

# IMMORTALISED

by Art

## 8 Artists Exhibit

Eleftherios Foulidis

Alexios Gennaris

Alexandros Kapraras

Michael Minas

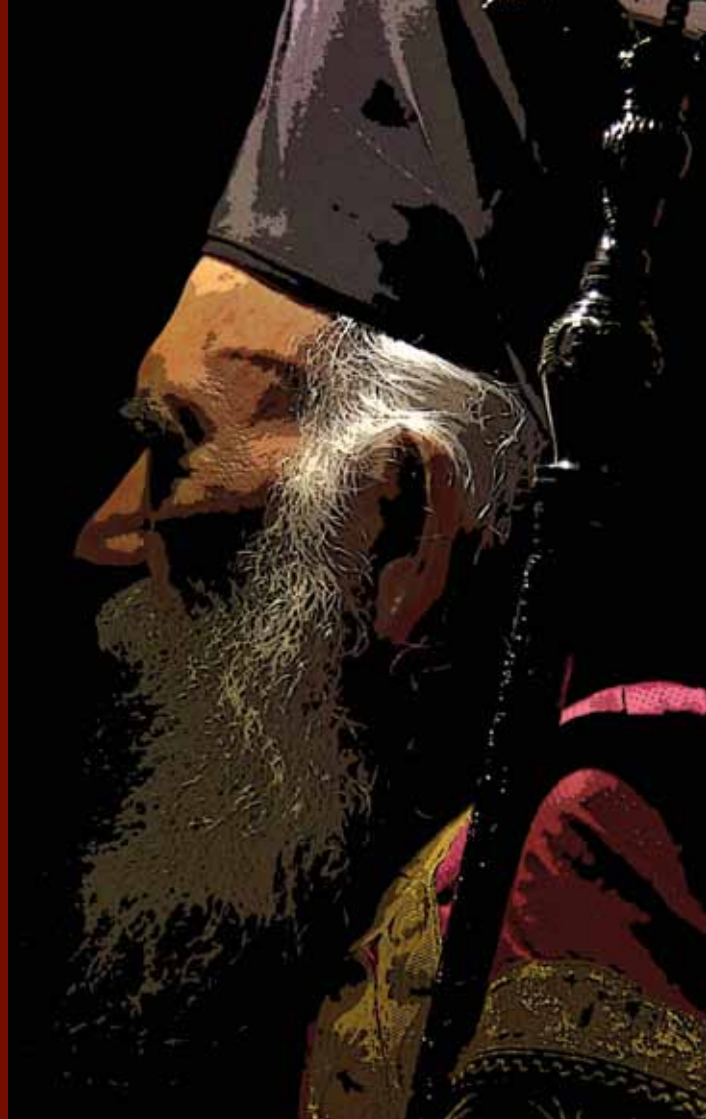
Yorgos Papadopoulos

Doros Partasides

Despina Symeou

Kerry Zacharia

23<sup>rd</sup> October - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018



## FOREWORD

Immortality has been celebrated for millennia as a utopic vision going against the very nature of the circle of life; an imaginary state in which death is no more the end of human consciousness. Through different art practices that include the use of glass, printmaking, photography, acrylic, charcoal, ink and watercolour, this exhibition brings together works by eight renowned British Greek Cypriot artists who jointly reflect upon the spirituality of the journey towards immortality, embracing mysterious and Byzantine influences in both traditional and modern ways.

'Immortalised by Art' was inspired by H.E. Archbishop Gregorios himself as he quite often uses the word 'immortalise' in the context of the power of photography and images. This exhibition is a unique synthesis of notions related to divinity, human nature and ethics in the context of the Greek Cypriot people living in the UK. It envisages providing a kaleidoscopic view of how elements of our individual and collective identities can survive through the aeons and reach a metaphysical "immortal state".

Philanthropy, egalitarianism, tolerance and empathy are the fundamental principles on which H.E. Archbishop Gregorios has been leading the Greek Orthodox church and its communities in the UK for over three decades. There is no doubt that H.E. Archbishop Gregorios is much loved, not only within the Greek Orthodox communities across the UK, but across many other communities and faiths. There have already been many celebratory dinners and events in his honour and there are sure to be more.

