

The Rise of the Unstoppable American Tourist

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By Rachel Louise Ensign and Chelsey Dulaney

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Al Lenza's parents traveled overseas three times after immigrating to the U.S. in 1961. Lenza estimates he's taken 500 trips in 50 years.

His home office is filled with self-printed books with recollections from each one. He's working on more. The semiretired 70-year-old has already been to Barcelona three times in the past year.

"You have more time and more money," he said of his current phase of life. "The clock is running out."

American travel has transformed in recent decades.

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TO BHMA International edition
Murder Trial in Massachusetts Brings Postpartum Care into Focus

By Nansy Samaka

"She killed the kids!" echoed the panicked voice of Patrick Clancy in the 911 call he made on January 24, 2023. After spending around 25 minutes away from the home he shared with his now ex-wife Lindsay Clancy and their three children, his return was met with an unusual silence.

After searching the house, he opened the couple's bedroom to find a pool of blood and the window open. Lindsay Clancy was lying in the backyard, bleeding from her wrists and neck, in an attempted suicide. Soon after, he discovered their children in the basement strangled with exercise bands.

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STELIOS MISINIS/REUTERS

TO BHMA International edition

Greece Enters the Age of the Megafire

By Theodora N. Tsoli

The nightmarish images of the recent fires inevitably bring to mind the unspeakable destruction in Mati, eastern Attica in 2018. Eight years ago, just as now, people and animals died, homes and property were destroyed, and vast areas of land turned to ash.

But firefighters were still struggling to contain the wildfire that scorched Boeotia and Attica last week after six consecutive days. This season's catastrophic blaze had one defining characteristic that points toward an even more fright-

ening and hotter future for Greece.

This was not simply a wildfire. It was a megafire, the kind of blaze we have become accustomed to seeing in footage from faraway places such as California, burning for days and leaving nothing but ash across enormous areas.

Experts define a megafire as any wildfire that burns more than 10,000 hectares.

Over 11,000 hectares of land were burned in Boeotia and western Attica, according to the Environment Ministry's official assessment. Scientific estimates, however, put the figure at more than 15,500 hectares.

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Firefighters battle a wildfire, near the Porto Germeno site, due west of Athens, Greece, August 2, 2026.

TO BHMA International edition

C. Kehagioglou Paints Greek Landscapes Like No Other

By Panos Kougias

There comes a moment, Christos Kehagioglou says, when light ceases simply to illuminate a landscape and becomes the protagonist itself. For him, that moment came on Andros. "I felt that I, too, as an observer, was there with everything around me, within the light." That experience gave rise to an artistic exploration that has

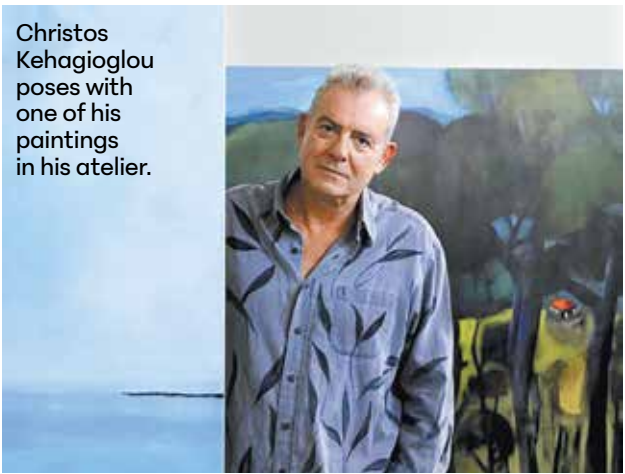
occupied him for years and lent the title "In the Light" to a series of exhibitions that began in 2022.

Following Athens, Thessaloniki, Brussels and Luxembourg, the fourth part of the series is now being presented at the Ochra Blue Art Space on Lemnos. A place that seems strangely well suited to this body of work. Open, bare, with expansive horizons and a quality of light that Kehagioglou describes as

insular yet northern at the same time.

The sea, the land and the horizon are still there in his paintings. And yet nothing seems entirely fixed. At times, the image moves towards abstraction; at others, it returns to the actual landscape, while light dissolves things and reassembles them. It is an obsession he continues to explore after more than four decades of work.

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Christos Kehagioglou poses with one of his paintings in his atelier.

CHRISTOS KEHAGIOGLOU

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Greece Enters the Age of the Megafire

A 25-year analysis of wildfire data suggests Greece is entering a new era of larger, more destructive fires, driven by climate change, unmanaged forests and a prevention system still struggling to keep pace

STELIOS MISINAS/REUTERS

A firefighter stands amidst smoke during a wildfire near the village of Agia Paraskevi, Greece, August 2, 2026.

