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Transcending Boundaries: The Art of Anthony Quinn

Exhibition of Anthony Quinn's paintings and sculptures opens June 19

CHICAGO, IL - The National Hellenic Museum opens the first major exhibition in Chicago of the art of legendary actor, painter and sculptor, Anthony Quinn since 1948, when the actor portrayed Stanley Kowalski in Elia Kazan's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Harris Theatre.

"Transcending Boundaries: The Art of Anthony Quinn" pays tribute to one of the 20th century's greatest actors, who also brought to life Zorba the Greek, one of the greatest and most life-affirming literary characters of our time.

More than 80 of Anthony Quinn's emotive paintings and powerful sculptures will be on exhibit, showcasing the depth and breadth of his creative genius, traces of his Mexican Indian heritage, and his experiences with various cultures around the world.

This exhibition also sheds light on Anthony Quinn's film career and his longstanding friendship with Greece, the personal and professional challenges he faced as an immigrant and Mexican American, how his drive, determination and talents led him to become an internationally acclaimed actor and artist, beloved around the world.

"Working on this exhibition has been like peering into Anthony Quinn's soul; seeing a man who struggled for both his life and his art; both with himself and against difficulties and tragedies. says Connie Mourtopalas, the Museum's President of Cultural Affairs and the exhibition's curator. "This is why he was so brilliant in his portrayal of Zorba. They were very similar; even in

their tragedies, both losing a son. In fact, Quinn credits Zorba with helping him mourn and deal with his son's death. They were both proud and passionate men, who even in the face of tragedy and loss did not give up on life."

Katherine Quinn says her husband considered himself an "artist of the world" and his work encompasses a lifetime of influences, from his early upbringing in Los Angeles to his travels through Europe and the Middle East.

"Anthony Quinn was a self-taught individual, born in Mexico raised in East L.A. in a very discriminatory situation and transcended his humble beginnings to really influence and make an impact on the world of the arts," says Katherine, who heads the foundation that bears her husband's name. "He was dedicated to making, collecting and being an artist every single day of his life."

"People fascinated him," says Katherine. "He did some nature, some landscape, but it was really the human body, the human face."

"I am excited and privileged to be able to assist in showcasing a selection of Anthony Quinn's works," says John S. Koudounis, Museum Board of Trustees member and sponsor of the exhibition. "He is a true Renaissance man, his amazing talents in writing, painting, sculpting and, of course, acting is rarely found in any one person."

"As a Greek American, I am grateful to Anthony Quinn for his love of the Greek people and for bringing our heritage, our literature, and our stories to the attention of the world."

The exhibition, which will run through October 2015, is produced in collaboration with Katherine Quinn, the Anthony Quinn Foundation, and the Anthony Quinn Trust. It is sponsored, in part, by John S. Koudounis & Family.

An opening reception, which will feature honored guests Katherine Quinn and family and recognize the local recipients of The Anthony Quinn Foundation Scholarship in attendance, will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on June 18 at the National Hellenic Museum, 333 S. Halsted St. Tickets are \$50 and the proceeds from the reception will benefit The Anthony Quinn Foundation.

For more information, or to make reservations for the opening reception, call 312-655-1234 or go to <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org>.

Photo 1:

Anthony Quinn carving the trunk of an olive tree in Crete during the filming of *Zorba the Greek*.



Photo 2:
Anthony Quinn painting in Crete while filming *Zorba the Greek*.



Photo 3:

Anthony Quinn in his studio in France working on one of his “Monumental” wood sculptures.



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Located in Chicago’s Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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