I mean, to the creation of the linguistic code of data which were gathered the last years by various institutions, and its distribution of faith in an authority of matter, and its localization in an historical timeline, with a beginning and an end. Therefore, I ask you to avoid any notion of authenticity and uniqueness in order to understand me, and to have the words of Plutarch by your side for advice:

"As for its beauty, a work that is already ancient, while in its heyday there is still a recent and new work."

Nicosia, 2020, Manthos Vathes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Life-inscriber= a painter, an image-maker

#### Introduction

Ducunt fata volentem, nolentem trahunt.

(The fates lead the willing and drag the unwilling)

Ever since I learned to look, I've noticed that every look has its time, just like every season its derivative. A look at the flowers in the garden is automatically embellished when they bloom and scatter their scents. But I looked at this openness, the whole beauty of the case, changing sides and closing in on itself, rotting in the winter, and the colors in the burning sun withering, losing their vibrancy, and the look suddenly gets ugly. It is as if one phenomenon pays off its injustice to another.

Is this nature's inexperience? Where is that eternal, cherished right? The stable, the safe? But isn't this rhythm of nature, its tempo, and the frequency of its seasonal patterns, which happen because they happen, is it not this the just? Thinking of this vain monotony of the recycle of existence, I came up with the idea of the life-inscriber transforming, and transforming himself along with his kind into trees and flower shrubs, to see the flood of the species from the point of view of the organic. To inscribe their various seasons, their spring, their winter, their life and their death. But how? How exactly?

I would say in their wholeness, without the narrowing of time, and the obsession with now. That is, without limits, infinitely to give them their shape, on the verse of infinity. To give them time to choose their appropriate signs so that they fit into an era that will list and remind them of what is to come. For example, like ours: who wouldn't say that the weather conditions are such that they don't feel the changes in our code of living? Let's confess it; our feelings are strong, now we sense a "second coming" at the gates, "But Christ is the end. Apart from that, of course, there is another solution." Hoelderlin said.

Of course, this thought is not an avant-garde art, but it is already an art thought, which one encounters in all sorts of life-inscribers, at different times. In the time of Nicolas Poussin, for example, and of Thomas Cole, but also in our contemporaries, Li Songsong and Anselm Kiefer.

So it's time for me, the modern life-inscriber, to make a change in my work. To make another start, and stand across the way. I have to stop recording everyday life, or do that short-sighted *l'art pour l'art* that nowadays I come across more and more. Why really, it

occurred to me, does interest me, the life-inscriber, at this time of life, the recording of the daily frivolous occupations of every sensory and non-sensory phenomenon? This consumption and the hurricane of data that drains the mind! I realized deep down that I have another inner art that dominates me, an instinct that pushes me to cross the boundaries given to the contemporary life-inscriber and forces me to take the initiative and build a future. That's why the day turns into a second, and 365 days of the year turn into a day, and so on.

I want to put it right from the start. Personally, a life-inscriber is not only the one who strictly impersonates the role of the painter, that is, it is not the learning and use of the brush, the paint, and the mixing of colors. This compulsive method is the consequence of the power of imitation. We have to see it as a side effect, something that just happens at a time when the animal man built civilization. Imitation is the essence in the life-inscriber.

He, who knows how to handle the possibilities of this process, is the one who can maneuver, evolve and manage life. How many life-inscribers were not only life-inscribers, but also had the opportunity to be anything else than this strict and compulsive role? This is life-inscribing! Being versatile and resourceful, that is, writing in life in any way, is a gift and a talent. That is my thinking.

For this reason, I recommend to look carefully at the human life-inscriber. I recommend that we come off the Cubists, the Fauvists, the Surrealists, and the rest of the compendiums that followed, and have a look at who were the real three life-inscribers that shaped the 20th century in Europe. Where if we could somehow magically bring Plato into our lives, and put him in the first row to watch this spectacle, he would go out of his mind! And who knows? Maybe he would stop his philosophy, maybe he would burn it, too. Maybe in conclusion he would also turn into a …life-inscriber!

# Proschemata

# Giorgione, or between East and West

As a museum, I borrow Giorgione to simulate and to associate his time with our times, and perhaps beyond. I find it pointless to record a complete biography of the painter, because I now know that each of us, with the touch of a button, can learn what is needed. However, I will write down the necessary signs and I will report what it takes to paint his time.

