

## AAIA 2021 Contemporary Creative Residency Awarded



Anna Higgins  
*Blinding Sun*, 2021. Inkjet print on Hahnemühle etching paper.  
131 x 101 cm  
Courtesy of the artist.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's AAIA Contemporary Creative Residency at Athens has been awarded to the London-based Australian artist Anna Higgins.

Anna's creative practice is located at the confluence of painting and the expanded field of photography. Ecological, museological and poetic interests inform her process-driven studio work where, through engagement with collage, projection, painting and drawing processes, she experimentally reconceptualises archival and personal material. Based more on the perceptual than the analytic, Anna's work brings together disparate images with other visual research to form shaky impressions and uncover new speculative, resonant associations. She is currently developing a new body of work (*Atmospheres*) through which she explores the emotional and spiritual dimensions, alongside the psychological effects and symbolism, of weather patterns and elemental forces.

Part of the development of this exciting new body of work involves Anna amassing a personal archive of images related with natural disasters, specifically floods and wildfires focussing on the rapidly changing atmospheric conditions associated with them. The archive generating process of creating and collecting images occurs simultaneously with more traditional

research methodologies through which she examines symbolic representations of flood and fire in Christian, Byzantine and ancient art.

During her time with us in Athens, Anna's creative research will revolve principally around this year's devastating wildfires in Greece and the 2018 Mati wildfires. Working largely photographically, Anna plans to visit fire sites on the urban periphery of Athens and various sites on the island of Evia. The images of devastation and regrowth, scarring and emergence will be later considered in relation to the corpus of documentary photographic images she captured in the aftermath of 2019-2020 bushfires on the east coast of Australia.

Anna is currently engaged in the Post Graduate Program at the Royal Academy London, she completed a Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies at Deakin University Melbourne in 2016 and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) at Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne in 2013. Over the past decade she has presented ten solo exhibitions, nationally and internationally, in museums and various commercial galleries including Macintosh Lane (London), Centre For Contemporary Photography (Melbourne), 3331 Chiyoda (Tokyo) alongside participating in numerous group exhibitions. Anna has an established professional history of engagement with museum and archive collections including The Getty News Archive, the Wellcome Collection and the State Library of Victoria Collection.

We are very pleased to have Anna joining us in Athens for December and more than just a little proud of the fact that it was our high degree of institutional flexibility and administrative agility that enabled us to alter our eligibility criteria for this years award in response to Australia's national border movement restrictions. Our swift decision not to cancel this year's Contemporary Creative Residency, rather to pivot on the eligibility criteria thus targeting Australian artists and permanent residents currently residing outside of Australia saw us take the lead (institutionally speaking) in the Australian arts sector by implementing a temporary eligibility strategy now taken up by other, much larger, Australian arts and culture agencies including the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body.

The decision to award Anna Higgins the AAIA 2021 Contemporary Creative Residency was unanimously taken by the selection panel comprising Dr Stavros Paspalas, *AAIA Director*, Professor Vrasidas Karalis *Sir Nicholas Laurantus Professor of Modern Greek and Chair of Modern Greek Department University of Sydney* and Dr Andrew Hazewinkel, Athens-based artist, *AAIA Research Fellow and Honorary Artistic Director of the AAIA Contemporary Creative Program*.

## Grant to the AAIA from the Anthony Nicholas Aroney Trust

The AAIA was very grateful to recently receive a \$13,000 grant from the Anthony Nicholas Aroney Trust for the support of its Zagora Digital Horizons Project. The generosity of the Trustees allowed the program to continue as it helped to cover the costs of its co-director, Mr Thomas Romanis. Tom has been instrumental in co-ordinating and managing the activities of the more than 100 participating student volunteers, who represent six Australian universities. The project provides a valuable learning experience for the students in the processing of archaeological data, especially given that owing to the pandemic restrictions they

Red figure bell krater  
Campania, southern Italy, c. 340-320 BC  
The Nicholson Painter  
Nicholson Collection, Chau Chak Wing Museum, NM.46.1  
Photo used with permission.



## The AAIA thanks you for your support (July – October 2021)

### Major Benefactors

Estate of the Late Professor Alexander Cambitoglou  
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cannot travel to the Mediterranean or elsewhere to participate in fieldwork. Furthermore, the project is a valuable contribution to the ongoing publication project of the excavations of Zagora, a ninth- and eighth-century BC settlement on the island of Andros, as it advances the digitisation of many of its records. The Aroney Trust grant has directly enhanced the AAIA's educational program to the benefit of many students.

