



THE KYTHERA PHOTOGRAPHIC ENCOUNTERS

Now in its thirteenth year, the Kythera Photographic Encounters was held at the end of September 2014 in Kythera

The event, the brainchild of John Stathatos of the Kythera Cultural Association, has become an important date in the Greek photographic calendar, bringing together photographers, photographic historians, critics, curators and generally fans of photography to discuss and reflect on Greek photography, with an emphasis on encouraging young and upcoming photographers.



As we read in the October issue of *The Kytherian* this year the event was featured in the leading magazine *ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΟΣ* which noted that the conference focuses on the history of Greek photography. This year's celebrated photographer was **Mary Paraskeva** (1882-1951) who spent many years on her family's large estate at Baranovka in the Ukraine. She captured landscapes, domestic scenes, and images of life in this Greek mercantile colony on the Black Sea and the title of her exhibition is appropriately called "Before the Revolution: Crimea at the turn of the 20th Century".

left:

Other featured exhibitions included the Koksma Archival collection from the Dutch engineer and architect, J M Koksma, whose photos of daily life in Kythera in the 1960s are legendary.





But it is the league of young Greek photographers who stand to gain from the exposure they get at the Kythera Photographic Encounters.

One who caught the eye is **Nicki Panou**, a conceptual fine art photographer based in Thessaloniki. Going by the irreverently anglicised name Nicki Upstairs, this young photographer exhibited photos under the heading "A different kind of reality" which is perhaps apposite for Kythera at various literal and metaphorical levels



In the Tug of War (above) where she uses herself as a model, and a landscape infused with both symbolic and surrealistic elements, Nicki Upstairs has chosen to depict a scene that does not really exist, in an attempt to simulate a different reality. This is a theme she explores in some of the other photos which appear on the next page.



The door



Misidentified

Another young photographer is George Anastasakis with his Η όχθη του Αχέροντα (The shore of Acheron, a river in Epirus and an allegory for the river of pain in the underworld with its shadowy figures on the shoreline).





