

SASHA CHAITOW

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www.iconcraft.gr

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Cultural historian and artist with a passion for writing, teaching about, and creating culture, and a strong background in event management and promotion.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ICON Gallery

2015-

Owner-Curator

Coordination and international representation of artist collective specialising in Greek sacred, devotional, and symbolic art.

Phoenix Rising Academy

2010 – 2014

Founding director

Responsible for coordinating international faculty, curriculum development, event organisation, liaising with students, faculty, and academic institutions.

University of Indianapolis, Athens, Greece

2008 – 2013

Visiting Lecturer in Religious Studies, History & Philosophy

Undergraduate teaching in Religious Studies, History & Philosophy

- ▲ History: Integrated new material to broaden students' understanding of the significance of studying history when specialising in mainly business & marketing related degrees.
- ▲ Religious Studies & Philosophy: Integrated material pertaining to Western Esotericism into the existing curriculum

Eleftheros Typos Newspaper, Athens, Greece

2011 – Present

Columnist for PHENOMENA Cultural Magazine

2 monthly columns on art, education and culture.

Avaton Magazine & Archetypo Publications, Salonica, Greece

2008 - 2012

Article contributor and author

- ▲ Contributed to 3 multi-author volumes on a variety of topics
- ▲ Regular contributor to monthly magazine

Andrioti School of English, Corfu, Greece

2014-

Kontada Language Institute, Athens, Greece

2006-2010

EUROACCESS Language Institute, Athens, Greece

2005-2006

A.Spanou Language Institute, Corfu, Greece

2003

Teacher of English as a Foreign Language

- ▲ Advanced exam preparation for teenagers and adults
- ▲ Curriculum and course development for lifelong-learning adult classes
- ▲ Seminars on EFL through art, myth, and literature

EDUCATION

University of Essex, United Kingdom

PhD Esotericism in Literature & Art History
Research diary available at www.peladan.org

2014

University of Exeter, United Kingdom

MA Western Esotericism

2008

Honours: MA awarded with Merit, Thesis awarded distinction

Thesis title: The Alchemical Iconography of Michael Maier's *Atalanta Fugiens* as an Initiatory Path

University of Indianapolis, USA

MA English Literature

2004

Honours: Magna cum laude

Thesis title: The Alchemical process and literary analysis

University of Indianapolis, USA

BA Communication Studies

2002

Honours: Cum laude

Vakalo College of Art, Athens, Greece

Fine Art Skills Training

2000

EVENT ORGANISATION

Mapping the Occult City: Exploring Magick and Esotericism in the Urban Utopia

16/11/2012

Pre-conference symposium for the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religions
DePaul University, Chicago

Demons in the Academy: Renouncing Rejected Knowledge, Again?

19/11/2011

Parallel Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Francisco

Western Esotericism in a Brave New World

October 2011

An Open Evening with Phoenix Rising Academy, Treadwells, London,

Phoenix Rising Academy Launch Events

October-November 2010

Athens, Salonica, Alexandroupolis

Death and Rebirth in Philosophy, Literature and Art:

Nov. 6-7 2009

A Dying Society or a Renaissance for the 21st Century?

1st Phoenix Rising International Conference, University of Indianapolis, Athens Campus

Ancient Greek Mysteries and Philosophy

September 2008

Esoteric Quest Conference, hosted by New York Open Center in Samothrace, Greece

Organisation & promotion of live concerts for a variety of Athenian music spaces

2004-2009

6 solo art exhibitions in Corfu and Athens, Greece

2000-2009

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS

(forthcoming) **Freemasonry, Sacred Art, and the Orthodox Tradition** 24-26/10/2015
Invited guest lectures at Gothenburg University and other venues

(forthcoming) **Joséphin Péladan's Literary Esotericism: Crossing the Threshold of Modernism**
Conference on Esoteric Modernism, Aarhus University, 22-23/10/2015

Joséphin Péladan's Vision of Ensouled Art 30/10/2013
Neo-Symbolist Salon, Autonomous University of Madrid

Ideal, Hierarchy, Tradition: Re-enchanting the Fin-de-siècle 23-26/08/2012
EASR Annual Conference, Södertörn University, Stockholm

Neomythology and Mythopoeia: The Esoteric Landscape of Modern Greece 27-29/08/2012
International Conference on Contemporary Esotericism, Stockholm University

Hieroglyphs of Nature and the Renaissance Emblematic Worldview 13-14/10/2011
[ISSRNC Conference on Religion, Art, and Nature](#) Vatican Museums, Vatican City, Rome

Contemporary Hellenic Paganism and Nationalist Politics in Modern Greece 19-22/11/2011
[Western Esotericism and Politics Panel, AAR Annual Meeting, San Francisco](#)

The Hidden and the Visible: symbols and silent languages 01/10/2011
OuUnPo (Ouvroir d'Univers Potentiel -Vision Forum) symposium, Athens, Greece

