THEMIS VELENI

PhD in Art History | Cultural Management Specialist, Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia, Hellenic Ministry of Culture

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

An art historian and cultural management professional with extensive teaching and research experience at universities in Greece, Spain, and the United States. Her scholarly work focuses on interartistic studies, with particular emphasis on the relationships between the visual arts and music, digitality and the arts, cultural management, and visual culture. Her research interests also include synaesthesia and the multisensory perception of art, particularly their applications in art and museum education; the use of digital technologies in artistic creation, museum education, and museum practice; and the relationships between art and cultural identity.

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- **2012 — PhD in Art History**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (unanimously awarded with highest distinction). Doctoral dissertation: *Visual Arts and Music (Late 19th–20th Centuries): Synaesthetic Experiments and Multisensory Applications. From Synaesthesia to Multisensory Synergy*. Scholarship from the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY); Award of Excellence from the Research Committee of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- **2019 — Master's Degree in Management of Cultural Units**, Hellenic Open University (8.8/10).
- **2006 — Master's Degree in Art History**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (with distinction; IKY scholarship). Research focus: music and painting in the Russian Avant-Garde, with particular emphasis on Mikhail Matiushin.
- **2003 — Bachelor's Degree in History, Archaeology and Art History**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (8.85/10).
- **2006 — Diploma in Piano**, State Conservatory of Thessaloniki (unanimously awarded with highest distinction).

POSTDOCTORAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

- **2019–2022 — Postdoctoral Research**, Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (IKY fellowship): the myth of the Abduction of Europa and the construction of the European Union's cultural identity through visual representations and exhibitions.
- **2013–2015 — Scientific Residency**, Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, USA: theoretical development and implementation of an interactive multimedia method for teaching Art History in school and museum settings.

MAJOR ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

Scholarships awarded by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) for postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral studies; Award of Excellence from the Research Committee of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; scholarship from the Enyalio Bequest for the publication of her doctoral dissertation; Second Prize for a scientific poster presentation at *Balkan Museum Without Barriers #2* (2018).

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

International Hellenic University (IHU)

2017–2026 — Postgraduate teaching, primarily with independent course responsibility, in English within the MA in Art Law and Arts Management, including an appointment as Academic Fellow for the academic year 2025–2026. Selected courses:

Arts Management · Arts Management Applications · Digitality and the Arts · Marketing for Cultural Organisations

2021–2022 — Independent teaching of *History of Art and Architecture III–IV* (Modern and Contemporary Art), Department of Interior Architecture, International Hellenic University.

Hellenic Open University

2016–2025 — Independent teaching of the year-long undergraduate module *History of the Arts in Europe* within the European Culture programme.

University of Granada, Spain — Faculty of Fine Arts

2012–2026 — Repeated invitations to deliver postgraduate teaching in English in Fine Arts and Art Education programmes, focusing on *Visual Arts and Music: History–Theory–Practice*.

2012–2019 — Design and delivery of experiential workshops entitled *Drawing Music: Incomplete Map of Sound Memories*.

Stevens Institute of Technology, USA — College of Arts & Letters

2013–2015 — Visiting Assistant Professor. Independent teaching of eleven semester-long courses in English, covering Art History, Modern and Contemporary Art, Visual Arts and Music, Media Culture and Theory, Introduction to Art and Technology, and History of Design.

Other Educational Institutions (Selected)

2022–2026 — Annual Art History course, Drama School of the National Theatre of Northern Greece.

2017–2018 — *Aesthetic Dimensions of Contemporary Art and Digital Media*, Faculty of Fine Arts, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

2010–2011 — Art History and Landscape Music, Technological Educational Institute of Kavala.

2018–2022 — Seminars at the University of the Aegean on interartistic studies, digital art, aesthetics and museum education.

SUPERVISION OF MASTER'S DISSERTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION IN DOCTORAL COMMITTEES

2017–2026 — Supervision and co-supervision of forty-eight (48) Master's dissertations (43 as supervisor and 5 as co-supervisor) within the MA in Art Law and Arts Management at the International Hellenic University. Research topics include contemporary digital art, new media and their aesthetic and theoretical approaches, cultural management, contemporary museums, the art market and cultural heritage.

