

Mina Papatheodorou-Valyrakis is a prolific and exciting expressionist painter who we have come to know well at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. It is wonderful that her work is receiving such wide recognition through this important retrospective at Palazzo Vittoriano.

We at NMWA are honored to have a beautiful painting, *Still Life in Yellow*, 1996, in our contemporary collection, and Papatheodorou-Valyrakis is further represented in NMWA's Library and Research Center's Archives of Women Artists. She is one of the first Greek artists represented in our collections and adds a new dimension to our international reputation.

It is gratifying that Papatheodorou-Valyrakis's talent is now being fully recognized through this mid-career survey. Her art, which now spans three decades, shows a consistent vision dedicated to representing the rhythms and intensity of modern life. Whether she is painting cars, Olympian athletes, or the construction of 21st century cities, her subjects are vibrant, alive, forceful to the point of bursting from their canvases. Her art harkens back to the Italian futurists' love of speed, and she stands shoulder-to-shoulder with an august cadre of artists who depict the sporting life. Her newest views of cities look forward with hope to a glorious future.

Papatheodorou-Valyrakis's signature style uses bright color and strong line to their ultimate extension as she translates her subjects from reality to paint. Her bold vision shows that she has surpassed any traditional definition of a "lady painter" to move firmly into the realm of the dynamic modern artist. Her creative and inspired course has served her well, and we wish her many more years of accomplishment and success.

Carol Matthews Lascaris, President Emerita
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