On behalf of all the participating artists, we are certainly all proud and honoured to present and dedicate 'Immortalised by Art' to H.E. Archbishop Gregorios.

**Kerry Zacharia**  
Organiser/Curator

## ‘DEDICATED TO H.E. ARCHBISHOP GREGORIOS’

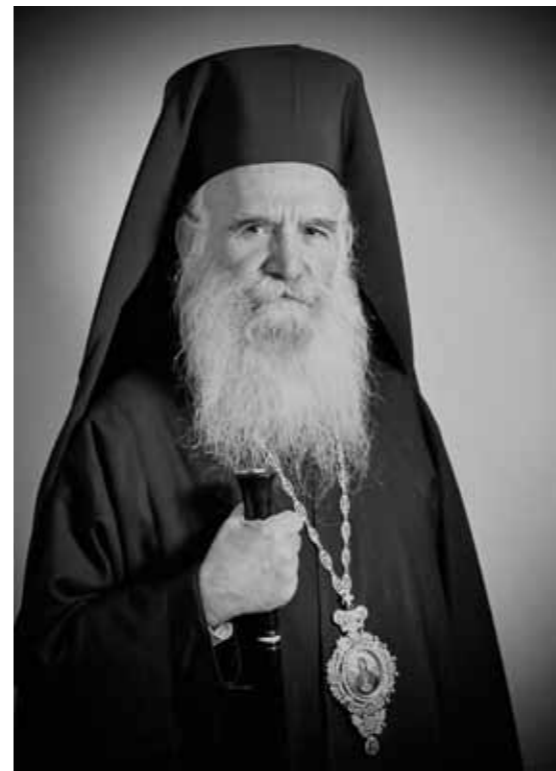


PHOTO CREDIT: Photographer ©Doros Partasides

## H.E. ARCHBISHOP GREGORIOS

*“There is no doubting that Art, all art, is influenced by Creation, which is itself the Work of God’s Hands. As the Psalmist exclaims in rapture, ‘O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all, the earth is full of your creatures’ [Psalm 103 (104):24 NRSV]. This is the beginning of art and it has inspired mankind from the beginning of human history”* H.E. Archbishop Gregorios.

His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain was born in the village of Marathovounos, Famagusta, Cyprus (currently occupied by the Turks), on 28th October 1928, being the ninth and last child of the family.

Receiving his secondary education at the well-known Pan-Cyprian Gymnasium in Nicosia, Cyprus, he was tonsured as a monk and subsequently ordained Deacon in 1953 by the late Archbishop Makarios III. In continuation, he went to Athens where he studied Theology at the National University, graduating in 1959. In the same year, he was appointed to the Church of All Saints in Camden Town, North-West London.

He was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Thyateira in 1964 and on 12th December 1970 he was consecrated to the episcopate as Bishop of Tropaeou by the late Archbishop Athenagoras II (Kokkinakis) of Thyateira at the Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom (St. Sophia), West London. He immediately undertook the organisation and administration of St. Mary’s Cathedral and the church of St. Barnabas the Apostle in Wood Green, North London.

On 16th April 1988, he was unanimously elected by the Holy Synod of the Oecumenical Patriarchate as Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, with his enthronement taking place at the Cathedral of St. Sophia. He has served three terms as a member of the Patriarchate’s Holy Synod. In 2017, he became the longest-serving Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain.



## ELEFThERIOS FOULIDIS

Iconography and fine art is brought to this exhibition by Eleftherios Foulidis. He integrates traditional expressions of Byzantine iconography with the spirit of 21st century art in a vibrant and well-balanced colour palette, creating unique and timeless art.

Born in 1948 in Greece, he took his first artistic steps alongside his father, a stage designer for the National Theatre of Northern Greece. He completed his studies at the Photiou Kontoglou School of Art in Athens, Greece. Of particular influence, was the Byzantine art studio of his teacher Vasilliou Gounari, a distinguished Byzantine artist.

Eleftherios lives and works in London as an Iconographer and he also teaches at the 12 Apostles Church and the Greek Cypriot Women's Group (ARACHNE). He has received numerous prizes and commendations to mention here. His art can be found in many churches, museums and private collections worldwide.