## Recent AAIA Interviews and Podcasts

In September, AAIA Director, Dr Stavros Paspalas, was interviewed by the *Greek Herald* about his passion for Greek archaeology, his relationship with founding Director Alexander Cambitoglou, and his vision for the future of the AAIA. He took the opportunity to inform the readers of the exciting new projects the Institute is preparing as well as announcing the very generous bequest the late Professor Alexander Cambitoglou left to the Institute. The article was published in Greek in the print addition, and an English version of the article is available on the *Greek Herald's* website.

The AAIA's own Dr Yvonne Inall was recently interviewed by Dr Craig Barker for the Chau Chak Wing Museum's *Object Matters* podcast. Yvonne and Craig focussed on a South Italian red figure bell krater by the Nicholson Painter, which depicts a departing warrior scene. Their wide-ranging discussion also engaged with the prominent role which AAIA founding director, Alexander Cambitoglou played in the study of red figured pottery and the development of both the Nicholson Collection and the Archaeology Department at the University of Sydney. The podcast is live and can be accessed via the Chau Chak Wing Museum's website.

Dr Inall was also interviewed by Indira Naidoo on ABC's *Nightlife* radio program on the 3rd of October as part of their "This Week in History Series". Yvonne spoke about one of her research passions, ancient warfare, taking an in-depth look at the Siege of Alesia, a defining moment in Caesar's conquest of Gaul. The interview is available as a podcast via the ABC *Nightlife* program website.



## The Alexander Cambitoglou Bequest



The late Professor Alexander Cambitoglou, founding Director of the AAIA, with Dr Stavros Paspalas, the current AAIA Director. Photo: Brett Myers.

Regular readers of this *Newsletter* and the AAIA's *Bulletin* will know well the gratitude which everybody in Australia interested in Greek studies, particularly those focussed on antiquity, owe to the late Professor Alexander Cambitoglou AO who died in November 2019. His life-long commitment to his field and its promotion are a matter of historical record. From his arrival in Australia in the early 1960's he taught for decades at the University of Sydney as well as holding the directorship of the (as it was then) Nicholson Museum. He saw great potential for classical archaeology in Sydney, and further afield in Australia, and dedicated himself to pursuing this goal nationwide. It was Alexander Cambitoglou who established the first Australian archaeological expedition to Greece and thereafter he continued to direct fieldwork there for over 30 years, thus introducing generations of Australian students to *in situ* archaeological research as well as establishing Australia as an equal partner in the international arena of classical archaeology.

Alexander Cambitoglou was also acutely aware of the need of bringing the results of academic research to the attention of the interested wider public. Soon after his arrival in Australia he began establishing contacts which allowed him 20 years later to found the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA). He was uniquely placed to do so, given his knowledge of the academic and administrative environment in Greece as well

as his appreciation of the needs and aspirations of Australians interested in Greek archaeology and wider studies, often set in their broader Mediterranean context. The establishment of the AAIA married two of his greatest passions: research into, and the teaching of, the ancient Greek past in all its various aspects as well as the dissemination of research. He lived to direct the AAIA for over 35 years, and for many of them he offered his knowledge and experience *gratis*, and his tenure at the helm saw many achievements.

The AAIA was not only the beneficiary of Alexander Cambitoglou's care and generosity while he was alive, for he made generous provision for the Institute in his will as well. On the conclusion of the necessary legal process Professor Cambitoglou's legacy amounts to over \$6,500,000, and these funds have now been made available to the AAIA. In accordance with his wishes, they will in the first instance be dedicated to the establishment of a position of Professor-Director. There is no doubt that this generous bequest sets the AAIA on a firm footing and will allow it to further develop its programmes: academic, educational and public outreach. Alexander Cambitoglou's bequest ensures in the most practical manner that the cultural ties between his two "home" countries, Australia and Greece, will continue to grow, while guaranteeing that our knowledge of the Greek world throughout the millennia will be increased according to the highest academic standards.

# ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM NEWS

## The Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship

The AAIA is very pleased to report that a long-term supporter, Nikolaos Galatis (Adelaide), has kindly met his pledge of establishing the Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship. Mr Galatis established the scholarship in recognition of the philanthropic work that his grandmother and her sister (Polymnia and Aimilia) conducted throughout their lives.

Australian students and Greek studies in our country are the beneficiaries of Mr Galatis' generosity, which reflects that of his grandmother and great aunt. The Scholarship provides financial assistance to Australian students enrolled in a Masters by research or doctoral degree at a university institutional member of the AAIA, and is specifically aimed at students researching a pre-1453 topic related to Greek studies. The Scholarship is designed to assist students who need to travel to Greece or an adjacent country to further their research.