From what we know, Giorgione was a painter (and what a painter!) a musician and a great lover during the golden age of the Republic of Venice, where he frequented and played his music in the courtyards of the nobles. He was tall, sturdy with a developed flirting talent. He was born about 1478 in Castelfranco, and died in 1510 in Venice. He has not lived long enough to taste the greatness of life, because he died at the age of 32 from the plague of the time. At first, only four works were attributed to him, because he had the tendency and the taste not to sign his works, but only one, his Laura. But as time went on, they attributed to him more works, especially after the discovery of the Michiel catalog in the 19th century. So much has been written about him that was created a mess with often false data, so he became a darker figure than he was in the very beginning. This, in a sense, is still his greatness, and proves the vanity of modern man. It is as if we hear that ancient advice of Lucian's, that said:

"If we look at something very closely, under our eyes, we don't see anything exactly. But if we move away and see it from the right distance, everything seems clear, both good and bad."

So, if we move away and look at it from the right perspective, what seems clear is that the era intertwined with its geography created the sensory phenomenon that took the name Giorgione. But what kind of era was surrounding him? And what made him create the works he created? If we generalize, as I said at the beginning, the story and see its proper signs, we will notice that the painter stood on a pattern of turmoil that formed the war between East and West, which refers to the scheme of the Peloponnesian War (another way of saying a war between East and West). Which scheme, in turn, is reminiscent of today's turmoil between the United States and China. This eternal scheme was called by Graham Allison Thucydides trap. If we rely on this scheme and create our own applied communication code, from whatever height and depth we see it, it refers you to other

multifaceted related schemes. "Deep under deep for ever goes, heaven over heaven expands" Tennyson would say.

Below are the seasonal data and signs that are similar to our time:

- 1) In the 13th century, the Silk Road was re-established. The East on the trajectory of conflict with the West. Venice as the most developed city-state of the time. John Julius Norwich writes: "Venice was the object of respect and jealousy, famous for its wealth, its beauty, its good government, and its system of Justice, which indiscriminately protected the rich and the poor, aristocrats and artisans, and the Venetians. Because all the people who lived under the flag of St. Mark were equal before the law."
- 1453 Fall of Constantinople and rise of the Ottoman Empire. 1478, Giorgione is born.
  In 1489 Cyprus came under Venetian rule. Venice is worried about the rise of the East.
- 3) Epidemic broke out in Venice resulting in population decline. For some strange reason, any conflict of opposing currents is a kind of epidemic. For example, during the Peloponnesian War a plague occurred which became the cause of Pericles's death. The Black Death of the 14th century, which killed one third of the world's population. Giorgione's death from an epidemic shortly before the East clashed with the West. The Spanish flu of the 20th century, The coronavirus of the 21st century
- 4) The infamous and warlike Hayreddin Barbarossa threatened the Eastern Mediterranean and was constantly attacking Christian ships.
- 5) 1533, Venice refuses to join an anti-Turkish alliance.
- 6) The government was on the verge of bankruptcy and one of the measures it decided to take was to confiscate the property of its 25 worst offenders!
- 7) John Julius Norwich writes at the time: "The old spirit of the republic had evaporated. The Venetians became soft. Wealth had led to luxury, luxury to laziness and laziness to apathy, even when the state itself was in danger; the carnival was celebrated with undiminished joy, dances, masks and wedding ceremonies were more luxurious than ever."
- 8) Reports of uncontrolled rains and drought.
- 9) The Doges followed one another without anyone taking any real hegemony. Finally, Venice saw the doge Morosina Morosini for the first time.

- 10) Suleiman was preoccupied with civil wars.
- 11) Suleiman's successor, Selim II, longed for the conquest of Cyprus. His pretext the unusually strong wines of the island.
- 12) From the Venetian side, they tried not to make any risky moves against the sultan.
- 13) Queen Elizabeth of England could not help because she had been punished with aphorism.
- 14) Cyprus alone could not defend itself. once again the island of Aphrodite is dependent on a foreign leader. In this case Venice and Spain. (At the time the strongest forces of the West)
- 15) In the summer of 1570 Cyprus was attacked by the Turks. Nicosia falls into the hands of the Turks. Lastly, Famagusta remains with its hero, the deceived by Turks Marcantonio Bragadin. Titian dedicates a work to him (The Flaying of Marsyas).
- 16) Venice, the most powerful naval power of the time, and the first republic that borrows to pay off its debts to meet its needs. It is the city that introduces the Council of Ten. The city that Shakespeare describes as:

"The duke cannot deny the course of law, for the comodity that strangers have with us in Venice, if it be denied, Will much impeach the justice of the state; Since that the trade and profit of the city Consisteth of all nations."

# Works in English

All artefacts (oil-paintings) were painted on a canvas, then they were buried in the ground for several months, then they were excavated, preserved and presented in a museum-like box with a photograph and an explanation text.



