

# NONDA

(EPAMINONDAS PAPADOPOULOS)

**1922** Born in Athens, Greece.

**1937** Ionian School student of the Kavalieratou sisters. Later studies painting and drawing under Spiros Vikatos.

**1947-1951** Scholarship from French government to the *École des Beaux-Arts*, Paris, Atelier Narbonne and Le Magny. He begins painting with blood of spleen and charcoal in the markets of Les Halles in Paris.



**1951** Greek artist and engraver Dimitris Galanis befriends NONDA in Paris.

Galanis introduces NONDA to figures such as: André Malraux, Nikos Kazantzakis, Picasso, and others. Galanis writes of NONDA's early works: "...the paintings show a true talent and express a grand artistic temperament."

**1952** Exhibition Galerie Parnasse. First one man show in Athens, Greece. Dedicated to *La Parisienne*. Erotic paintings of nude women spark national scandal. Thousands stand in line to see the infamous nudes. Exhibition is closed by the police and reopens when NONDA pins fig leaves over the offending parts. Spiros Vikatos and writer Stratis Mirivilis publicly support NONDA against the outraged establishment.



**1953** Exhibition Galerie Zachariou: *Les Femmes Chapautées*, Athens, Greece. Private American collector, Mrs. Mayo Johnson, buys thirty paintings.

**1953-1975** Yearly exhibitions in the Salons of Paris at the Grand Palais, alongside Braque, Chagall,

Miro, Leger, Picasso and others. Salon d'Hiver, Salon d'Automne, Salon des Artistes Français, Salon des Surindépendants, Salon des Indépendants

**1954** Gains support and admiration of French poet and novelist Francis Carco, member of the Académie Goncourt as well as

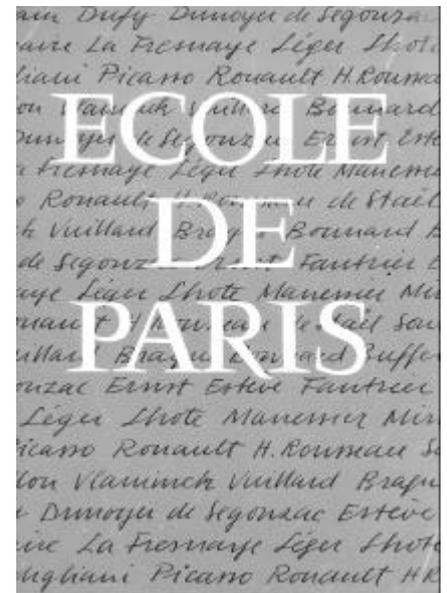
that of the esteemed French art critic Jean-Paul Crespelle. Francis Carco wrote of NONDA: *"The ardor, the force contained in this young Greek painter signals a rare temperament..."*

**1955** J.-P. Crespelle wrote of NONDA: *"A very personal style makes this young artist one of the most interesting painters to emerge in many years."*

**1956** Galerie Allard First one-man exhibition in Paris. France-Soir newspaper reviews: &son of an Athenian tailor reveals himself as one of the hopes for contemporary art. Signs contract with Galerie Charpentier Paris, France. Annually, and for the next ten years, the Galerie Charpentier sends works by NONDA to group exhibitions and museums world-wide.

NONDA invited into the *École de Paris*.

The *École de Paris* began in 1920 in Montparnasse and grew to include the masters of 20th century art in Paris. It encompassed an outstanding group of artists who represented the new forces in contemporary art. The greatest artistic talents were invited to become honored members of this historic association of painters and sculptors in Paris. The *École de Paris* includes four Greek artists: Galanis, Prassinis, Tsingos and NONDA.



Art historian Raymond Nacenta wrote: *"The École de Paris is, above all, a center of passion; a climate, more or less feverish or exalted, of investigations, inspirations, suggestions and exchanges of ideas; a center of ardour and emulation."*

Journalist Georges Limbour wrote: *"The link which unifies all the painters in this École de Paris is the atmosphere in Paris, a high level of esprit, favorable to artistic creation"*

**1957-1959** NONDA moves into his atelier at 18, rue

Moncey where he will work for the next four decades.

**1960** With the personal support of French Minister of Culture, André Malraux, NONDA receives permission to exhibit his work under the arches of the Pont Neuf, the oldest bridge in Paris, thereby reviving a tradition of public, outdoor exhibitions in Europe, which had lain dormant since the



shows of Boucher and Chardin in the 18th century. This marks a turning point for public art in modern Europe. All four Pont Neuf exhibitions are sponsored by the city of Paris.

**1960** Pont Neuf exhibition in tribute to poet François Villon. Runs day and night without interruption. Enormous canvases and sculptures dominate the arches of the historic bridge.

**1961** Pont Neuf exhibition: *Les Idoles*.

**1962** Pont Neuf exhibition.

**1963** Pont Neuf exhibition, "The Trojan Horse", creates international sensation. Large scale canvases, sculptures, wooden furniture and "objets d'art" are displayed around



the centerpiece a giant horse built of steel, wood and newspapers in which the artist lived during the exhibition. Thousands of visitors as well as leading figures in the world of art and politics are captivated by his approach. Newspapers and art critics around the world report on the exhibition.

Exhibition at Center for Cultural Collaboration, Athens, Greece.

**1964** Group exhibition Musée d'Art Moderne Munich, Germany. Exhibition Neue München Gallery, Munich, Germany

**1965** Exhibition Galerie de Rennes, France.

**1966-1973** Series of "spleen" paintings using blood from cow spleen.

**1968** Six month stay in New York City marks beginning of a series of colorful acrylics.

**1969-1970** Production of a series of high texture pieces in plaster.

**1971** Exhibition Pont du Carrousel Paris, France.

**1972-1973** Production of six large abstract wood sculptures, Athens, Greece.



**1974-1985** A period of secluded, intense production with focus on a series of massive cement sculptures. Almost all works took on a sculptural influence: sketches, engravings, portraits, paintings with plaster, paintings on rice paper.

**1986** Exhibition Galerie Epipeda Athens, Greece. Works on rice paper and charcoal drawings. Eight monumental cement sculptures and five in plaster and wire are exhibited in the Dexameni Square in Kolonaki across from the gallery.



**1987-1988** Series of fish paintings produced. Six of the eight cement sculptures disappear and remain unrecovered.

**1989** Nonda suffers a severe heart attack and requires extensive surgery. Early signs of Alzheimers disease hinder usual productivity.

**1990-1996** Small series of abstract paintings produced as well as several new engravings.

**1997** Nondas Paris studio at 18, rue Moncey is sold. Remaining artwork shipped from Paris studio to Athens, Greece.

**1998** Last painting Nonda produces is completed in Athens, Greece.



**2002-2003** Public and private celebrations mark his 80th year.