The most recent and significant exhibition for Eleftherios was in his birth town, Kozani. His exhibition title translates to 'from the uprooted, to the regenerated'. This was quite special as it coincided with the Remembrance Day of the Pontian Genocide, which was 19th May 1922. Byzantine art is prevalent in this region and Eleftherios documents with his art the pain and heart ache of the people during this horrific period, when thousands of lives were lost. The vision of regeneration, whilst bringing its own modern-day challenges can never obliterate these horrific days endured by the Pontian Greeks, which will never be forgotten.

His artistic career continues to flourish with great passion and dedication in the tradition of Byzantine art.

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*Jesus Christ Saver of Earth*



*Mother of God*



*Angel Faces*



*The Holy Trinity*



## ALEXIOS GENNARIS

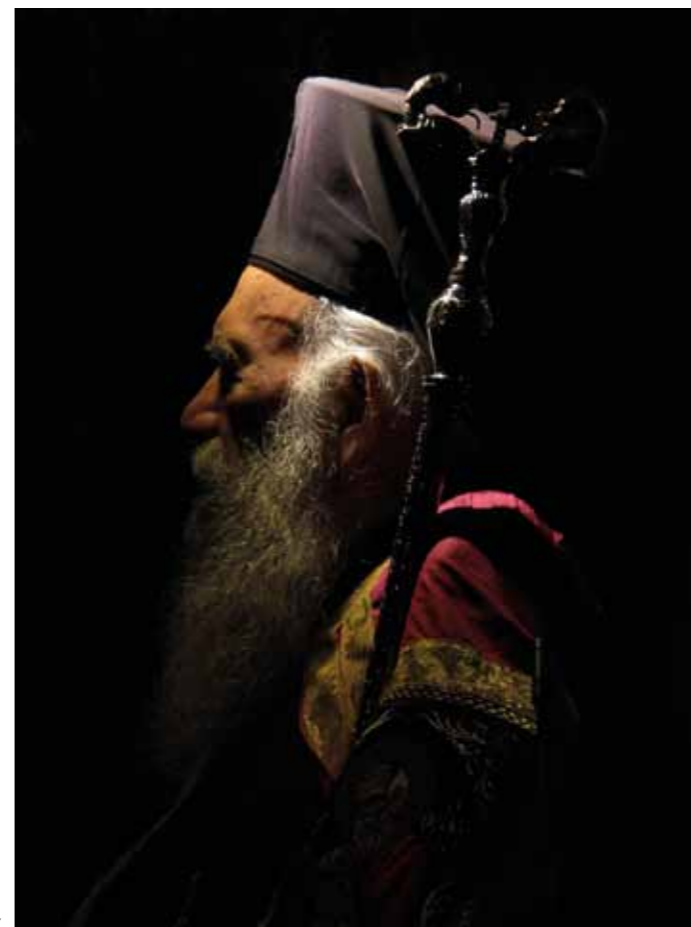
Alexios Gennaris' photographs capture the various aspects of H.E. Archbishop Gregorios' life in the U.K. amongst the various Greek Orthodox Communities and aspects of their faith. Selecting a small number for this exhibition was a difficult task for him as he has followed H.E. around England for some time. There can only be one inspiration in Alexios' work and that is the love generated from H.E., evident in his portraits.

Photography for Alexios is a hobby. He describes himself as a 'man with a camera'. His true love for photography began at the age of sixteen, when he was given an SLR camera. To learn how it worked, he took the lens off and looked inside whilst he pressed the shutter at different speeds and aperture settings. In 2015, after an initial idea from Fr Kristian Akselberg, Alexios set himself a year long project to photograph all 23 Greek Orthodox churches in London. On completing this, his friend James Neophytou arranged several exhibitions for him in London, including the prestigious Hellenic Centre. Since then, Alexios' photographs have been widely exhibited in various towns and cities around the U.K. Due to strong links with the Orthodox church, Alexios has been described by H.E. as "The Photographer of the Diaspora".

Last December, Alexios visited an Orthodox mission in Sierra Leone to photograph the work being carried out by Fr Themistocles Adamopoulos. Alexios' photographs and story touched so many hearts here in the U.K. that he will be returning this December to continue the story.