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The more troubling point, however, is that all indications suggest this will not be an isolated incident. It could instead become a recurring feature of Greece's future, driven both by the climate crisis and the inadequate human management of the country's forests, a system that, by failing to place sufficient emphasis on prevention, has unfortunately relied primarily on suppression.

The danger that megafires could become the new normal (and not only during the official wildfire season but even during winter) is outlined in a 25-year analysis of official Hellenic Fire Service wildfire data, from 2000 to 2024, conducted by fire meteorologists from the FLAME team at the National Observatory of Athens. Data for 2025 have not yet been analyzed.

The researchers filtered the data to remove purely agricultural and other types of fires, meaning incidents whose burned areas were classified by the Fire Service as farmland, crop residue and/or waste disposal sites.

"The wildfire data for Greece are not simply a warning bell but an alarm bell for the future, if one looks at them carefully," Theodore Giannaros, fire meteorologist, National Observatory of Athens researcher, and head of the FLAME team tells TO VIMA.

More land is burning

Giannaros notes that although the number of annual wildfires recorded during the official fire season—from May through October—clearly declined over the past 25 years, the total amount of land burned did not fall accordingly.

"The number of fires fell from an average of about 4,300 per year during 2000-2012 to 3,700 during 2013-2024," he says. "That means

we are now doing a better job during the fire season and preventing the start of some fires. But the reduction in ignitions did not translate into a reduction in total burned area. On the contrary, burned land showed an upward trend equivalent to roughly an additional 600 hectares per year."

How can this apparent paradox be explained?

"What the data analysis shows is that when a fire gets out of control in Greece today, it gets very far out of control," Giannaros says.

"From 2000 to 2024, the number of wildfires exceeding 200 hectares increased. The minimum size of the largest fires recorded each year also rose steadily over the 25-year period. In other words, we are no longer dealing simply with

LOUISA GOLLUM/REUTERS



Greece's Wildfires Were Predictable. Prevention Was Not Ready

Experts say the scale of this summer's destruction was foreseeable, but Greece continues to invest too heavily in firefighting while forest management, staffing and prevention remain dangerously weak

By Elena Fyntanidou

The scars left by this summer's wave of major wildfires in Greece are incalculable. From Rethymno and Paros to Boeotia and western Attica, the flames claimed lives, destroyed property, wiped out valuable forest ecosystems and placed a heavy burden on future generations.

Last week's wildfire, which began in Boeotia and spread rapidly toward the set-

tlements of Psatha and Porto Germeno, crossing Mount Kithairon, burned 11,340 hectares, including 9,500 hectares within the Attica Region. Most of the burned land was forest.

Scientists stress that the scale of the destruction did not come out of nowhere. On the contrary, they say the conditions that led to the recent fires have been known for years and that Greece continues to approach the problem with the wrong priorities, investing primarily in suppression rather than prevention.

"Every major wildfire in Attica over the past 15 years was predictable," says Paleologos Paleologou, assistant professor at the Department of Forestry and Natural Environment Management at the Agricultural University of Athens. "At the university, we run simulations that, unfortunately, are confirmed every time. The question is why, when we know the risk, have 42% of Attica's forests burned over the past decade."

He argues that Greece needs a fundamental shift in

wildfire policy. The country, he says, continues to invest disproportionately in suppression while giving far less attention to prevention, systematic forest management and maintenance of electricity networks.

Severely understaffed forest services

A similar view is expressed by Nikos Bokaris, forester and environmental scientist, president of the Panhellenic Union of Public-Sector Foresters and a member of the board

of the Geotechnical Chamber of Greece.

Figures he provided show that Greece's 147 forest services, including local forestry offices, forest directorates and inspectorates, employ just 500 people.

That works out to only about 3.5 employees per service, when at least seven are needed.

The hollowing out of these services, and, by extension, the downgrading of prevention, began during the country's harsh bailout years. Hiring was frozen while retirements and departures continued, leaving a significant staffing gap that the Environment and Energy Ministry leadership also acknowledges.

"For decades, our country did not deal seriously with prevention. For 20 years, the forest service has not been replenished with new personnel. This is not only a quantita-

LOUISA GOLLUM/REUTERS



tive issue but also a qualitative one. An entire generation was lost because expertise was not passed on to younger staff. During the economic crisis, the forest service became completely understaffed," Environment and Energy Minister Stavros Papastavrou



Firefighters work on a burning area near Loumpa, as wildfires hit West Attica, Greece, August 3, 2026.

more large fires, but with larger large fires.”

A threat even in winter

According to the analysis, such fires are no longer confined to summer or even to the official fire season. “Wildfire activity outside the official fire season, from November through May, is evolving quietly but worryingly,” Giannaros warns. “Over the past 25 years, both the number of fires starting and the total burned area during the winter months have increased.” More specifically, the average annual number of wildfires outside the fire season rose by 47% after 2012, while the average burned area increased from about 1,800 hectares to more than 2,300 hectares.

