

Not just antiquities: Greece is becoming the ultimate vacation for the contemporary art lover



By **Anastasia Miari** Special to the Star
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Elsewhere, on the island of Mykonos, Greek gallery owner Marina Vranopoulou is also running art residencies. Dropped into the heart of the idiosyncratic old town, between iconic whitewashed walls and blue-shuttered windows, stands [Dio Horia](#). Inside, an ever-rotating exhibition explodes with colour from visiting artists, invited from all over the world to work and show in Mykonos.

“Most artists fall in love with Greece and the residency program and come back to spend more time here. What they seek in their time, research and artworks are to be close to the monuments, like the open-air island museum of Delos, and the rural life in Greece that remains simple and authentic,” says Vranopoulou, whose artists-in-residence have included David Shrigley and Erik Parker, along with Greek artists Polina Miliou and Spyros Aggelopoulos.



“There is a positive change of landscape in Greece. I see a lot of new art organizations popping up, with excellent programs, cultural spaces in various neighbourhoods, and artists from all over the world finding their peers and creative voices here,” says Vranopoulou. The island of Hydra also hosts a roster of international artists each summer, in a former slaughterhouse turned waterfront gallery run by the [Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art](#), which is set to present works by Jeff Koons in June 2022.

Once the artists move in, galleries follow. [Carwan](#), originally founded in Beirut in 2011, relocated to the port town of Piraeus, southwest of Athens’ city centre, last year. Just a stroll away from a ferry to the Greek islands, I can now dip into the contemporary design world.