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*Light and Dark*



*Alexios go and Immortalise him*



*Blessed*



*Now he Shall Immortalise Us*



*Pan-Orthodox*



## ALEXANDROS KAPRARAS

Alexandros Kapraras brings a modern contemporary vision to the exhibition. His work draws upon inspiration from his own life experiences and religious, spiritual and cultural influences. The viewer is invited to join the dots, created with water droplets, of his coloured artworks to complete the picture. The portraits of H.E. Archbishop Gregorios are based on more formal traditional influences with a muted colour pallet.

Born in 1962 in Cyprus, Alexandros commenced his art studies at the Athens School of Fine Art in 1986. He went on to study the History of Art, Sculpture and Fresco and Byzantine Art, completing his studies with an MA at the Royal College of Art in the UK in 1995. Alexandros has lived and works in London since and has a studio in Wembley. Alexandros was awarded the Greek State of Fellowship for his BA (1986-1991) and his MA (1993-1995) and in 1991 'The Erasmus exchange program' at the Royal College of Art. He also taught at the Piraeus College of Painting and Byzantine Art in Athens, Greece during the period 1991 – 1993 and is a member of the International Art Association.

Alexandro's art features in a number of collections worldwide including: Imago Mundi Benetton Foundation; Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain; Hellenic Ministry of Culture; Cypriot Ministry of Culture; Serafim and Andri Kiriakides; Sulleiman Al Awedi Kuwait; ASK Ltd Collection, London; Prezzo Ltd Collection, London; and in private collections in Greece, Cyprus, Germany, UK, Italy, Denmark, Norway and USA.

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*Believe*



*Country-Believe-Freedom*



*Archbishop Gregorios of  
Thyateira and Great Britain*



*Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira  
and Great Britain*



PHOTO CREDIT: Photographer ©Alex Hurwitz

## MICHAEL MINAS

Michael Minas is currently undertaking a series of charcoal portraits which, fortuitously, includes one of H.E. Archbishop Gregorios who very generously gave his time to sit for Michael to draw this portrait. The empathy between sitter and artist is overtly evident in the sensitive portrayal of the subject. He is shown here, without his regalia, as modest, kindly and wise.

Michael Minas was born in Cyprus 1942 and came to London in 1961 to study at Hornsey College of Art, concentrating on Painting. On graduation, in 1965, he worked in television as a scenic designer of Arts programmes, meanwhile continuing to paint and exhibit his work.

In 1966 he married the goldsmith Jacqueline Mina OBE and they both established studios in London which they maintain to this day.

Michael's solo and group exhibitions are too numerous to mention, however, his most recent ones being at Darsham Nurseries, Suffolk in 2017 (solo) and the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, 2018 (group).

Although Michael's very colourful paintings are totally abstract, they are informed by a rigorous study of nature. Before embarking on a painting, he will always prepare himself by drawing landscape subjects en plein air, or engaging with the most difficult of subjects: the human form, using pastels or charcoal. His vision is very personal, eschewing the photographic approach in favour of more gestural mark-making.

Michael's current Portraits Project is planned to extend into 2019 when he will be exhibiting it as a collection.

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*H.E. Archbishop Gregorios 2018*



*Gallant Oak of Old 2015*



## YORGOS PAPADOPOULOS

Like most Greeks, glass artist Yorgos Papadopoulos was raised in two visual traditions: a Western one, where novelty was at a premium; and an Orthodox tradition, which valued conformity above everything. To succeed as an artist in the non-Orthodox world, one had to come up with a new visual vocabulary. To be an Orthodox icon-maker, you had to learn a pictorial language handed down from artist to artist, unchanged, since the start of time. *Golden Sweetkisser* is a perfect example of how these two traditions can be bridged.

The inspiration for the unique technique Yorgos Papadopoulos has developed came whilst studying at the Royal College of Art in London. Accidentally breaking a piece of laminated glass gave him an appreciation for breakages and crackling of the surface during the process. Today, hammers, bricks, bullets and electric current are just some of his artist tools. Now his breathtakingly beautiful artworks are actually smashed sheets of glass that are treated with sandblasting, glass inks, pigments, gold leaf, enamels, silicone gels and even – by accident – droplets of his own blood. Through much experimentation, his work gains its beauty from the broken and reflect the paradoxes of glass: it is both common and extraordinary, visible and invisible, dangerous and strong.

