

**Xenofon Bitsikas** is an artist, Professor at the School of Fine Arts University of Ioannina. Studies at the Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA). Postgraduate studies and Ph.D. at the School of Fine Arts, University Complutense of Madrid (UCMadrid). He has been granted with scholarships from the Greek State Foundation for Scholarships, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain and the European Union. His field of research and academic curriculum is centered at questions of systems-mechanisms-tools used for structuring space with a specific side interest on matters of new media and hybrid design in public space.

He has published papers in congress proceedings and reviews and collaborates in research with Greek (DUTHrace, ASFA, Hellenic Open University) and European (UCMadrid) universities.

ARTISTIC ACTIVITY <http://xbitsikas.wix.com/xenofonbitsikas>

His work was awarded and has been exhibited in Greece and Europe. Works of his have been acquired by the National Gallery, the Fundació Ynglada Guillot Real Academia de Bellas Artes San Jordi in Barcelona, the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki, the Spyropoulos Museum, the Vorres Museum, the Frissiras Museum.

About the work: In his artwork investigates the intermediate space, the in-between; the concept of the limit and interface and its relation to the spectator's perception.

His work has often a narrative character. The situations, that are depicted, condensate in shortcuts the flow of a narrative time whose continuance is insinuated. Space and time are subjected to the pressure of the narrator's point of view, who participates in the action from a particular place, a verge, a threshold between the work and the spectator. The plot speaks of human stories that combine, like does life as well, the everyday problems with the big questions, time, decay, death, and the otherness, are issues that raise in surface. ([transparency 1998](#))

The third dimension, the shred of the surface-limit and the revelation of the space that unfolds behind the canvas ([veils 2001](#)) and, in addition, the positioning of the spectator are crucial matters in his work. Sometimes, it is the transparency that analyzes the image in multiple layers in space and restructures it in a changing way depending on the spectator's position, endowing it with a dynamic character and, sometimes it is the image behind the image, the picture in the picture that calls upon the spectator to move, to get closer so that the first level may disappear and become a framework which discloses the second, hidden up to then, level. ([veils 2001](#))

The work becomes a space that is activated through the spectator, who is no longer placed passively in front of it but, instead, functions as a dynamic agent activating the intermediate, the unfolding, in-between spaces. ([layers 2005](#))

The latest work ([precario 2011](#) & [in limbo 2012](#)) lays upon concerns present in his previous exhibitions. The works presented are mixed media on paper (charcoal, acrylic, collage) and are based on two ideas: the conceptual use of collage and the painting as an installation in space. Bitsika's quest is always about the concept of limit and its disruption; transparency as spatial condition; multiple layers and the "back and front" succession; superposition and concealment. Working with the ideas of on-laying and cutting-off his works function within the limits of painting and installation. In his work the advantageous but static position of the external renaissance observer is replaced by the dynamic condition of the internal observer and by the visual parallax. Paintings become three-dimensional, fragile installations and space-installations result paintings that unfold and revolve the observer. The title of the exhibition "Precario" refers to the concepts of ephemeral, uncertain, fragile, vulnerable; concepts that are easily detected in this recent work.

#### RESEARCH ACTIVITY

His field of research and academic curriculum is centered at questions of systems-mechanisms-tools used for structuring space with a specific side interest on matters of new media and hybrid design in public space.

He has published papers in congress proceedings and reviews and collaborates in research with Greek (DUTHrace, ASFA) and European (UCMadrid) Universities.

A) Experience in research programs (selection)

- Member of the Research Group SindeFin (<http://www.sindefin.org/>)

- 2017: Coordinator of the project PALIMPSEST [granted for funding € 1.000.000,00 on November 2017, in the marc of Interreg Greece\_Italy (CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME INTERREG V-A, GREECE – ITALY (EL-IT) 2014-2020). Cooperation: Research Committee University of Ioannina, Region of Epirus, University of Bari, Province of Lecce, Municipality of Ioannina . PALIMPSEST approaches the challenge of revalorisation of cultural heritage assets as an opportunity to reinvigorate the urban environment of less developed touristic areas. Through collective memories reconfigures the digital representations of the city in a mapping database, and on another level it invites artists to reinterpret these memories and reinstate them in the physical public space of the city, as interactive, artistic installations. PALIMPSEST understands cultural heritage as a collective, bottom up resource and it is also innovative in the way that digital tools allow to reuse this recovered raw material, not just in the digital realm, but also by reinserting it in the physical urban realm, creating a hybrid space where, through artistic installations, the past is revived in the present.