Giannaros explains that because of the climate crisis, winters have increasingly become “allies” of wildfires. “Winter temperatures are now higher than they were in the past, while the atmosphere is also drier due to reduced rainfall,” he says. “At the same time, there are no restrictions during winter on outdoor work that could potentially trigger a fire.” Northern Greece Emerges as a New Risk Zone The FLAME team’s analysis shows that wildfires are shifting not only in time, but geographically as well. One emerging area of concern is northern Greece, where wildfires historically had a much more limited presence. “We saw that fires breaking out in northern Greece are

increasing during the fire season,” Giannaros says. “Even more worrying is what is happening outside the fire season, when there is also an increase in wildfire ignitions in a part of the country that was never considered particularly fire-prone.” He adds that “it is only a matter of time before we begin seeing megafires in northern Greece, which is covered by vast, unmanaged forests that are not adapted to fire.” “The forests of northern Greece are difficult to access and located at high elevations. Appropriate preparation is therefore essential if they are not to become the next victims of megafires.” What, then, would that preparation involve? And can any preparation be sufficient in a world already heating

rapidly because of climate change? “Fire-weather conditions will continue to deteriorate in the future because of the climate crisis. That is indisputable,” Giannaros says. “Extreme heat events, high nighttime temperatures and gale-force summer winds are and will become increasingly common because of climate change, according to fire-weather projections. But we have an obligation to adapt to these new conditions.” “Once a fire starts, with the climate crisis giving it a helping hand, what lies beneath the trees becomes critical. As soon as it encounters dense vegetation, it becomes a crown fire and begins moving at extraordinary speed. At that point it becomes unmanageable not only for Greece’s

emergency response system, but for any firefighting system.” An underestimated threat The danger posed by megafires has been underestimated not only in Greece but internationally, Giannaros argues, because existing projections of future wildfire risk fail to incorporate one critical factor. “Existing models use only data concerning conditions at ground level,” he warns. “They do not take into account the air higher in the atmosphere, at an altitude of around three to five kilometers above the ground, the so-called boundary layer.” “We could describe this layer as the Earth’s breath. Fire uses that breath to grow stronger.”

He said the period from around noon or 1 p.m. until late afternoon is considered especially dangerous for wildfires because that is when the boundary layer takes its “deepest breath, and so does the fire.” “There are currently no studies examining how the boundary layer, which interacts with fire, is changing because of the climate crisis,” he says. “That research is only now beginning and needs to accelerate.”

Prevention measures

There are measures that could help prevent future megafires like the one Greece experienced, Giannaros concludes. “Controlled burning during winter, like our grandparents used to do when they burned excess dead vegetation, is an easy path that should be followed,” he says. “Controlled grazing to reduce excessive vegetation is equally important, as is thinning trees in forests so that entire carpets of vegetation are not allowed to develop.”

One positive step, he adds, is the new law passed in the spring, Law 5281/2026, Active Battle, which includes such preventive measures. “It was not possible to implement it in time this year, but after this wildfire season the law must be put into practice.” Ultimately, Giannaros says, “whether megafires become our permanent companion depends on us.” “To avoid this nightmarish future, words must become action,” he concludes. “This year alone, during what has been an almost typical Greek summer, without particularly severe heat waves, we have already suffered enormous fire damage. If we do not respond, what will happen in the years ahead as the climate crisis accelerates?” Food not for further thought, but for immediate action.



A firefighter walks, as smoke rises from a wildfire in Krio Pigadi, Greece, August 1, 2026.

said last Thursday. According to Bokaris, if the government wants to place real emphasis on wildfire prevention, it must hire at least 200 foresters through fast-track procedures, with local residency taken into account. “In the most recent hir-

ing process through ASEP, Greece’s public-sector recruitment authority, which began in 2019 and was completed at the end of 2025, that is six years later, about 40 of the 180 successful candidates never took up their posts because they would have been

assigned to services far from where they lived and could not afford the increased cost of living,” he said. He added that even after the recent hiring round, staffing shortages remain at 30% to 40%. Bokaris also argues that the legal framework for

prevention needs to change. “We are still operating under a framework from 1998, when wildfire prevention was described in a single paragraph of one article,” he said. “There needs to be a dedicated wildfire prevention law

that clearly defines responsibilities. Today, this critically important area is fragmented. The state needs to reassess both prevention and suppression on an equal footing.” Paleologou agrees, arguing that Greece’s current suppression model has failed.