Whether *immortalising the saints* or picturing natural phenomena or abstractions, the image invariably leaves you looking into its depths in wonder and delight. The artist's radical experimentation with transparency and light is always part of a very intense, very visual experience.

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*Golden Sweetkisser*





## DOROS PARTASIDES

“Art is not a form of Propaganda, Art is the form of Truth” J F KENNEDY... Doros Partasides captures the truth in both his filming and photography.

Doros was born in Cyprus in 1944, he lives in London with his wife and family. He joined the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation as a cameraman in 1966. His outstanding work gained him a scholarship for a post-graduate diploma in Film and Television at the Royal College of Art in London in 1971. His career led him to produce some of the most memorable film documentaries about Cyprus and his photography has been produced into several books about the island. He has been widely exhibited both in London and Europe including the Photographer's Gallery, Commonwealth Institute, House of Commons, European Parliament and more recently at Europa House.

During the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Doros was on the front lines filming and photographing the trauma of his country. Doros has worked on various documentaries for Channel 4, most notably 'The Green Line', 'Unemployment by the Unemployed', 'Between Two Cultures' and "Crossing the Line". Doros continues to cover news and cultural events of Greek Cypriot interests in Britain and Europe through the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation.

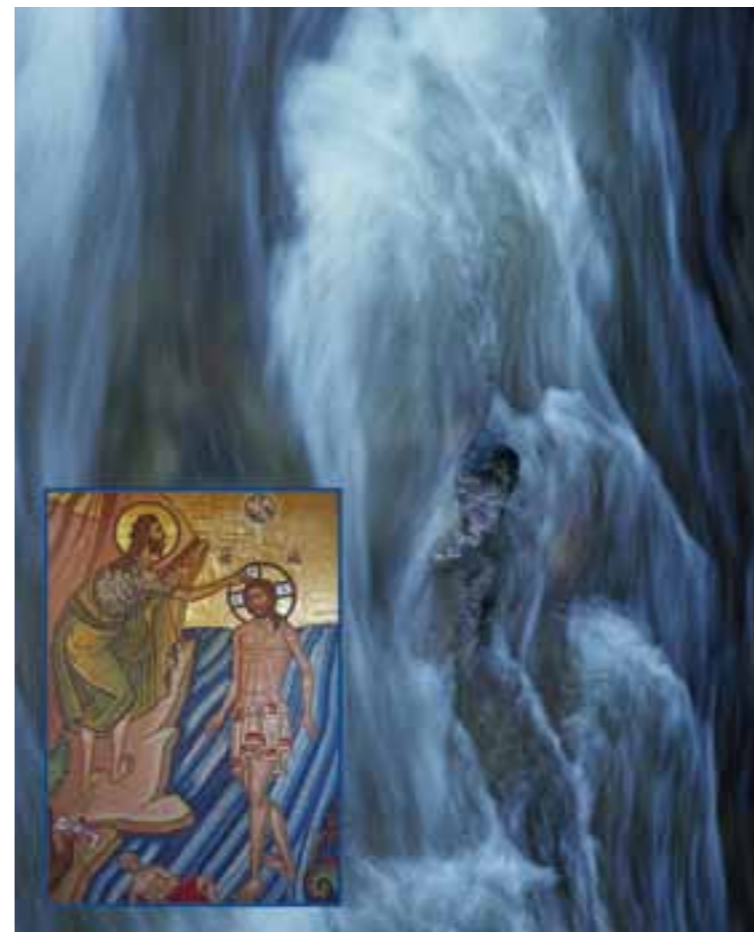
Doros has published several books from his photographs including: 'Cyprus 1974 - Days of Disaster', 'Rebecca is a Cypriot', 'The Portraits of Makarios', 'The Green Line - The Division of Cyprus' and 'Faces of Cyprus'.

Living away from Cyprus has strengthened his bond with the island, which has evidently been the main focus of his lifetimes body of work.