It is estimated that it was found 800 years after the Great Fall. Here, an image on the three

stages of man is depicted. According to information acquired by our Museum, the young

man, in certain texts from that era, was guided by the other two stages of man, i.e. the

mature man and the old man. The data available to us confirm that, more specifically, a

gentleman of that era, named Aldus Manutius, brought back to the attention of the general

public, texts such as the texts of Plato, Sophocles and other ancient philosophers, based

on which the laws of the state were enacted and with the help of which the Arts prospered.

However, as a Museum, we understand that the texts and images, which consist of words

and shapes are only remembrances.

The Three Ages of Man

77cm x 61,8cm x 7,5cm

23



It was found in the ruins approximately one millennium after the Great Fall. We presume that this great imitator wanted to showcase what was suggested by that Cypriot man, at that time, stating "Study the end of things and, out of it, you will be able to learn about the beginning". But maybe, this was the way that the essence of Wisdom could be explained at the time. Based on information we have acquired from the archives of our Museum, perhaps, this was what the old woman – a slip of paper emerging from her sleeve inscribed Col Tempo – wanted to bring back to our memory.

**Col Tempo** 59,1cm x 68cm x 7,5cm



It was found 2400 seasons after the Great Fall. From what is left, perhaps we can conclude that the arrow symbolises the course of time. We can say that the arrow of time is moving forward. However, in our archives, we read that the future predetermines the past and vice versa. One day, there will be a reversal of the course of time. Maybe this is why we tend to gravitate towards the past, we who are now moving forwards.

**Boy with An Arrow** 62,1cm x48,2cm x 7,5cm



Giorgione or Titian replica?

It was found approximately 400 years after the Fall. It depicts the hand of a merchant in

the Venetian era, holding his pouch. A symbol of power and authority. Because, with

credence in the concept of debt, with experience and the useful power of their

transactions, merchants used to establish laws, prices and values. The information

acquired by our Museum indicates that the creators or this work were two. The question

of who did what remains unanswered.

**Venetian Gentleman** 

76,2cm x 63,5cm x 7,5cm

29





#### The Tempes

#### Giorgione replica

According to our referencies, it was found in the mission of long offer the Great Consideration of the information as when registrating the langering, which is depringed, with it is depring a viry, in their at tempose too med over the city, where as to me would be read soon. Right below, on the basis of the three or the last side of the own, there was a popular man and on the right, a young women with her revision. We are speculating the fact that these two were separated to republic with derignous characterising that are and, perhaps, ferresholowed the Great Crisis. Our Mouseum tends to believe that this streads that is the width the greatest hemissal of the large point, cytics, which described as world which is a ferred crisis of the control of

#### Oil on canvas

CS. 1.1.7 Sequeathed by Manthos Vathes Museum

#### 暴风雨

#### 并尔乔内的复制品

的是英连城市上为集发的一是最长期。一个市场人在作品下户诸众生假公司上,然后在有精炼的财金。一位各个大学与规划。几至约集州市的市场,由于自己的市场。 "成为是在安吉者和土地丁堡的危机,海勃拉州的干部也经过作品与支持(Gonu)有着中海附近之处,因为这首诗中是进始诸是是一位未的种果发展一个人们自己建步的信仰并从公面,且用价值在关于第一条条件,将代便规划为了空行逐渐减少。目肠消散性强定了地域。

#### anno

CS. 1.1.7来白曼索斯瓦希斯博物馆的速度

#### Η Θύελλα

#### Αντίφοιφο Τζιορτζιόνε

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#### Λάδι σε καμβά

ΚΣ. 1.1.7 Κληροδότημα από το Μουσείο Μάνθος Βαθής

According to our estimations, it was found in the ruins not long after the Great Crisis. The information we have regarding this painting, which is depicting a city, is that a tempest loomed over the city, where a storm would break soon. Right below, on the banks of the river on the left side of the city, there was a young man and on the right, a young woman with her newborn. We are speculating the fact that these two were separated to symbolise the disruption characterising that era and, perhaps, foreshadowed the Great Crisis. Our Museum tends to believe that this artwork falls in line with the proverb remnant of the epic poem, Cypria, which described a world with ever-growing population and an unknown deity who came to the city, caused division and reversed the famous saying, modifying it to: "and you became fewer and you dissipated and you emptied the earth out".

**The Tempest** 83cm x 73cm x 7,5cm



It was found in the ruins 1800 seasons after the Fall. The painter reminds us of its every Sunrise and Sunset. When we are going through a joyful period in our life, we should be expecting sorrow to come, and if we are at the apogee of our life, we should be expecting our death. Perhaps, this is the meaning and the epochal dialectic of phenomena, which we, as a Museum, believe that it was depicted as a coherent picture in this work. The necessary preparations for each and every thing as well as for the opposite i.e. what we usually neglect to see, what we usually do not think about and we do not pay much attention to, as it is profound and elusive. For example, many of us did not notice the small imaginary animal on the right side of the exhibit, which is straight out of the fiction technique of Hieronymus.