A Babylonian Mage in Fin-de-Siècle Paris 2-4/07/2011
[3rd ESSWE Conference: Lux in Tenebris, The Visual and Symbolic in Western Esotericism](#)
[University of Szeged, Hungary](#)

Beware Titans Bearing Gifts: Art, Imagination, and Initiation 7/11/2009
1st International Phoenix Rising Conference, University of Indianapolis, Athens

Corfu, Crucible of Change: A Multicultural Island of Masonic Revolutionary Secrets 2-4/6/2009
2nd ESSWE International Conference: Capitals of European Esotericism and Transcultural Dialogue
Maison Interuniversitaire des Sciences de l'Homme-Alsace (MISHA)

Sacred Fire: Panentheism in the Philosophy and Work of Nikolai Roerich 29/05/2009
University of Indianapolis Athens

Michael Maier's Atalanta Fugiens as an Initiatory Path March 2009

Keystone Philosophical Society Annual Public Lecture

The Eye of the Storm: Promethean Man and the Esoteric Counter-Enlightenment May 2008
International Conference on Literature and the Media in Interfaith Dialogue, University of Indianapolis Athens

Thoughtforms and the Power of the Creative Process Nov. 2004
University of Indianapolis Athens

Synaesthesia and the Colour of Words Nov. 2003
University of Indianapolis Athens

PUBLIC LECTURES:

Occult Power in Greek Icons 14/07/15
Treadwell's Bookshop, London

The Many Faces of Joséphin Péladan 15/09/2014
Treadwell's Bookshop, London

Art and Symbolism: Making the Invisible Visible 27/02/2013
Public Lecture, Corfu, Greece

Studying Western Esotericism in a World in Crisis 19-20/05/2012
2nd Alternative Research Symposium, Athens, Greece

[Where is] Esoteric Greece? 28/01/2012
Metacon Symposium, Athens, Greece

Aleister Crowley: Works and Days
[An Evening with the Beast: ALEISTER CROWLEY: His Life and Work](#), Athens, Greece
27/05/2011

Symbols: The Language of the Soul 16/02/2011
at the invitation of Hypatia Lodge, Theosophical Society in Greece

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS:

A Babylonian Mage in 19th Century Paris: Joséphin Péladan Dec. 2013
Daedaleos Press, Salonica, Greece

2 chapters on Jacob Boehme and Giordano Bruno in **20 Great Teachers of Civilization** August 2012
Salonica: Archetypo Books (S. Elmazis ed).

4 chapters in **Freemasonry: The Greatest Initiatory System in the World**

Dec. 2009

Salonica: Archetypo Books (George Ioannidis ed).

Understanding and Using Intuitive Faculties and Synesthesia in : Leon Chaitow, *Palpation and Assessment Skills*, (3rd edn), Edinburgh: Churchill-Livingstone-Elsevier, Dec. 2009

ARTICLES:

[invited, forthcoming] **Occult Power in Greek Icons**

The Fenris Wolf #8, Edda Press, Stockholm, 2015

[invited] **Hidden in Plain Sight: Joséphin Péladan's Religion of Art**

Abraxas International Journal of Esoteric Studies #5, 2014

[invited] **Making the Invisible Visible: Péladan's Artistic Revolution meets the 21st Century**

The Fenris Wolf #7, Edda Press, Stockholm, 2014

[invited] **Joséphin Péladan's Vision of Ensouled Art**

Exhibition catalogue: 1st Neo-Symbolist Salon, Corrala Cultural Centre, Madrid, 2013

[in preparation, invited] **The Esoteric Landscape of Modern Greece**

The Pomegranate (International Journal of Pagan Studies)

[invited] **Mages and Fairies: Joséphin Péladan's Initiation for the Masses**

The Pomegranate (International Journal of Pagan Studies), 2013

[invited] **Legends of the Fall Retold: Péladan's Luciferianism**

The Fenris Wolf #6, Edda Press, Stockholm, 2013

[as Alexandros Kalozoides], **Hellenic Pagan Revivalist Movements and Right-Wing Politics in Studies in Esotericism: Esotericism, Religion, and Politics**, 3rd edn, Arthur Versluis ed., MSU, 2012

Building Bridges : Implications and Responsibilities of Studying Esotericism in the 21st Century

Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Mystic and Esoteric Movements in Theory and Practice: Studying Interpretations of Esotericism and Mysticism, Vladimir State University, Russia, 2010.

Corfu, Crucible of Change: A Multicultural Island of Masonic Initiatory Secrets

Proceedings of the 2nd ESSWE Conference: Capitals of European Esotericism and Transcultural Dialogue, Strasbourg, Presses Universitaires de Strasbourg (in press)

Book Reviews for **ARIES** and the **Journal for the Research of Freemasonry and Fraternalism (JRFF)**, 2009-2012.