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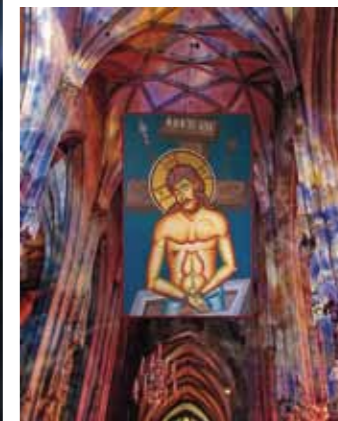
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*Waterfall Baptism*



*Archbishop Gregorios Portrait*



*Jesus Christ in St Stefanos*



## DESPINA SYMEOU

Despina Symeou was born 1960 in London and is of Greek Cypriot ethnic origin. Despina brings a printmaking dimension to the exhibition with her Angel series.

After the study of art forms primarily focusing on Printmaking, Photography and Life Drawing, Despina specialized in Jewelry Design, gaining a B.A.Hons degree from Middlesex University in 1983. In recent years Despina has returned to the two dimensional formats which had originally fired her imagination.

The human form has been Despina's preferred image, however an eye for the interesting and occasionally quirky elements find their way into her style of work, be it representational or abstract.

In the purest form, monoprint is a spontaneous and instant expressionistic art form. Many prints are made in quick succession, but only a few can capture the artists complete vision, and at times a happy accident will elevate the image.

In the Angel series, preliminary drawings were used to ensure a representational form, but the line and mark making is unique to each print - as is the nature of this medium. The addition of copper leaf and pigment not only enhances the ephemeral image, but also references the copper yields that lie deep in the heart of Cypriot soil.

Although exploring the print making technique in its many formats, Despina still regularly paints and draws from life. This is a practice fundamental to artistic expression.

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*Divinity*



*Celestine*



*Eternity*



## KERRY ZACHARIA

It is a great honour for Kerry to curate, organise and participate as an artist in this exhibition. The show is dedicated to H.E. Archbishop Gregorios to commemorate his 90th Birthday and 30 years as the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain.

Kerry was born in London in 1964 and has lived and worked in London all her life. She is a natural self-taught artist who is guided by her vision, instinct and intuition. In a short space of time she has gained quite a following and consistently receives great feedback from her exhibitions and on social media. Someone once commented that her art was “like Van Gogh from another dimension”. Her art is largely received as “different”, “energising” and “mysterious” and as her having a unique and recognisable style.

The medium that Kerry likes to paint with is ink. It lends itself naturally to her illustrative graphic style, whilst crossing the boundaries into painting. She mixes ink like paints and uses blending and brush strokes to build up different levels, finally defining her outlines in black ink.

This opportunity coincides well with the new body of work that Kerry is currently working on, which is based on ‘family and faith’. This new collection is inspired by her own life growing up in London as a Greek-Cypriot, ranging from her inception and connection with ‘Orthodoxy’.

Whilst art is not her full-time profession, she has shown great commitment and dedication since her journey began and she looks forward to continued growth and success.

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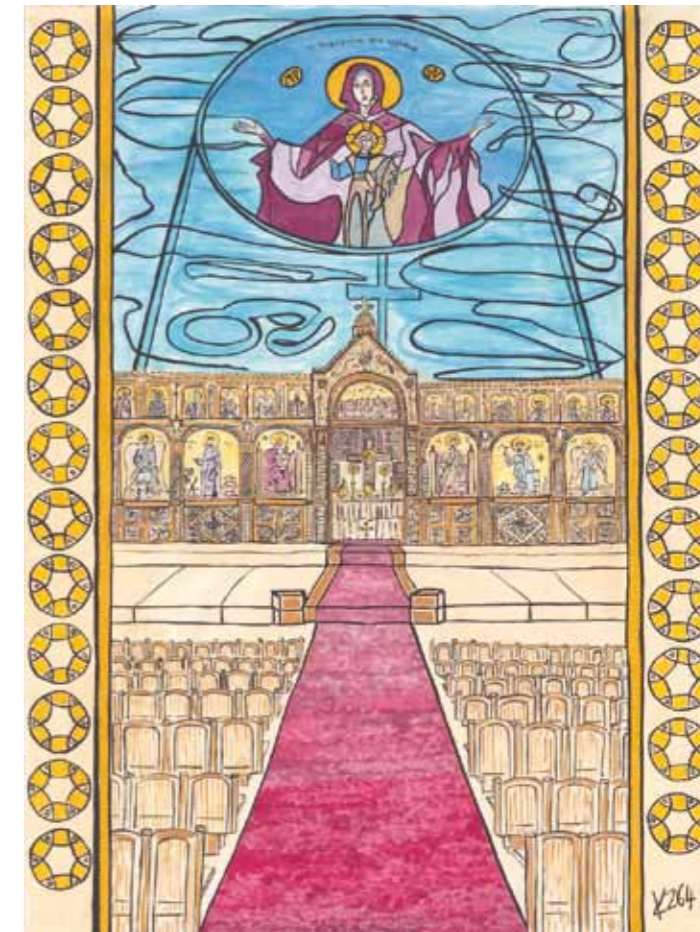
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*'Happy' Archbishop Gregorios 2018*