“Wildfires are extinguished on the ground,” he said. “The state relies mainly on aerial firefighting, but when fires display extreme behavior and generate pyrocumulonimbus clouds (clouds produced by extreme ground heat and instability in the lower atmosphere), it is like giving a firefighter a six-pack of bottled water and asking him to fight a major blaze.” Effective firefighting, he said, requires concentrating resources, proper planning, and a clear strategy, rather than scattering available means across multiple fronts. “There has to be a plan inside the forest that allows firefighters to operate effectively. We cannot keep asking for heroic efforts,” he said. “Extinguishing a wildfire does not require heroism. It requires strategy and clear thinking. Five people died needlessly.”

The Rise of the Unstoppable American Tourist

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A supercharged U.S. economy has helped transform a nation of homebodies into zealous international travelers; ‘Travel isn’t optional’



Tourists are flocking to picturesque European villages like Oia on Greece’s Santorini.

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A nation of former homebodies has become one of zealous and moneyed international travelers, infiltrating every cobblestoned corner of Europe and rapidly filling lesser-known destinations.

Americans took a record 24 million trips to Europe in 2025. Portugal received nearly five times the number of U.S. visitors last year as it did a decade earlier. Greece took in four times as many.

Consulting firm Tourism Economics expects American visits to Europe will have increased another 5% by the end of the year. The travel is helping boost economies even as it has angered many locals who say their cities, now reliant on foreign visitors, are no longer serving them.

Behind the shift is a supercharged U.S. economy that in the course of a generation has created a larger and wealthier class of

Americans that views travel as an essential rather than a luxury. Older Americans, who are driving this new era of travel, hold about \$110 trillion in wealth. They’re also living longer, and looking to make the most of those years.

That rising wealth has coincided with dramatic changes in the travel industry itself. Foreign travel has become more accessible. And social media has

In 1990, fewer than 5% of Americans had a passport. Now, more than 50% do, aided in part by a mandate requiring passports for travel to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean that took effect in 2007 and a postpandemic travel rush

made it easy to envy, emulate and one-up friends’ vacations.

The new grand tour

A trip to the continent is a well-worn path for U.S. elites. In the 1800s, wealthy Americans embarked on the type of grand tours that were popular among British aristocrats: spending months traveling across Europe to see historic sites, learn languages and collect paintings, said Eric Zuelow, a history professor at the University of New England.

By the 1950s and ‘60s, when boomers were growing up, Americans traveling abroad were in rare air—a glamorous jet set who wore their best for flights on Pan Am and TWA. They were soon joined by young, adventurous backpackers, who filled hostels and traveled on the cheap.

As the Cold War waned and airlines expanded, travel opened up further to the masses. And the European Union’s free-travel area

made it easy to fly to the continent and hop between countries.

In 1990, fewer than 5% of Americans had a passport. Now, more than 50% do, aided in part by a mandate requiring passports for travel to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean that took effect in 2007 and a postpandemic travel rush. The U.S. issued a record 27 million passports in fiscal 2025.

Amy Burch Buchanan, 55, took her first flight in 1988 to visit her then-boyfriend in England. She had a cassette tape full of Journey songs to listen to on the plane, and her parents walked her directly to the gate. Onboard, passengers were dressed to the nines, sipping cocktails and smoking cigarettes.

“Nobody was wearing yoga pants. It was very elegant,” said Buchanan, who lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

She returned home a changed woman—with British bands like Depeche Mode on her Walk-

man, new clothes and a wanderlust that she eventually passed down to her three kids.

Her eldest daughter, Avery, moved to the U.K. around two years ago and now travels across Europe. Her middle daughter went to Kenya this year. “They’ve really reached out much further as they’ve gone on their own,” she said.

Europe is often the gateway drug. Portugal and

Americans are also spending more than their European counterparts on each trip, including shelling out for luxury experiences. Taking advantage of the strong dollar, they’ve splurged on high-end shops

Greece have seen the biggest percentage increases in U.S. visitors of any country over the past decade, according to U.S. government data. The U.K. and Italy have seen the largest increases in the total number of tourists, getting millions of additional Americans a year arriving by air.

Only about 6% of U.S. travelers to Europe in 2025 said it was their first time flying abroad. Many of these tourists are visiting multiple times a year, stopping at the Eiffel Tower and the Colosseum, but also taking country walks in the Cotswolds and Viking cruises on the Danube.

A growing share of consumer spending is going toward foreign travel, as habits change and prices rise.

Open-skies agreements deregulated airline competition on international routes starting in the 1990s, leading to much cheaper airfares and more international flights from

the U.S., said Clifford Winston, a Brookings Institution economist who studied the pacts. In 1984, a round-trip weekend fare between New York and London on Pan Am cost \$669, today's equivalent of \$2,150, according to a Wall Street Journal article from the time.

