



I Shall Return to Hydra
© Nikos Aliagas

NIKOS ALIAGAS GREEK SOUL

MAY 27TH - SEPTEMBER 18TH

FROM MAY 28TH TO SEPTEMBER 18TH, PHOTO12 GALERIE PRESENTS GREEK SOUL, AN EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO THE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK OF NIKOS ALIAGAS

Nikos Aliagas is a French-Greek photographer whose parents fled Greece and emigrated to France in 1964 during the political turbulence that led to the Greek military junta of 1967-74. In a world that moves so fast, Aliagas photographs moments of significant perspective, movement, and detail that document human diaspora encountering its surroundings.

Alongside his career as an anchor for France's TF1, Aliagas has always pursued personal photographic work. The desire to share the prints comprising the exhibition came after their creation for his personal fulfillment. After his large format prints shown in a major exhibition at the former palace, French Revolution-era prison, and present Parisian national monument the Conciergerie for the exhibition Body and Soul, Aliagas is going further in presenting forty prints taken in his ancestral Greece. At once his Greece and eternal Greece, the photographer's images portray places full of emotion and people proud of their past, history, and country. In choosing to call the exhibition Greek Soul, Aliagas reveals the intimate and unspoken in each shot.

"THE MIRACLE,
NOT ELSEWHERE,
IS CIRCULATING
THROUGH THE HUMAN
VEIN"

GEORGES SÉFÉRIS

The Street Organ © Nikos
Aliagas





Time Lines © Nikos Aliagas

|| To photograph Greece, the country of my ancestors. But from what point of view? What reality? That of the islands, or the sea and sky shrouded in degraded shades of blue, white and fire? To immortalize eternal Greece, which still resists its end through its remains? Or to capture the Greece of today, mired by crisis and divided peoples?

Images abound and create many paradoxical perspectives. What compels me most in this seemingly contradictory country is precisely what is not said by photographic clichés, the soul of a people.

I photograph to capture the silences in the look of someone observing you, in the mysterious cabin of a fishing boat, and the chipped hands of its captain...the Greece of wanderings and voyages, where men and women still carry the names of past millennia and where the gods are still transformed into a beam of light as in the time that Heraclitus uttered, "the Sun is new every day." I love this country where the poets question the everyday more than they rhapsodize, like "the salt" so dear to Kazantzakis' life, "that prevents rot."



Paros
© Nikos Aliagas

The Greece that I love to photograph resists inexorably. She stands up to the chimeras who take one thing for another; the Cassandra who only see ancient stones where some consider each plot of the marble ages as a talisman of their DNA. The souls that I photograph are not afraid of the vanities and fears of the modern man. The souls that I meet ignore the ravages of time; they prefer to follow their "kairos" and keep only the essentials, like a daydream where black and white moves away from the colorful procession of sirens. "

NIKOS ALIAGAS

The majority of proceeds for this exhibition will go to the International Foundation for Greece