

Curriculum Vitae

Name:	Dr Uros T. Todorovic
Date of Birth:	31. 05. 1977
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Dr Uros T. Todorovic (Ouresis Todorovich) is a contemporary artist and a theorist of art. His area of research includes Ancient art (of Greece, Mesopotamia and Persia), the art of Late Antiquity, Medieval art, Byzantine art, Renaissance art, Early Modern art, the aesthetics of 20th century Modern art, Contemporary art, Theology, as well as Philosophy. He was born in Jagodina, Serbia, and grew up in Belgrade where he began his studies in sculpture. He migrated to Australia at the age of twenty and completed his studies there, expanding his interests significantly. His doctoral research brought him to Greece in early 2007. In 2012 he successfully defended his doctoral thesis entitled *The Diachronic Character of Late Byzantine Painting: The Hermeneutics of Vision from Mistra to New York*. His professional experience covers the fields of painting, sculpture, teaching, conservation of cultural heritage and translation. His artworks have been exhibited at a number of significant exhibitions in USA, Australia, Greece and Serbia. There are two publications about his art: *Mystagogy* (in English and Greek) and *Byzantine Memories* (in Greek). To see some of Todorovich's artworks please visit his website at: www.ouresis.com

Relevant employment history:

Current position, since March 2018: Lecturer of painting at the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, School of Fine Arts, University of Western Macedonia in Greece. Responsibilities: Teaching painting in the context of Modern and Contemporary aesthetics. Also, teaching the history and aesthetics of Byzantine painting, the fresco technique, the egg tempera technique, as well as the context of these traditional techniques in both Byzantine iconography and contemporary art practice.

From 1997 to 2022: Independent researcher and professional artist (art theorist, painter, iconographer, sculptor).

Previous position: As a casual teacher, between 2005 and 2006 I was teaching Visual Arts and English as a foreign language at various High Schools of Sydney, Australia. I stopped teaching at High Schools in order to prepare for my doctoral research, for which I was granted a scholarship soon after (2006).

Qualifications:

1. (2012) **Doctor of Philosophy** (PhD), Department of Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies of the University of Sydney, Australia. The title of the thesis: *The Diachronic Character of Late Byzantine Painting: The Hermeneutics of Vision from Mistra to New York*. (Post-Doc 2013)
2. (2012) **Bachelor of Theology**, Department of Theology, School of Theology, University of Athens.
3. (2006) **Bachelor of Teaching** (Secondary Education), University of Sydney, Australia.
4. (2005) **Certificate in Heritage Conservation**, University of Sydney, Australia.
5. (2002) **Master of Fine Art** (Sculpture), College of Fine Art, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.
6. (2000) **Bachelor of Visual Arts** (Sculpture), Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney, Australia.
7. (1996) **Diploma in Design**, Belgrade Design School, Belgrade, Serbia.

Scholarships /Awards:

1. 2015/2016 - Scholarship awarded for the second doctoral research by *The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation*.
2. 2012/2013 - Scholarship awarded for postdoctoral research by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with *The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation*.
3. 2008 - Scholarship awarded for doctoral research by *The Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation*.
4. 2007 - Scholarship awarded for doctoral research by *Kostas and Eleni Ourani Foundation*.
5. 2006 - Scholarship awarded for doctoral research by the University of Sydney.

Academic Activity:

- Conference: *Byzantine and Medieval Monuments*. Presentation of a study entitled *Abstraction and Classicism in Byzantine Art*. Athens War Museum, 16.02.2019.
- 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Belgrade 22-27 August 2016. Presentation of a study entitled: *Analogies between the Transition from the Ancient Performative Image*

to the Byzantine Liturgical Image and Evolving Contemporary Concepts of Digital Imagery. This study was presented within the Thematic Sessions of Free Communications, entitled: Theatre and Liturgy: Performance and Ritual in Christian Worship.