Over the past decade, economy airfare to the region rose 56%—more than inflation. The average one-way economy plane ticket from the U.S. to Europe, not including taxes and fees, cost \$588 this year, up from \$533 in 2025, according to aviation-analytics company Cirium.

Lenza, who does tech work for the travel industry, estimates that he and his wife spend between \$100,000 and \$200,000 on travel each year, even as they try to be cautious with other kinds of spending. One of their recent visits to Barcelona was for a cruise from the city with two of their grandchildren, who are 19 and 22.

The trip—like others they've treated their grandkids to—was nicer than the ones the Lenzas could take their three daughters on when they were growing up.

"Our daughters remind us every once in a while that it's not fair," he said.

'Liechtenstein for a day'

Americans are also spending more than their European counterparts on each trip, including shelling out for luxury experiences. Taking advantage of the strong dollar, they've splurged at high-end shops. American tourists make up about 15% of all European luxury sales, according to equity-research firm Bernstein.

And it's not just free-wheeling baby boomers. Younger generations, who place a high value on experiences, are spending on travel instead of buying houses and having kids.

"Travel isn't optional, it's essential," especially for younger people, said Audrey Hendley, president of American Express Travel. The credit-card company, which has a high-end clientele, said travel bookings through its platform increased 22% in the past year.

U.S. travelers to the region skew female, with women 55 and over making up 24%. More than 15% of Americans visiting Europe reported a household income of \$300,000 or more.

"They are increasingly rich, sophisticated and willing to travel to not just see the highlights, but to go beyond the highlights," said Seth Borko, head of research at Skift, an American



Protesters in Mallorca carried signs and a paper cruise ship to show their anger over overtourism on the island.

travel trade publication.

Radiologist Andy Robbins ramped up international travel a few years before retiring from his full-time medical practice in 2019.

Last year, the 68-year-old and his wife, Char Robbins, went to Oktoberfest in Germany, took a Rhône river cruise and visited "Liechtenstein for a day just to say we've been there," he said. This year, the couple visited Denmark, the Czech Republic and Germany again. They've already booked a two-week guided tour of Scandinavia and a cruise from Venice to Istanbul for next year.

He still takes on part-time work when he's not traveling.

"One of the reasons I joke that I'm still working is that I like my business-class sleeper seats," said Robbins, who estimates they spend about \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year on travel abroad.

The first time Robbins vacationed in Europe was in 2007, when he was 49. The couple traveled with their daughter, who was 10 at the time, to Scotland, London and Paris. His

The influx of tourists has brought in new wealth in many places but it's also straining infrastructure, raising the cost of living and disrupting local life

daughter loved the "Harry Potter"-themed room in their Edinburgh hotel.

"It was magical," he said.

The magic is often lost on locals. The influx of tourists has brought in new wealth in many places but it's also straining infrastructure, raising the cost of living and disrupting local life. Housing has become scarce and unaffordable in some cities, with more apartments being used as pricey short-term vacation rentals.

Tens of thousands protested against overtourism on the Spanish island of Mallorca last month, demanding fewer visitors and more affordable housing. The march turned violent as protesters clashed with police, who fired rubber bullets after being pelted with plastic bottles.

Protests have broken out in other European hot spots in recent years, including in Italy and

Portugal. In Barcelona—which last year received nine times as many tourists as it has residents—protesters took to spraying water on tourists.

Europe's Catch-22

Governments across the continent are starting to impose limits on tourism: cracking down on Airbnbs, slapping taxes on tourists and limiting cruise-ship numbers and new hotel construction. But it's a Catch-22 as attracting Americans remains a priority for many businesses, because they tend to spend more and stay longer than other tourists. Plus, Americans tip.

Americans visiting Spain last year spent nearly \$350 a day—well above the roughly \$200 a day spent by Germans and about \$150 by French travelers. In Greece, Americans spent nine nights on average in 2025, compared with seven nights for tourists from the U.K.

"They just come on vacation to spend," said Panos Panis, manager at a company that does boat trips on the Greek island of Crete.

"They don't come to buy an ice cream and sit on the beach for seven hours, for example, like most Europeans do. They're very busy. They want to do things."

Many Americans are going beyond the usual

mass tours, adding bespoke experiences that connect them with locals. They're paying more than \$200 a person for semiprivate tours of the Colosseum, visiting Scottish farms where they can brush Highland cows and taking perfume-making classes in Paris.

Nate Oester and Anna Li, from Port Townsend, Wash., were browsing a stand selling dish towels and tableware in London's Borough Market at lunchtime on a recent afternoon. The couple, who are both engineers, had just finished a monthlong, 538-mile cycling trip through the U.K., starting in Inverness, Scotland, and ending in Penzance, England, near the western tip of Cornwall.

Oester, 44, and Li, 41, mostly took domestic vacations growing up. In their 20s, they both went on some overseas trips. But they started regularly traveling abroad for cycling trips once they got together and started earning more.