- 2011-13: Creation of digital base (wiki) with alternative teaching material for the Open University of Greece, Postgraduate program «Graphic Arts –Multimedia MA» (GTP) and Module: "Art and Communication in Graphic Arts" (module code GTP50)  
I. Coordinator of the Module: "Art and Communication in Graphic Arts". Thematic unities regarding the design theory and the use of new technologies in art and communication, as well in the creation of images, video and animation

II. Author A1 (module 1): issues of History and Theory of Contemporary Art. Approach and critical analysis of the contemporary lines and the dominants conceptual topics in art of the last decades.

- 2011. Coordinator at the project "Narrative environment of interactive visual installation in the urban space" in the mark of the European project Thalís. (June 2011 final phase ), in collaboration with the School of Fine Arts of the UCMadrid, Athens School of Fine Arts, Department of Architecture and Engineering DUTH, University of Patras, and University of Thessaly.

- Member of research team at the program: "New technologies in the representation". Approach to the way that new technologies affect the representation, schematization and the perception of space and to the creative process. Agency: TSMEDE. Coordinator : Dr. Polyxeni Mantzou, Architect, Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture D.U.Thrace

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** <https://uoi.academia.edu/XenofonBitsikas>, [http://www.researchgate.net/profile/X\\_Bitsikas](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/X_Bitsikas)

**PUBLICATIONS (selection)**

"Monographies": N. Xydakis (editor): "Xenofon Bitsikas. Contemporary art creation", City Stories. Ed. Metropolis Publish AE, Athens 2010 ([Μητροπολιτικές Ιστορίες / city stories](#)) [[http://www.academia.edu/11512057/city\\_stories](http://www.academia.edu/11512057/city_stories)] "Catalogues / solo exhibitions": 2012. "in limbo", [catalogue](#) / 2011. "Precario", [catalogue](#) / 2005. "Layers", [catalogue](#) / 2001] Angel Gabilondo "The art closer than body", "Veils" [catalogue](#) / 1998 Marina Lambraki-Plaka, Prof. History of Art and Director of the National Gallery of Greece: "The painter Xenofon Bitsikas and the human comedy", [catalogue](#) "Transparency" - "Catalogues / Group Exhibitions" (Selection) : 2019 "land of creation". Museum Averof, Metsovo, Ed. Lina Tsikouta / 2015 "Painting III (2000-2015), Frissiras Museum, Athens / 2013 "Mehr Als Schein / Shining Through" / 2013 "Transition" / 2013, «The generation of '80- Contemporary Greek Painting" National Gallery / 2012, "Ellenico Plurale", Museum Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome / -Athena Schina 2007, "Realia Mundi/εγκόσμια" Kydonieos Foundation, Andros / Iris Kritikou, 2008, "Sketching Dionysios Solomos, (exhibition at the Ex Convento Ss Cosma e Damiano, Giudecca 620, Venezia), Ed. Mikri Arktos, Athens 2007, -2010, "Tracing Istanbul" Istanbul / Monica Poalas & Christin Schoenberg & Th. Moutsopoulos 2004, "Far-Near-Centre, 12 Positions in contemporary Greek Art", MÜNCHEN / 2006 Th. Moutsopoulos "Crossing boundaries", State Museum of Contemporary Art /- Olga Daniylopoulou & Nico de Oliveira & Nicola Oxley 2006, "The Scarecrow" International Art Exhibition, Averoff Museum / Vineyards of the St Nicholas Monastery, Metsovo, / «EUROPE PRIZE 1996», Ed. Museum of Modern Art of Oostende, Belgium 1996

- Books-Publications

- Dora Eliopoulou-Rogan: Views at the Greek Painting 1975-2000, Ed. Adam-Pergamos 2010 / Giannis Kolokotronis: "New Greek Art 1974-2004" Thrace Art and Tradition Foundation / - Stavros Tsigoglou: "Art in the start of 21th century", Ed. Livani, Athens, 2005 (Bitsikas: Painting in movement) / - Coca Garrido: «Trayectoria metodología y funciones de un gabinete de grabados», «Arte Individuo y Sociedad», Ed. Complutense, Madrid 2000 / - Gabinete de Dibujos. Editor: Ramon Diaz Padilla, Editions: Facultad de Bellas Artes UCM, Madrid 1997

**CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS (selection) :**

2019 «Embedding urban legends: an interactive museum experience in public spaces», στο Lund Urban Creativity Conference 2019, Pufendorf Institute for Advanced Studies & Division of Art History and Visual Studies at Lund University (2019) / 2018 GRIT PALIMPSEST, Polyxeni Mantzou, Xenofon Bitsikas, EUROMED 2018 conference, Nicosia, Cyprus, October 29 to November 3, 2018/ 2014 "SKIN-less" (authors: Mantzou P., Bitsikas X.) <http://www.fagottobooks.gr/> / 2013 "Login Design City" in "Hybrid City 2013" Proceedings of 2nd Int.Hybrid City conference, Athens / 2012 «Cycles of succession: nature – urban» proceedings of International Congress EURAU12 \_Public Space and Contemporary City, Authors: Polyxeni Mantzou, Xenofon Bitsikas. Porto, Portugal / 2011 "The Narration as design tool for the public space", P. Mantzou, X. Bitsikas, E. Mandoulidou, proceedings of the Congress «Public Space Wanted», Ed. TEE, TKM Thessalonica / 2010 «Aspects of a narrative environment of interactive art installations implemented to the urban space», P. Mantzou, E. Mandoulidou, X. Bitsikas, E. Grafanakis, K. Zamzara, D.Riza, proceedings of EURA Conference 2010, 24.09–26.09.2010 in Darmstadt / Germany. / 2010 «Tran-S-urface» P. Mantzou, X. Bitsikas, E. Mandoulidou, K. Zamzara, proceedings of International Congress 5th EAAE/ ENHSA. SUR-FACE/ ΕΠΙ-ΦΑΝΕΙΑ. Digital Materiality and the New Relation between Depth and Surface, Department of Architecture, Polytechnic of Crete, Chania / 2009 «NEW HYBRID URBAN SPATIALITIES», P. Mantzou, X. Bitsikas, «City Futures '09». International conference on globalism and urban change. Organize: The European Urban Research Association (EURA) and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA), Madrid. / 2008 "Mediacity", Bauhaus-University, Weimar Faculty of Architecture, MEDIACITY project. Book chapter "Design approaches for interactive public spaces", Authors: Polyxeni Mantzou, Xenofon Bitsikas, George Styliaras / 2007 «Responsive Event-full Public Spaces», Authors: Polyxeni Mantzou, Xenofon Bitsikas, George Styliaras, proceedings of International Congress Intelligent Environments 2007, Ulm, Germany, pp. 156-163

ARTICLES / JOURNALS : 2004 "Great abstraction- Great Realism", Journal Heterotites, Vol.I, pp. 317-348, Ed. Metechmio, Athens, October 2004 / 1998 «Art as a reconstruction process for the memory» Bulletin Trimestriel de la Fondation Auschwitz, No Special-60, 1998, Editions Du Centre D' Etudes et Documentation, Bruxelles ISBN/ISSN/EAN: 0772-652X (pp.265-272)

BOOKS : - "La luz vieja sultana" in Blanco/Negro: SUJETO, ESPACIO, PERCEPCIÓN, Review in spanish painting of the last 50 years. Ed.: Consorcio de Museos de la Comunidad Valenciana, Authors: Joan Robledo Palop, Xenofon Bitsikas ISBN: 978-84-482-5159-8 / - «El blanco y el negro como síntesis plástica», PhD thesis, Ed. Universidad Complutense de Madrid (June 2000)

**TEACHING ACTIVITY**

Department for Fine Arts and Art Sciences, School of Fine Arts of Ioannina University. 2019-2020 courses: Studio\_ Painting VII, VIII / 2000- 2018 courses: Studio\_ Painting I, II, VII, VIII and Contemporary forms of visual arts

2007-17 Coordinator of the Module "Art and Communication in Graphic Arts" (GTP50) of the Postgraduate Program: Graphic Arts–Multimedia MA, Hellenic Open University. The Module introduces key theories in visual communication, visual design, history of art and aesthetics. (<http://www.eap.gr/view.php?artid=2245>)

2006-2018 MFA of the Department of Fine Arts and Art Sciences, School of Fine Arts, University of Ioannina. Specialization: Fine arts, Courses [<http://arts.uoi.gr/en/mainEN.html>] → [Postgraduate studies](#)]

Supervisor in dissertation projects in PhD's and MA theses of the Department of Fine Arts and Art Sciences, School of Fine Arts, University of Ioannina and Hellenic Open University

Visiting Professor at the School of Fine Arts, University Complutense of Madrid (UCMadrid)