

ERASMUS+  
YOUNG EUROPEANS SPEAK UP TOO

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2022-1-N001-KA220-SCH-000089964

Bergen op Zoom, 5-10/11/2023

Arsakeio academic presentation

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# Stelios Faitakis

The power of art

# PRESENTATION TEAM

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- NIKOS ZEIBEOGLOU
  - STEPHANOS TSAKONIS
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# Subject and selection




Our subject is how artists raise their voice through art for several important causes.



We chose a graffiti painter Stelios Faitakis. This presentation is a tribute to this important artist that just died.

# Impact of graffiti

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- We would like to emphasize that graffiti is a powerful form of art to raise one's voice, that has an often shocking effect, because the murals are huge and they can be seen out in the open by everyone.
  - That is the reason why many artists choose this form of expression to denounce injustice, war, inequity, poverty, racism and cruelty.
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## A few words from him

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- My name is Stelios Faitakis, I am a painter, I live and work in Athens.
- My art is rooted in Byzantine art.



## Fun facts about Faitakis

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- In addition to painting, Faitakis systematically practiced martial arts.
- He also attended seminars on Osteopathy, Qi Gong and other elements of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

# Life (1976-2023)

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- Stelios Faitakis was born in Athens. He graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts.
- His works have been presented in numerous exhibitions in Greece and abroad.
- He has received many honourable mentions.



# About his art work

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This audacious artist had the power to present his own unique painting idiom.

His art defied the predictable rules and trends that dominated the contemporary art world.

His human-centered, large-scale performances condense, in an unprecedented way, the knowledge of several visual traditions.

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Here he protests against war and the use of weapons that are capable of massive distraction.

A mandala with missiles transmits Faitakis' voice against war. The Earth stands threatened and tiny in the centre of the mandala.



- **JUST SAY “MAYBE”** is a hymn to the doctors trying to save lives.
- Although they don't always make it and the patient is lifted from his bed to the hands of Jesus, the doctors are presented as saints. Look at the halo around their head. Look also at the small desperate doctor that disperses the papers of science, not always able to fight death.



## Socrates drinking the hemlock

Pablo Picasso composed a pastel work depicting the hero Manolis Glezos who, together with Apostolis Santas, dared to take down the Swastika from the Acropolis during the German Occupation in 1941-1944.

Stelios Faitakis constructed a huge mural in 2007 for the 1st Athens Biennale, which converses with Picasso's work. On a wall behind Picasso's work stretches the giant mural of Faitakis. It is like entering a church where the saints-heroes who fight for freedom and dignity are honored. Their symbol is Socrates drinking the hemlock, an innocent victim of violence and injustice.









New York Times publish a photo of Faitakis'  
creating a mural

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

