



*DOMENICO  
THEOTOKOPOULOS*

One of the greatest renaissance artists

ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑ ΑΓΓΛΙΚΩΝ Β' ΤΕΤΡΑΜΗΝΟΥ  
ΖΟΥΠΑΝΙΩΤΗ ΜΑΡΙΑ Β' 1

Domenikos Theotokopoulos most widely known as El Greco ("The Greek"), was a Greek painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance. "El Greco" was a nickname, and the artist normally signed his paintings with his full birth name in Greek letters, Δομήνικος Θεοτοκόπουλος often adding the word Κρής, which means Cretan.



Self-portrait of Domenikos Theotokopoulos

Domenikos Theotokopoulos was born in 1541 in Chandia (present-day Heraklion) in Venetian-occupied Crete, to wealthy parents. He stayed there until he was twenty years old, learning his first letters from the monks of Agios Panteleimon. He continued his studies at the famous school next to the monasteries of St. Catherine and he probably worked a little with Michael Damaskinos, the head of the Cretan School of Hagiography.

In 1567 he traveled to Italy and specifically to Venice, where he remained for three years and studied in the workshops of the painters Basano, Titian and Tintorendo, while he painted paintings, such as "The Persecution of Merchants from the Temple"



The Persecution of Merchants  
from the Temple



In 1570 he left Venice and went to work in Rome. In the Eternal City he expanded his contacts and he gained such confidence in his art that he argued that if the murals of the "Sistine Chapel" painted by Michael Angelos were destroyed, he could do better. This remark was then considered as a blasphemy and he hastened his decision to leave Rome. Then he settled first in Madrid (1576) and the following year in Toledo



View the plan of Toledo



The church of Agios  
Domenikos

In this Spanish city his artistic production reached its peak. He decorated the church of St. Dominic, the palace of the Escorial and the metropolis of Toledo with paintings. His great paintings are "The Ascension of the Virgin", "The Holy Trinity", "The Resurrection of the Savior", "The Martyrdom of Christ", "Espolio" (scene from the passions of Christ), "The Laocoon" and "The Pentecost".



The Palace of the Escorial





The Metropolis of Toledo



The Ascension of the Virgin





The Laocöon



The Pentecost

1578 is an important year in Greco's life. He will have his first and only child, Jorge Manuel, from his relationship with Dona Cheronima de las Cuevas, with whom he will live the rest of his life, but he will not marry her. Scholars of his work believe that Donna Cheronima is depicted in the portrait "The Lady with the Ermine".



Portrait of his son



The Lady with the Ermine



Domenikos Theotokopoulos died on April 7, 1614, at the age of 73 and he was buried in the church of Agios Domenikos in Toledo.

For many years his name remained in obscurity and his paintings in churches and palaces of Italy and Spain were considered works of some madman. From the beginning of the 20th century, his work began to be recognized and today he is considered one of the leading visual artists of all time, who influenced painters of modern art, such as Pablo Picasso.

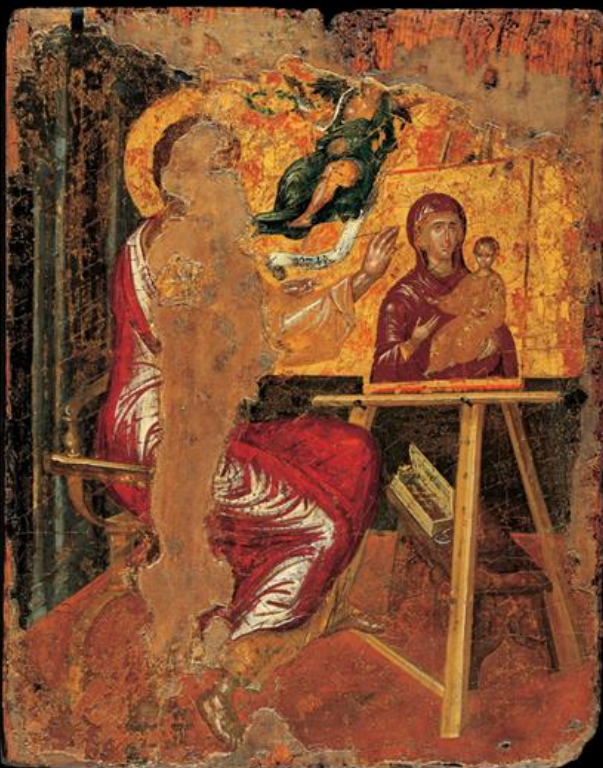


El Greco Museum in Toledo

El Greco paintings adorn the major museums and private collections, and the value of some of them is indescribable. In our country there are six works by Domenikos Theotokopoulos: "Saint Luke paints the Virgin" and "The Worship of the Magicians" (Benaki Museum), "The Coronation of the Virgin" and "The Concert of the Angels" (National Gallery), "Baptism of Christ" And "View of Mount Sinai Monastery" (Historical Museum of Crete).



The Baptism of Christ



Saint Luke paints the Virgin Mary





The worship of magicians



The Coronation of the Virgin



The concert of angels





View of Mount Sinai and Monastery



Saint Martin and the beggar



Christ carries the Cross





Child blows the candle flame

Know the Artist:



*GRECO*



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*THE END*