- Workshop at Oxford University. Presentation of a study entitled *The Sacred in Art as a Diachronic Experience: From Prehistoric Cave Painting to 'Byzantine' Mark Rothko.* This study was presented at the workshop entitled *Sacred and Secular in Life and Art*, which took place at Oxford University and was dedicated to the memory of Philip Sherrard. Also, within the program of this workshop artists who spoke about their work included: Aidan Hart, Markos Kampanis, Lillian Delevoryas, Ouresis Todorovich and Noel White (14-17 July 2016).
- International Conference at the European Cultural Centre of Delphi: *Ontology and History.* 29 – 31 May 2015. Paper presentation entitled: *The Orthodox Icon and the Dialectics Between Ontology and History.*
- International conference: *Body and Spirit: the dynamics of an antithesis,* Onassis Cultural Center, Athens, 15.11.2013. Presentation of a study entitled: *Transcendental Byzantine Body: Reading Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite, Gregory of Nyssa and Plotinus in the Unfolded Marble Panels of Hagia Sophia.*
- Conference: *Plato Academy – Development of Knowledge and Innovative Ideas.* Plato Academy – Paths to Knowledge, Kostis Palamas Building, Athens, 07.10.2013. Paper presentation entitled: *From Late Byzantine Painting to Modernism.*
- Conference: *Byzantium: The Orthodox state or multireligious politics?* University of Patra, 19.06.2009. Paper presentation entitled: *The Classical Origin of the Mosaic in the Conch of the Apse of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.*

Publications and brief topic descriptions:

- *Transcendental Byzantine Body: Reading Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite, Gregory of Nyssa and Plotinus in the Unfolded Marble Panels of Hagia Sophia*

This study was published in 2015 by Sebastian Press (Alhambra, California) within a Volume entitled *The Ways of Byzantine Philosophy.* The same study was also published in the E-Journal / The Athens Dialogues.

Brief description of the topic: The study attempts to contribute to the understanding of the often elusive theological influences in the Byzantine art of the Pre-Iconoclast period. It focuses on the unfolded marble panels inside the interior of Hagia Sophia of Constantinople and particularly on the way in which their selection and the conception of their installation may have been influenced by the mystical teachings of Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite and possibly by those of Gregory of Nyssa. The likelihood of other, philosophical influences is also considered, such as the teachings of Plotinus.

- *From Athena to Theotokos: The Classical Origin of the Mosaic in the Conch of the Apse of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople*

Brief description of the topic: In this study I demonstrated that due to the influences from examples of Ancient Greek classical sculpture and their Roman copies, the 9th century mosaic rendering of the Virgin in the conch of the apse of Hagia Sophia marks the historical beginning of a new cultural as well as spiritual orientation in Byzantium. The study was written and published in Greek but I have translated it to English and can provide the translation on request. Published in Greek by *The Great Orthodox Christian Encyclopedia*. Volume 12. Publishing house: Stratigikes Ekdoseis 2015.

- *The Art of Mistra: Church Architecture and Sculptural Decoration*

Brief description of the topic: The text is a comprehensive overview of Church architecture and sculptural decoration at the Byzantine centre of Mistra. Published in Greek by *The Great Orthodox Christian Encyclopedia*. Volume 11. Publishing house: Stratigikes Ekdoseis 2014.

- *The Frescoes of Mistra*

Brief description of the topic: The text is a comprehensive overview of the frescoes at the Byzantine centre of Mistra, including comprehensive aesthetic analyses of each period of the fresco decoration. Published in Greek by *The Great Orthodox Christian Encyclopedia*. Volume 11. Publishing house: Stratigikes Ekdoseis 2014.

- *The Diachronic Significance of the Painting at Mistra*

Brief description of the topic: The text addresses the topic of the diachronic significance of the frescoes at the Byzantine centre of Mistra. Published in Greek by *The Great Orthodox Christian Encyclopedia*. Volume 11. Publishing house: Stratigikes Ekdoseis 2014.

