

*...August was bathing in the moonlight,
stars and jasmine flowers dripping from his beard*

Odysseas Elytis

Melodies of the Aegean. Sweet memories of saltiness. Flavours of a beautiful life.

With her exceptional artwork, Gefso Papadaki supports the Kallichoron Art Boutique Hotel in its effort to preserve the distinct Aegean melodies in the hearts of those who grew up with them, as well as those who dreamt of them when growing up -and their dreams are fulfilled each time they visit Astypalea.

Gefso inaugurates the hotel's decision to host works of art in its atmospheric spaces. Maria Mavroudi and Carolina Alkalai took the initiative to place Gefso's works in every single room of Kallichoron. They envisioned and created a place signalling superb hospitality -a place that is authentically Greek, yet it operates according to the highest international standards.

The exhibition "Aegean Melodies" presents works from various periods of Gefso's artistic journey -both in Greece and abroad. A common characteristic of all her works is iconography: inspired by the unique light and the emotional, good aura of the Aegean. With nostalgia, joy and anticipation, we cast a glance on a little boat in the Aegean; on a work depicting an island house door; and, further, on an imposing work depicting the city of Constantinople, resting on the Bosphorus yet sinking in Aegean sea as well.

Lyricism in iconography and musicality in her artistic narrative constitute the magic in Gefso's work. Often times her painting is driven by continuous narrative, at other times she uses her charisma to focus on a specific topic, such as a tree or a pomegranate, in a way that makes them look vibrant and unique in the eyes of the spectator. Gefso has a way to invite the spectator into her artwork. The calm vividness of her colours and the exploration of materials in her works are her most distinctive features. Yet, it is sensitivity and lyricism that constitute the essence of her work -her means of narrating her vision about human creativity and dialogue.

Have a wonderful stay in Astypalea!

Maria Migadi
Art Historian