"That's when I was really like, 'Oh I'm making up for lost time. I'm getting out there, I love this,'" said Oester.

It was so hot at points during their U.K. trip that they covered themselves with wet towels to cool down at night, since their hotels didn't have air conditioning. Still, they're already dreaming of coming back to cycle down the Rhône from Switzerland to the Mediterranean.

"We both have good jobs—and no kids—so we're able to travel," said Oester, with an interjection from Li.

For many in Gen Z, the wanderlust seems to only be stronger. Tessa Coyle, 24, doesn't have any friends who haven't gone abroad.

Coyle lived in Australia for part of her childhood and traveled extensively growing up. Earlier this year, Coyle left her investment-banking job in New York for one in tech, in part so she could have more time for travel.

In June, she took a 10-day trip to Greece with a friend that cost her about \$3,000. She used Anthropic's Claude to help plan the trip, using its suggestions to pick destinations. Leery of the crowds, Coyle was content to see the Acropolis from a distance. Her favorite part of the trip was visiting the quieter island of Sifnos, where they enjoyed drinks at a cliff-side wine bar.

She's not intimidated by even the most far-flung destinations. She hopes to travel to Kyrgyzstan and stay in a yurt after seeing Instagram posts about the destination.

"I'm dying to go," she said. "You're having a unique experience."



Christos Kehagioglou Knows How to Paint the Greek Landscape Like No Other

On the occasion of his exhibition “In the Light” on Lemnos, the painter talks about the Greek landscape, painting, and his journey across different art forms

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His path, after all, has never been exclusively about painting. Born in Thessaloniki in 1960, he studied civil engineering, later film directing, and subsequently philosophy of art at the Sorbonne, where he explored the relationship between cinema and painting. He has worked with moving images, directed films and video works, and presented his paintings in more than forty solo exhibitions in Greece and abroad.

On the occasion of his exhibition on Lemnos, Christos Kehagioglou talks TO BHMA International Edition about the light that precedes and outlives us; about the Greek landscape; about what cinema has brought to his painting; and about an ancient art form which, amid the ceaseless stream of images that defines our age, continues to ask something remarkably simple of the person standing before it: to stop and look.

You say that in “In the Light,” you are no longer trying so much to paint the landscape itself as that which transforms it—namely, light. When did you realize that the landscape alone was no longer enough?

Landscape and light are two inseparable entities in painting. Usually, for a painter, light is what gives colour to a landscape, what gives it an emotional dimension. So the landscape is the protagonist, while light is the painterly means through which it is brought to the fore, given meaning and life.

While painting on Andros, however, I could feel

‘Light interests me precisely because it exists beyond human time. It is the same light that people saw thousands of years ago and, in a sense, it will continue to exist when we are no longer here’

The first part of “In the Light” was presented in 2022, and since then this body of work has travelled from Athens and Thessaloniki to Brussels and Luxembourg. What has changed in your painting over these four years?

I think my relationship with light itself has grown progressively deeper, as has the approach, the technique through which I try to capture it materially on



Artist Christos Kehagioglou painting in his home on the island of Andros, Greece.

an inversion taking place. I felt that I, too, as an observer, was there with everything around me, within the light. And I tried to convey that sensation through painting: that the light was now the protagonist and the landscape was being shaped by it, emerging from within it, almost as though it were its creation. Even our gaze itself seemed born of that light. It was in this sense that “In the Light” came about.

canvas, as a crystalline, ethereal and transparent entity. Over these years, I have been exploring, in ever greater depth, the different possibilities of rendering it in this way.

In your text for the exhibition, you connect light with something far greater than the image itself—with those

‘I believe the arts meet at many points; deep down, they share common ground. Beyond that, each develops its own language’

who lived before us, with memory, with something like a “soul of the world.” Can a painting convey something of this collective memory without telling a specific story?

Yes, I believe that is precisely what I am attempting to do. To allow the image to escape the constraints of a specific moment, place or period; to free itself from the need to tell a story and acquire an autonomy of its own.

Light interests me precisely because it exists beyond human time. It is the same light that people saw thousands of years ago and, in a sense, it will continue to exist when we are no longer here. It illuminates things, reveals them and makes them disappear; it changes them ceaselessly, while itself remaining unchanged.

Perhaps that is why I feel it can carry something of a collective memory without having to convey any-

thing specific. It can become a spiritual and timeless force connecting human beings with the world and with time. It is this eternal, almost cosmic dimension of light that I would like to be able to capture through painting.

Sotiris Kakis always returns to the same phrase when writing about your painting: “in Greece—

‘Technology will continue to give us increasingly impressive images and possibilities. But painting has something a screen cannot replace: it is a real object’

unquestionably in Greece!” How Greek do you consider your painting to be? And what, ultimately, does “Greek light” mean without falling into the stereotype of blue skies, sunshine and the Aegean?