2012–2021 — Membership of eight (8) doctoral dissertation examination committees at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Granada, Spain. Additionally, in 2014, she served as a member of the three-member doctoral dissertation advisory committee for Marta Madrid Manrique's doctoral thesis, under the principal supervision of Professor Ricardo Marín Viadel.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Her research is situated within the fields of Art History and Theory, interartistic studies, with particular emphasis on the relationships between the visual arts and music, synaesthesia and the multisensory perception of art. She also investigates their applications in art and museum education, contemporary digital art and emerging forms of artistic creation, as well as the relationships between art, cultural identity and cultural heritage.

Selected Research and Educational Projects

- **2023–2024 | Colour on Canvas.** Scientific advisor to an accessible Art History programme for blind participants, developed by the National Federation of the Blind of Greece in collaboration with Off Stream, under the auspices and with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture.
- **2017–2019 | Artistic Research and Arts-based Research in Visual Arts, Art Education and Social Activism.** Researcher in a project conducted at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Granada.
- **2009–2012 | SQF Humart – Tuning Educational Structures in Europe.** Coordinator of the participation of the Art History Section of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in a European programme focusing on qualifications frameworks and education in the Humanities and the Arts.
- **2008–2010 | Four Corners (MEDIA).** Coordinator of Greek participation in a European educational programme for students of film schools and universities.
- **2005–2007 | Research Documentation and Digitisation of Cultural Collections.** Participation in the *Information Society* programme of the Teloglion Fine Arts Foundation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and in the research project *Greek Musical Instruments: Investigations through Visual and Literary Sources (2000 BC–AD 2000)* of the Music Iconography Archive, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and PANEL DISCUSSIONS

She has presented scholarly papers at twenty-five conferences and symposia in Greece and abroad. Her presentations address issues in Art History and Theory, interartistic studies, synaesthesia and multisensory perception, digital art, visual culture and museum education, reflecting the interdisciplinary character of her research.

- **2026 —**“ Art and Inclusion: The Case of the Colour on Canvas Programme. A Multisensory Approach to Art History”. Symposium *Inclusion in Museums and Art*, University of Macedonia, 20 March (co-authored presentation).

- **2024 —**“ Interartistic Approaches in Art and Education: Theoretical Foundations, Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Pedagogical Applications: The Case of the University of Granada’s Postgraduate Programme”. Symposium *Music and the Other Arts and Sciences*, Hellenic Centre for Art and Culture, Athens, 29 September.

- **2024 —** Participant in the roundtable discussion “Cultural Management and Tourism”, as part of the symposium *From the Palace of Aigai to the Parthenon: Monuments, Museums and Sustainability*, organised by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia, December.

- **2023 —**“ From Pygmalion, the Mythical Creator, to Ai-DA, the Robot Artist: Revisiting Human Representation in Visual Arts and New Media Art”. *13th Beyond Humanism Conference*, July.

- **2022 —**“ Europa and the European Union: Unveiling Their Intertextual Relationship through Its Visual Manifestation in Posters, Paintings and Other Media: (Re)Reading the Stars and Other Symbols”. *15th World Congress of Semiotics*, August–September.

- **2021 —**“ The ‘In-between Space ’in the Europa and the Bull Myth through Its Visual Representation: Constructing Cultural Narratives Within and Throughout Europe”. *Association for Art History Annual Conference*, 14–17 April, online conference hosted by the University of Birmingham. Session: *Challenging Legacies in Postcolonial and Postsocialist Notions of Place*.

- **2012 —**“ Virtual Reality and Multisensory Stimulation: A Joint Method of Teaching Art History”. *InSEA 2012 International Conference: Arts and Education*, Cyprus, 25–27 July (co-authored with Orestis Kourakis).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL, CURATORIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Alongside her academic and research work, she has extensive professional experience in the cultural sector, encompassing cultural management, exhibition curating, museum practice, and the design of educational and cultural activities. She has curated more than twenty exhibitions and collaborated with museums, cultural organisations and institutions in Greece and abroad, combining scholarly research with applied cultural management.

Selected Professional Appointments

2024–present | Ephorate of Antiquities of Imathia, Hellenic Ministry of Culture. Permanent civil servant in the Cultural Management sector.

2023–present | Cultural Centre of the Region of Central Macedonia. Member of the Board of Directors.

2015–2019 | Teloglion Fine Arts Foundation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Art historian and exhibition curator, involved in the organisation and scholarly support of exhibitions and cultural events.

2006–2012 | Thessaloniki International Film Festival and Thessaloniki Documentary Festival. Professional experience in educational programmes, cultural communication and public relations. Coordinator of Greek participation in the European educational programme *Four Corners*, supported by the MEDIA programme.