- *Meteora: History and Art*

Brief description of the topic: The text is a comprehensive overview of Byzantine art at Meteora. Published in Greek by *The Great Orthodox Christian Encyclopedia*. Volume 11. Publishing house: Stratigikes Ekdoseis 2014.

- *'Manuel Panselinos' and the Palaiologan Painting*

Brief description of the topic: This text extensively discusses Byzantine painting of the Palaiologan period and the work of a painter known to us as 'Manuel Panselinos'. Published in Greek by *The Great Orthodox Christian Encyclopedia*. Volume 12. Publishing house: Stratigikes Ekdoseis 2015.

- *Byzantine Painting through Contemporary Eyes*

Brief description of the topic: This is a book which is partly based on my PhD and which is currently being prepared for publication. I note that I have received excellent reports from the examiners of my PhD thesis. The title of my PhD thesis (2012) is: *The Diachronic Character of Late Byzantine Painting: The Hermeneutics of Vision from Mistra to New York*. The first part of the thesis examines the aesthetics of Late Byzantine painting, while the second part examines the influence of the aesthetics of Late Byzantine painting on the 20th century abstract painting, therein focusing on the work of Vasily Kandinsky, Kazimir Malevich and Mark Rothko. NOTE: I have also completed an extensive study on Byzantine influences in Greek Modernism, which is yet to be published.

Memberships:

Modern Greek Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand, Sydney Society of Literature and Aesthetics, National Association of Visual Artists of Australia, The Chamber of Fine Arts of Greece, Association of Fine Artists of Serbia

Languages:

English (University level), Greek (University level, Certificate of Proficiency), Serbian (Mother tongue), Russian (Good), Persian (Basic).

Significant Exhibitions:

1. (2021) Participation in a selective international exhibition which features the work of 15 contemporary iconographers, at the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Massachusetts, USA. The title of the exhibition is: *Icons for Our Time: Orthodox Art from around the World*. (The exhibition opened in October 2021).

Virtual tour of the exhibition: <https://ortelia.com/Downloads/Icons%20for%20Our%20Time/>

2. (2019) Collective exhibition entitled *33rd October Salon* at the Cultural Centre of Kovin in Serbia.

3. (2019) Collective exhibition entitled *III Art Encounters in House of King Peter I* at the Cultural Center “House of King Peter I” in Belgrade (from October 28th to November 9th 2019)

4. (2018) Collective exhibition of the artists’ society ‘Quay’ in Belgrade.

5. (2009) Solo exhibition of drawing and painting entitled *Mystagogy*, The City of Athens Cultural Centre.

6. (2004) *Sculpture in the Vines* (collective exhibition), Hunter Valley Harvest Festival, New South Wales, Australia.

7. (2003) *Sculpture in the Vines* (collective exhibition), Hunter Valley Harvest Festival, New South Wales, Australia.

8. (2002) *Sculpture in the City* (collective exhibition), Martin Place, Sydney, Australia.

9. (2002) Solo Exhibition entitled *The Movement of the Body in a Stationary Object*, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, Australia.

Video links:

- Video interview about the work 'The Scourging of Truth':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwGKdqTAS6E&feature=youtu.be>
- Video interview about the work 'Cosmic Christ / Suffering Logos':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR9ICCMY-PM&t=4s>
- Presentation entitled 'Divine Eros as Artistic Experience':
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=WreqX6TS3EQ
- Video link for a paper presentation entitled *Transcendental Byzantine Body: Reading Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite, Gregory of Nyssa and Plotinus in the Unfolded Marble Panels of Hagia Sophia*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTGGdxReTLM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2NbDg6l8WBx4mzHRV4iwJtWqmAbLnGBJPAH-Ukfuep9IVVhio5fQOpdRc>
- Video interviews (Pemptousia):
<https://www.ouresis.com/web//site/video.html>