

Rapport

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Syntetiske Pinakotek | The Hellenic Suite

My stay as a DIA resident allowed me to immerse myself in an inspiring fieldwork experience in Athens, in the archaeological sites and in the numerous museums that can be visited in the city.

For my project “Syntetisk Pinakotek”, my research focused on creating a series of works inspired by pieces from the collections of the National Archaeological Museum of Athens, the Benaki Museum, the Piraeus Archaeological Museum, the Cycladic Art Museum and others. My approach consisted in immersing myself in these art and antiquity collections to re-elaborate images using Artificial Intelligence (AI), and subsequently paint them to form a small pictorial collection: “The Hellenic Suite”. In this way, I was able to curate works that would feed the AI and allow me to create a subsequent paintings (as a copyist) of the generated images. The objective of the project “Syntetisk Pinakotek” is to foster debate on the idea of authorship and creativity in the digital age.

After my stay in Athens, I can say that I was touched by my visit to the archaeological site of Kerameikos. I had not paid enough attention to the funerary steles, but there I fell in love with the Stele of Demetria and Pamphile. To the point of revisiting the archaeological museums in a sort of pilgrimage, seeking in the Stelae that severe, delicate and melancholic farewell conveyed by a minimum gesture and a gaze. In some way, I tried to have that gestuality present in the paintings of “The Hellenic Suite”.

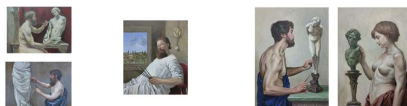


During my archaeological visits, I was fascinated by the ornamental details and friezes, which led me to a parallel project exploring the relationship between nature and architecture. I collected small plants and weeds that grow among the stones in the accessible archaeological sites in Athens. I was intrigued by the idea that these plants, considered “weeds”, seemed to want to be part of those architectural structures with their humble vegetal ornamentation.

I used AI to transform images of these plants into ornamental friezes carved in stone, maintaining the original form precise but changing the material and giving it the appearance of a classical architectural piece. From these synthetic images, I created a set of paintings of the generated friezes.

Results:

I produced 5 oil paintings on panel for “The Hellenic Suite”: 2 of small format (13x18cm) and 2 of 30x20 cm, and 1 of 20x18cm. The common thread in all of them is that they represent artists in front of their creations, sculptors carving or painters painting.

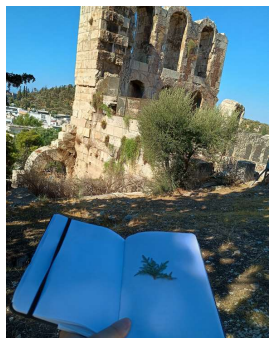


From the collected plant series, 16 oil paintings on panel were realized, exploring how AI can be used to transform and filter reality, just like humans and architecture have been doing in relation to nature. This is a series of 8 small format paintings (15x10 cm) of the collected plants and 8 larger paintings (20x20 cm) showing the resulting friezes generated by the AI from those plant.



In all senses, it has been an exciting journey. And just like I was able to work on my AI project “Syntetisk Pinakotek”, it has allowed me to develop new reflections and explore tangential themes such as the relationship between nature and architecture. I hope this report accurately reflects the evolution of my project during the residency. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been able to experiment and work in this creative environment.

Med venlig hilen
Jesus Herrera Martinez



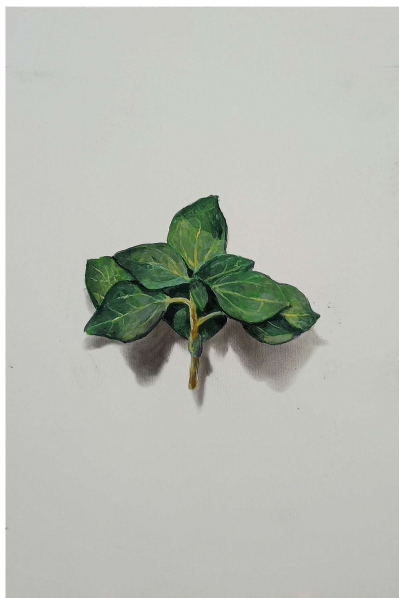
Field research
Collection of weedy plants in visitable archaeological sites in Athens.
July | 2024 |



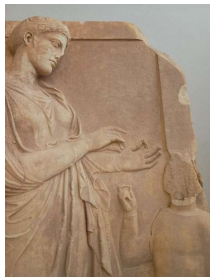
"Syntetiske Flora" |
 15x10cm / 20x20 cm |
 Oil on wood |
 Athens | July 2024 |



"Syntetiske Flora VIII" |
 20x20 cm | Oil on wood |
 Athens | July 2024 |



"Syntetiske Flora VIII" |
 15x10 cm | Oil on wood |
 Athens | July 2024 |



Documentation of funerary steles |
Various Archaeological Museums in Athens |

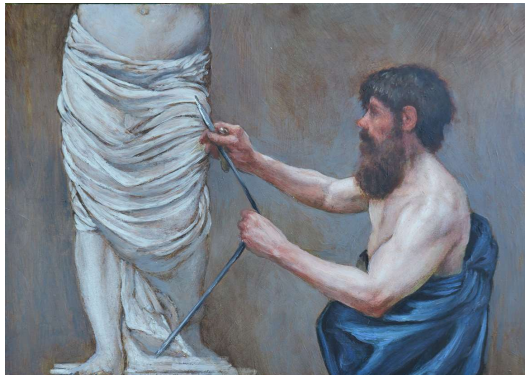




View “*Syntetiske Pinakotek: The Hellenic Suite*” | Simulation | 2024 |



“*Syntetiske Pinakotek: The Hellenic Suite I*” |
13x18 cm | Oil on wood |
Athens | July 2024 |



“*Syntetiske Pinakotek: The Hellenic Suite II*” |
13x18 cm | Oil on wood |
Athens | July 2024 |



“*Syntetiske Pinakotek: The Hellenic Suite III*” |
20x18 cm | Oil on wood |
Athens | July 2024 |



"Syntetiske Pinakotek: The Hellenic Suite IV"
30x20 cm | Oil on wood |
Athens | July 2024 |



"Syntetiske Pinakotek:: The Hellenic Suite V" |
30x20 cm | Oil on wood |
Athens | July 2024 |