It is both a stereotype and a truth. Greece, and the Aegean in particular, has a very distinctive quality of light. The light is so bright and powerful that I often feel it almost vibrating, like an otherworldly energy that permeates everything, dissolving things within it and then reassembling them. Perhaps it is there, more than in the azure, the sun or any other recognisable element, that I find the meaning of “Greek light.”

Lemnos has a landscape quite different from the image we usually have of a Greek island—barer, more open, at times almost austere. What did you recognise there from your own painterly world?

Lemnos does have a very distinctive landscape. It is open and austere, as you describe it, and it gives me a sense of something more ancient, I would say, more primordial and raw. For my work, this is deeply inspiring, because it brings me closer to that timeless quality I was describing earlier. It is as though the landscape carries within it a sense of time far broader than our own.

You studied civil engineering, film directing and philosophy of art, yet you have devoted the greater part of your career to painting. Tell us, where do these worlds meet—if, indeed, they do?

I believe the arts meet at many points; deep down, they share common ground. Beyond that, each develops its own language. By working, both practically and theoretically, within different systems of language, I think your way of observing becomes sharper and more finely attuned.

Cinema teaches you to hear the sound of an image, to seek out the particular frame, to see uninterrupted

GREECE



Delta, 100x100.



Plateau before light, 100x100.

movement, to read the world as though it were a story. Painting, as the mother of the visual arts, teaches you to compose, to seek out the subtlety of light, the power of shapes and colour. Engineering, too, has proved very useful to me in terms of systems, structure and ways of organising things. And, of course, philosophy helps you to think, to ask questions, to doubt, to understand better and to reflect.

There is a recognisable world in your painting—sea, land, horizon—but at the same time a fragmented world that often verges on abstraction. Does the distinction between figurative and abstract painting still interest you, or do you consider it outdated?

I think these terms have largely been superseded in our era, although they remain useful as a means of understanding one another. I feel my work balances on a line: on one side, there is the specific image, the place, its particular elements and characteristics; on the other, the power and freedom of abstraction.

When an image of mine acquires clear figurative elements through specific references, I try to liberate it through abstraction. Conversely, when it slips into an entirely abstract world, I try to discover within it those elements that can function as figurative hints. It is precisely this movement back and forth that interests me.

You have more than forty solo exhibitions

behind you and a career spanning several decades. Is there a danger that, at some point, an artist can become too good at what they already know how to

do? How do you avoid repeating yourself?
I am constantly searching in my painting for something that will surprise me. I want each work to bring something new, something I am seeing develop in that

way for the first time. To avoid repetition, it is important to keep searching, to experiment with techniques and materials, to pose new questions. Not to become complacent and, above all, never to believe

that you have arrived somewhere.
There is something wonderful about mastering something, then immediately setting out on a new journey armed with what that mastery has taught you.

How can painting engage the contemporary viewer in a conversation? What can it still offer that a screen cannot?

As a way of creating images, painting is as old as humanity itself. From pre-historic cave paintings to a work made today, there is something that remains astonishingly unchanged: one human being leaving a trace on a surface with their hand, and another human being, at some point, standing before it and looking at it.

Technology will continue to give us increasingly impressive images and possibilities. But painting has something a screen cannot replace: it is a real object; it has materiality, scale, a surface, imperfections, traces, time. What you see in it is not only an image, it is also the process by which another human being sought to bring that image into existence.

And perhaps it asks something different of the viewer as well: to stop. To give it time. It imposes neither a duration nor a single, specific reading. You can walk away after a second or remain in front of it for a long time.

That is why I very much like the word “conversation,” as you use it. Painting creates a quiet, free and multifaceted dialogue, a form of communication that exists alongside language. And, in an age in which images flash before our eyes at tremendous speed, this ability to stand in front of a single image, to feel its material presence and, through it, the trace of another human being, may be becoming increasingly precious.



The breaking line III, 100x100.

Murder Trial in Massachusetts Brings Postpartum Care into Focus

Clips from the legal battle of 35-year-old Lindsay Clancy are circulating online and fueling conversations about mental health support

Continued from Page One

The harrowing 7-minute phone call played for the jurors at the Plymouth Superior Court on July 29, with clips of Lindsay Clancy sobbing uncontrollably going viral. Dubbed “America’s saddest murder trial” by *The Guardian*, the Clancy case has made global headlines, as the defense centers its case around mental health professionals’ mishandling of Lindsay’s deteriorating postpartum psychosis.

Attuned, to no avail

Testimonies from friends and family, including her ex-husband, describe Lindsey as a doting mother who was always looking to keep her kids safe. The accused was a labor and delivery nurse who had always wanted children of her own.