The first award from the Scholarship has been made but Covid-19 restrictions required that the awardee's plans be adjusted. Once interational travel returns to a semblance of

Haralambos and Aimilia Karantzis. Photo courtesy of Nikolaos Galatis.



Konstantinos And Polymnia Moraitis. Photo courtesy of Nikolaos Galatis.

normality the Scholarship will be offered on a regular basis. The Polymnia and Aimilia Kallinikos Scholarship is a major contribution to the promotion and further establishment of Greek studies in Australia and we are most grateful to Nikolaos Galatis' generosity which honours its namesakes acknowledged in the photographs Mr Galatis has generously provided.

## AAIA Public Lecture Series Semester Two, 2021

Semester Two commenced as much of Australia was enduring a prolonged Covid-19 lockdown. Yet, despite the restrictions on in person events the AAIA produced a strong events schedule. Taking advantage of the globalised potential that comes with online events, we offered a mix of events hosted from Athens and Sydney, which strengthened ties with other organisations.

In September, Professor David W. Rupp (Brock University) virtually transported us to Cyprus, to explore "The House of Eustolios at Ancient Kourion, Cyprus: An elite "Mega Mansion" of the Late Roman Period". This incredible structure, with extensive mosaic floors, remains unpublished. Participants were given a detailed tour of the sprawling elite mansion, and offered some insights into the space where Eustolios, the wealthy Christian aristocrat, received clients and entertained his elite peers. This event was hosted by Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory in Athens, followed by vigorous discussion.

Also in September, Dr Stavros Paspalas delivered a lecture "The Monuments of the Athenian Acropolis in the first century of the Modern Greek State" co-hosted by St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church Mascot and the University of Sydney's Department of Modern Greek. Stavros offered fascinating insights into the modern evolution of the Acropolis as it was transformed from a garrison village to an archaeological park, stripping away the Early Christian and Ottoman legacies in pursuit of classical antiquity. Introduced by Professor Vrasidas Karalis and with closing comments from Father Athanasios Giatsios, the lecture attracted a truly global and inquisitive audience.

October brought fresh insights into the Early Iron Age site of Zagora on Andros, co-hosted by the Chau Chak Wing Museum.

Members of the Zagora Archaeological Project (ZAP), Dr Kristen Mann, Rudy Alagich, Dr Ivana Vetta and Beatrice McLoughlin each spoke about their respective specialist research. Dr Mann shed light on the settlement practices, Rudy Alagich shared his zooarchaeological analyses, Dr Vetta examined metalworking practices, and Beatrice McLoughlin offered a wide-ranging, and hunger-inducing exploration of the production and use of ceramics, bringing them to life as vessels for the storage, preparation and consumption of foodstuffs.

Dr Metaxia Tsiopoulou (National Archive of Monuments of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism) presented "Innovative Burial Practices in a Persistent Memory Landscape: House Tomb 2 in the Pre- and Protopalatial Cemetery of Petras-Kephala, Siteia, Crete" hosted from Athens, placing this important burial into the broader context of an ancestral landscape of the Protopalatial period. This burial, and the wider cemetery also illuminate the exchange networks, demonstrating the wealth and reach of the local community.

Stavros Paspalas was singularly honoured to be invited by the Friends of Antiquity, the University of Queensland, to deliver the inaugural Emeritus Professor R.D. Milns AM Memorial Lecture. Bob Milns, Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Queensland, was a great supporter of the AAIA and an irreplaceable figure in Greek studies in Australia. Stavros delivered his lecture. "Macedonia and the Achaemenid Empire beyond Alexander the Great" via Zoom in early November. A small token of gratitude, to remember a great friend of the AAIA.

We still have one event to come: on 23 November Xenia Charalambidou (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) will speak to us about the incredible Melting Pot Project with: "Ancient Greek migration and diaspora: what new pottery research tells us". For full details visit: <https://aaia.sydney.edu.au/events/>

## Digital Horizons Project Key Achievements in 2021

The Digital Horizons Project is now nearing its third year, and we are pleased to report several exciting milestones have been met. The project now has over 100 volunteers from six different Australian Universities (University of Sydney, Macquarie

One of the Digital Horizons Volunteers working on the Zagora archival data.



Zagora under excavation in 1971. Courtesy of the Zagora Archaeological Project archives.

