



Elias Kafouros

Deeply Dramatic Art

Elias Kafouros is a distinctive storyteller. For more than two decades, he has created dense, meticulously detailed worlds in which painting and drawing meet cinema, comics, animation, popular culture, and the ceaseless flow of images in contemporary life. Beneath the visual excess of his work lies a profoundly human anxiety: our need to transform chaos into narrative and, through it, to construct a version of the world we can bear.

Kafouros (b. 1978, Athens) studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts and animation at the School of Visual Arts in New York. Over the course of a practice spanning two decades, he has developed an instantly recognisable visual language. In 2013, he received a Fulbright Scholarship, while his long-standing collaboration with Hermès has carried his distinctive graphic universe beyond the boundaries of contemporary art.

In **Deeply Dramatic Art**, Kafouros returns to the images he grew up with: comics and animation, heroic characters from cinema, and a visual universe that shaped, from an early age, his understanding of the relationship between fantasy and reality and the ways in which they function. These are images that never fully managed to conceal their construction — you could see the set, the mask, the special effect — yet this did not make them any less realistic, not in terms of the stories they told, but in relation to the viewer's own world. On the contrary, the illusion that transforms a film into lived experience required the active participation of the viewer's imagination.

The new works function in much the same way. Faces, objects, symbols, and fragments of stories are organised into compositions of almost cinematic intensity. Narrative is not merely the content of the work; it determines the very way in which the work is structured.

This logic also reveals the influence of the hand-painted film poster, in which different scenes and characters were condensed into a single image. The same principle reinforces the cinematic and theatrical character of the works, while their social and political dimension emerges through a world in which reality is continuously mediated by images, narratives, and roles.

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“For most of our lives, the mind operates like a film studio,” Kafouros says. “It is a narrator and then a projector. And it functions through oppositions. In the ceaseless narratives of the self that judges, justifies, reacts, and resists, we are sometimes the hero and sometimes the villain. Very rarely, however, are we not the protagonist.”

Kafouros insists that he does not paint from imagination. Rather, he seeks to reconstruct an illusion of reality, even when it is fragmented through the aesthetics of collage. His world is not a world of fantasy but, as he himself writes, “the imprint of the imaginary that emerges from the continuous disintegration and reconstruction of the real.”

Perhaps, in the end, what Kafouros does is both very simple and very difficult: he takes the relentless noise of images, memory, desire, and information and transforms it into a world in which we can stand and look. A world that is excessive, funny, dark, tender, and restless — just like our own.

For if the mind is indeed a narrator and projector, as he says, then perhaps reality is never only what happens. It is also everything we invent in order to make it livable. And that, ultimately, is a deeply dramatic art.

Download press materials here:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/1srx0t2lrr2v2m0uhd0na/AA5TgPvu1b_guJoSZxJXHI?rlkey=1agu7uocik9k3p92rc658e3gk&st=xs01onk3&dl=0

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— Exhibition info

Elias Kafouros: Deeply Dramatic Art
Solo show
Dio Horia Gallery
September 17 – November 7, 2026

— Upcoming at Dio Horia

Cammie Staros
Solo show | Residency show
Dio Horia Gallery
November 2026 – January 2027

Dio Horia Gallery

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Hours:
Tuesday – Wednesday – Friday:
11:00 – 19:00
Thursday: 12:00 – 21:00
Saturday: 12:00 – 18:00

— Upcoming

Petros Efsthadiadis participates in
*Technologies of Peace: Art and
Transition in Contemporary Europe
(1989–2026)* at the Irish Museum of
Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin, 12
September 2026 – 9 May 2027.

Art Athina 2026 — Dio Horia
participates in Art Athina, Athens,
November 2026.

NADA Miami 2026 — Dio Horia
participates in NADA Miami,
December 2026.

THANK YOU!