Patrick Clancy testified that with every birth came both a physical and psychological toll that weighed heavily on Lindsey. After the birth of their last child, she sought psychiatric help for postpartum depression and anxiety. She was prescribed a series of medications, that she herself kept a diary of taking which included her intrusive thoughts.

During the cross-examination of her psychiatrist Jennifer Tufts, she remarked that shortly before the day of the killings, Lindsay ex-



GREG DERR/POOL VIA REUTERS

Clancy has been left paralyzed from the waist down after jumping from her bedroom window.

Prosecutor Jennifer Sprague of the Plymouth County DA’s office enters a bag of prescription pills into evidence that were prescribed to Lindsay Clancy prior to her murder trial in Plymouth, Massachusetts, U.S., July 27, 2026.

pressed worries of suicidal thoughts but denied being actually suicidal. Tufts found the 35 year-old mother was not manic or incomprehensible and the side effects like insomnia, paranoia and increased anxiety were “normal”.

Lindsay continuously had her medications changed by the profession-

als she saw, with her condition seeing no improvement. “I’m so desperate to get a mental break from taking care of everyone that my mind is trying to find something physically wrong with me” she notes in a diary entry from Nov. 2022. She checked herself into a psychiatric hospital on New Year’s Eve of 2023

and was released a few days later.

The court of public opinion

As the trial progresses and more witnesses are examined on the stand, more clips circulate social media with mothers having been through postpartum issues weighing in.

“I ended up in the hospi-

tal [with postpartum psychosis] where the doctors worked tirelessly to find a medication combination that would work for me,” explains one TikTok user in a video posted to the social media platform a few days into the Clancy trial. “At no point was I ever turned away, everyone understood the gravity of the situation.”

Many are also pointing

out Patrick Clancy’s seeming neglect during his ex-wife’s postpartum care. “Patrick Clancy was told by Lindsay that she was having thoughts of harming the children and he did nothing,” one commenter adds, with another writing “I think Lindsay’s husband is guilty for ignoring her condition and leaving her alone in this.”

Leadership Without Margin

The leaders worth watching have already built their plans on the assumption that the room stays this narrow

Every leader operates with a margin: room to absorb a bad quarter, a hostile headline, a supply shock, an election that goes the wrong way. That margin has narrowed sharply in the past few years. The narrowing is structural, not cyclical. Two industries show this with unusual clarity.

The first is shipping. A vessel routing through the Red Sea today carries a cost structure unrecognisable three years ago. Insurers price war-risk premiums by the transit. Shipowners weigh weeks of extra fuel and time rerouting around the Cape against waters where naval escort is now

a precondition, not a courtesy. Behind this sits Hormuz, a chokepoint carrying a fifth of the world’s oil, governed less by guarantee than by the assumption that no one wants to be the party that closes it. The credibility of rule-of-law enforcement at sea has become a line item.

The second is artificial intelligence. For a decade, AI economics were constrained by compute: chips, capital, talent. That constraint has been overtaken by a slower, heavier one: electricity. A data centre can be built faster than the substation that feeds it. The real planning horizon for AI ambition is now the next decade of energy infrastructure, set

By Cleopatra Kitt



by regulators and permitting timelines companies do not control.

What connects a shipping line and an AI lab is the position both occupy. Both are designing strategy around a constraint that persists rather than passes, one they cannot fix alone.

Academic research has circled this from two directions. Management scholar-

ship’s “bounded leadership” concept, developed by Andrzej Koźmiński, treats a leader’s effectiveness as shaped by competence and by how well that leader navigates constraints. A review of over a hundred studies found constraint sharpens performance up to a threshold. Political science treats a leader’s scarcest resource as attention itself, an idea tracing to Herbert Simon’s bounded rationality. It treats constraint as structural: set by constitutions and institutions, independent of who is leading.

Both descriptions apply at once to a head of state confronting Hormuz. Rhetoric will not move an international-law reality,

so the only credible lever is candour: naming the constraint plainly rather than pretending it can be negotiated away. A board confronting the same chokepoint has a different lever. It is not answerable for the constraint’s existence, only for how well it manoeuvres inside it, rerouting, insuring, diversifying. Political leadership discharges its burden through honesty. Business leadership discharges its burden through movement.

The leaders managing this well add one more discipline. They sequence around the constraint that actually binds, not the one easiest to discuss publicly.

Shipping and AI sim-

ply make the pattern visible in numbers: premiums, gigawatts, transit days. Most leadership today is living some version of the same condition. Margin is narrower. The constraints that actually matter now play out over longer horizons. Patience is thinner for those who have not noticed. The leaders worth watching have already built their plans on the assumption that the room stays this narrow.

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