**The Sunset** 90,5cm x 73,1cm x 7,5cm





#### The Gattamelata

#### Giorgione replica?

It was found approximately 400 years after the Great fall. Here, a condomern in depicted, normally present in Venetian-like errar. Conduction were contracted to command mercenary companies. To the specific one, they were bed enough to raise a brass equestorian status of this honewed cat and they made him look like the Wistoria as if the exact of monatterin are similar to the corns of the emporter.

#### Oil on carvas

CS. 1.1.12 Sequenthed by Manthos Vathes Mission

乔尔乔内的复数品

这個作品被发现于声势市人的资准初的600年。作品解放的是一位看效威尼斯 对限效应指挥度领压的领袖,那时对公司主时代,他们从即地为这只增新的销 重点了一样特马的销售,让它看起来像个最明的斯多葛。

#### SNAS

CS.3.1.12来自受索斯瓦希斯博物馆的连槽

#### Gattamelata

#### Αντίγραφο Τζιορτζιόνε;

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Addition rough

1.1.12 Khypobörgun end to Movecia Mávilor, Baltig

It was found approximately 400 years after the Great Fall. Here, a condottiero is depicted,

normally present in Venetian-like eras. Condottieri were contracted to command

mercenary companies. To the specific one, they were bold enough to raise a brass

equestrian statue of this honeyed cat and they made him look like the Wise Stoic, as if

the eras of condottieri are similar to the ones of the emperors.

Gattamelata

91,2cm x 72,9cm x 7,5cm

35



It was found in the ruins approximately 2400 seasons after the Crisis. The side which was kept intact depicts the mythical face of David. A face, the depiction of which, was very common during that era, because in this particular face, we can find the pillars that defined the world of human beings for quite some time. It was a different world and, thus, ethical phenomena were different as well. Ancient customs were repressed but, nevertheless, they lurked. As far as we know, according to the Museum's data, David was small and Goliath, his opponent, was big. After the confrontation between them, it appeared that David was the big one and Goliath the small one. However, opinions are divided.

David

52cm x 43,2cm x 7,5cm



It was found in the ruins caused by the Great Fall. The name that the painter gave to the painter signifies a Laurel. Looking at the Laurel leaf on the Seer's head from the famous myth, the poet sat down and pondered: "he should have run miles for the woman's sake and, unable to catch her, he lost her on the way and the only thing left was Laurel's leaf in his hand". However, the memories we have on this subject, as a Museum, are old and forgotten, therefore we cannot see things clearly. In any case, in this painting, a beautiful lady is depicted, with laurel leaves on her head.

Laura

41cm x 33cm x 7,5cm



It was found in the ruins, one millennium after the Fall. Even when asleep, in her dreams, Cypris is dreaming of her lover. We know that the goddess provided a pretext for war and ownership battles. Was it her precious metals and her hair? Was it her seas and her beautiful curves? Was it her wine and her fiery blood? Was it her poise and the bewitching scent of her body? According to the information acquired by our Museum, we can put forward the opinion that it has been determined that the goddess was born in Cyprus because, neither the goddess, nor the island are used to having stability and serenity, but rather they both are infatuated with having many lovers and lovers are not keen on discipline and harmony. Such traits are for geometers and mathematicians. This divine island is in constant turmoil as well as constant tranquility, as if the formula of Strife and Love is employed on it.

**Sleeping Venus** 153,8cm x102cm x 7,5cm



We believe that the remains of this painting, found in the ruins of the Great Fall, was a

reminder about the greatest of the three philosophers; the youngest one. It seems that, in

his hand, he was holding the tools through which he envisioned the ideal republic.

However, according to the data available in our Museum, we believe that next to the

republic there was also a pitch black cave. We cannot say with precision which direction

the young man is facing.

**Three Philosophers** 

134cm x 102cm x 7,5cm

43



It was found in the ruins, approximately 2400 seasons after the Fall. It depicts Judith's

foot stepping on the severed head of Holofernes (an Assyrian general and mortal enemy

of Judith and her people). Based on excavations, our Museum endeavoured to unearth a

text which mentions a conversation between these two. Judith says: "Tonight, I will only

tell you the truth ... I will guide you through Judea and to Jerusalem. There, I will crown

you king in the centre of the city and you will guide its people as sheep without a shepherd

... This was revealed to me by God and he urged me to come and announce it to you".

**Judith and Holofernes** 

144cm x 66,5cm x 7,5cm

45

Nicolas Poussin (on going process)

. . .

## Schemata