*Eternal Connections*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Salvation Army for kindly hosting 'Immortalised by Art' in their London International Headquarters' Gallery 101.

The Chairman and the committee of the Association of Greek Orthodox Communities in Great Britain

The President of the World Federation of Overseas Cypriots

The Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain's Office

Doros Partasides who brought together eight unique and individual artists in honour H.E. Archbishop Gregorios

Linda Zacharia of ZD ZachariaDesign for her creative and design support

Thank you to the eight artists and all those involved in supporting the exhibition

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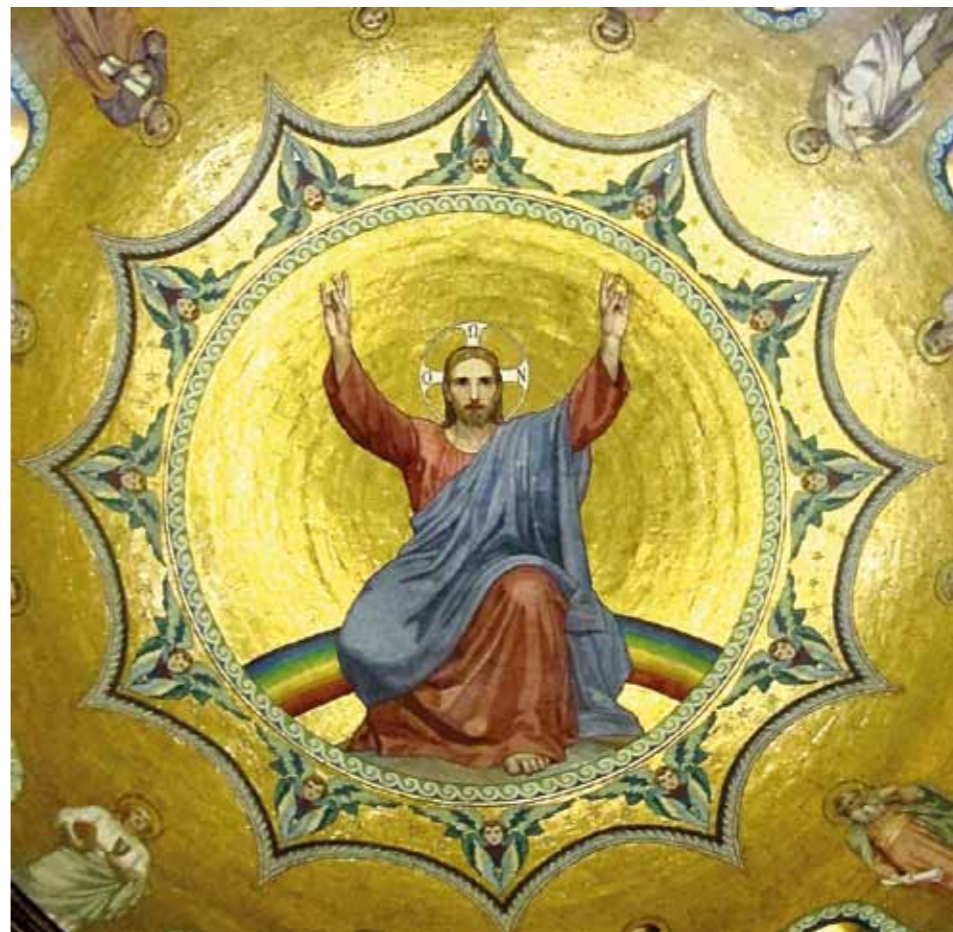
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'Pantocrator' PHOTO CREDIT: Photographer ©Doros Partasides

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