Selected Curated Exhibitions

- *Findings of Everyday Life: A Contemporary Cabinet of Curiosities*, Byzantine Museum of Veroia (2026).
- *Tangible Women*, Stefanos Daskalakis – Giorgos Rorris, Polycentric Museum of Aigai (2025).
- *Our People*, Byzantine Museum of Veroia (2024).
- *Delacroix Stages the Greek Revolution of 1821*, Teloglion Fine Arts Foundation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2016–2017).
- *Mediterranean Palimpsests*, 4th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art (2013).
- *Las Incantadas*, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki (2012–2013).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Her scholarly and writing output comprises more than forty publications and edited scholarly works, including monographs, articles in peer-reviewed journals, chapters in edited volumes, conference proceedings and contributions to exhibition catalogues.

Selected publications are listed below.

Monographs and Books

- Veleni, T. (2018). *Topics in Cultural Management* [in Greek]. Thessaloniki: Vanias. ISBN 978-960-288-361-7.
- Veleni, T. (2017). *Giorgos Gounaropoulos: ADDENDA* [in Greek]. Thessaloniki. ISBN 978-618-5239-08-4.
- Veleni, T. (2014). *Visual Arts and Music (19th–20th Centuries): From Synaesthesia to Multisensory Synergy* [in Greek]. Thessaloniki: Enyalio Bequest. ISBN 978-960-93-5870-5.

Articles in International Scholarly Journals

- Veleni, T. (2024). “Exploring Intermediality in Art History and its Application in the Educational Sector”. *Syn-thèses*, 15. https://doi.org/10.26262/st.v0i15.10112
- Veleni, T. (2022). “The ‘In-between ’Element of the Europa and the Bull Myth: Responses by Contemporary Greek Artists (2002–2018) to the Myth’s Politicisation by the EU”. *Image & Text*, 36. https://doi.org/10.17159/2617-3255/2022/n36a18

Contributions to Edited Volumes, Exhibition Catalogues and Conference Proceedings

- Veleni, T. (2022). “Europe personified”. In P. Christodoulou & A. Mitchell (Eds.), *When Walls Talk! Posters: Promotion, Propaganda and Protest*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, p. 61. [Exhibition catalogue, House of European History, Brussels].

- Veleni, T. (2020). “Visual Arts and Music: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Art Education” [in Greek]. In *Proceedings of the Conference Towards a School of Fine Arts for the 21st Century*. University of Western Macedonia.

- Veleni, T. (2018). “Intangible Cultural Heritage: Chios Mastic and Its Museum Interpretation” [in Greek]. In *Essays in Honour of Miltiadis Papanikolaou*. Thessaloniki: Vanias.

- Veleni, T., & Kourakis, O. (2016). “Cultural Past and Future Technology: Opening Channels of Communication” [in Greek]. *Proceedings of the 1st Panhellenic Conference on the Digitisation of Cultural Heritage*, pp. 499–516.

- Veleni, T., & Kourakis, O. (2012). “Virtual Reality and Multisensory Stimulation: A Joint Method of Teaching Art History”. *Proceedings of InSEA 2012*, pp. 600–611.

- Veleni, T. (2009). “Synaesthesia: Visual Transcription of a Neurobiological Phenomenon” [in Greek]. *Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Art History*, pp. 97–112.

Edited Scholarly Publications

- Veleni, T. (Ed.). (2014). *Mediterranean Palimpsests: A Dialogue between Dimitris Xonoglou and the Derveni Papyrus* [exhibition catalogue; in Greek]. Thessaloniki.

- Veleni, T. (Ed.). (2013). *Robert Haller: Standing Nudes and Megaliths* [exhibition catalogue]. Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki.

Forthcoming Publications

- *Veleni, T. Contemporary Art Exhibitions and Collections in Archaeological Museums: The Case of the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki [Monograph, in Greek]. Thessaloniki: Vanias Publishers. ISBN 978-960-288-380-8.*

- Marín Viadel, R., Jódar Miñarro, A., & Veleni, T. (Eds.). *Visual Interpretations of the Byzantine Museum of Veroia: A Visual A/r/tography Event at the Byzantine Museum of Veroia*. University of Granada.

- “Art for Learning at the Byzantine Museum of Veroia: Archaeological Finds, Contemporary Art Installations and Educational Activities” (co-authored paper, proceedings of the 2026 Scientific Meeting on Archaeological Work in Macedonia and Thrace).