University, University of Wollongong, Melbourne University, the Australian National University, and the University of New England). This significant expansion in our project's range is not the only achievement worth noting. As of October, over 23,000 archival regards relating to the AAIA excavations of Zagora, Andros, have been digitized, processed and stored within our database to aid in the publication of Zagora 3. This astonishing feat would not be possible without the incredible hard work of our volunteers, and the considerable effort that the AAIA staff have put into training and mentoring the teams.

The Digital Horizons Project has also begun hosting workshops for the volunteers, each tailored to developing archaeology and museum-based skills in a practical setting. Whilst COVID-19's lockdown of Sydney has caused a postponement of several workshops, we were able to conduct our Master Your CV workshop, led by Yvonne Inall, via Zoom. We would like to thank Dr. James Flexner and Dr. Craig Barker for offering their time to speak at the workshop, and for providing their invaluable insight to the participating volunteers. The DHP looks forward to hosting the rest of our planned workshop series now that the lockdown period in Sydney has come to an end.

The Digital Horizons Project has been nominated for the Award for Outstanding Work in Digital Archaeology, from the Archaeological Institute of America Awards. Regardless of the outcome, the DHP is extremely proud of our volunteers and the incredible work they have contributed to research in Classical archaeology. We are especially proud in the work that Kristen Mann has done in developing the DHP as a source of online and onsite vocational skills training for volunteers.

As the Digital Horizons Project prepares for the next stage of the Zagora research, we are excited by the prospect of working with other archaeological institutes and departments across Australia, as we work to expand the scope of the Digital Horizons Project to work with additional archival datasets. If you have an archive that you would like digitizing, or would like to develop an onsite and/or online volunteer program, please contact DHP Director Kristen Mann ([kman2025@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:kman2025@uni.sydney.edu.au)) and DHP Co-Director Thomas Romanis ([Thomas.romanis@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Thomas.romanis@sydney.edu.au)).

## An Update on Finds Stories: An Erasmus+ Program

The study of human migration and mobility in Southeast Europe through object biographies is the focus of an ambitious European Union-funded program undertaken in collaboration with five research institutions including the AAIA. The project aims to study the life cycles of objects that showcase inter- and intra- European mobility, especially those of transhumance groups in the Balkans as well as objects of the Greek Diaspora in Australia and the UK, and objects of modern migratory groups in Greece.



The annual movement of flocks from the uplands of Samarina in Grevena to the lowlands of the Thessalian plane. Photo courtesy of K. P. Trimmis.

The travel stories and the stimuli that these objects are creating for different groups of people will help assess the impact of mobility, either as long-term migration or seasonal movement, on shaping modern identities and leveraging societal change. Aside from studying objects from different regions, contexts, and social groups, the project also aims to adopt a diachronic approach that will reflect more than 7000 years of European history. The project is well underway with its research methodology currently being tested in the field in both Greece and Croatia, while modelling and analysis continues in the UK.

Finds Stories project researchers at the AAIA Hostel in Athens. Left to right: Konstantina Kalogirou, Konstantinos Trimmis, Christina Marini, Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, Ivan Drnić, Christianne Fernée, Eleftheria Theodorouidi.



The first physical meeting of the participating members took place at the AAIA Hostel in Athens between 27 and 29 August, 2021. The two-day event titled: *Finds Stories: Addressing Mobility through Object and People Biographies* began with a reception to welcome all the participants of the project. Presentations were delivered by each of the collaborating institutions and individual researchers. The meeting also featured a series of workshops, addressing different aspects of the project, including fieldwork research design and implementation. Participants in the meeting included: Dr. Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory (AAIA), Ms. Konstantina Kalogirou (Cardiff Metropolitan University), Dr. Konstantinos Trimmis (University of Bristol), Dr. Ivan Drnić (Archaeological Museum in Zagreb), Ms. Eleftheria Theodorouidi (The YMCA Basketball Museum-Thessalonike), Dr. Christina Marini (AAIA), Christianne Fernée (University of Bristol), Professor Katherine Robson Brown (University of Bristol via Zoom) and Konstanza Kapsalis (freelance filmmaker).

Data collection for the project has already begun with fieldwork underway in Samarina (near Grevena in West Macedonia, Greece) recording objects of the local transhumance population, in Croatia with excavations at Lastovo, and on Kythera recording objects of various diaspora communities on the island. The next meeting will take place in Bristol in November 2021, including further workshops focusing on analysis and interpretation of the collected data.

Ivan Drnić (Senior Curator at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb) presenting on the excavations in Lastovo.

