

'Clothes' | 'Ρούχα'

English

Galerie K7, Thessaloniki, Greece 1990

Galerie Opsis, Mykonos, Greece 1990

European Cultural Centre of Delphi, Delphi, Greece 1990

Galleria Fontanella Borghese, Rome, Italy 1989



## **THE ATHENIAN, 11/1989 ATHENS**

by **Mary Matsas** Art historian

### **'DISEMBODIED APPAREL'**

VASSILIS KARAKATSANIS, previous exhibitions were based on such themes as houses, cities and bags- iconographies of ordinary objects "native to" the artist's environment.

Currently at Trito Mati Gallery Karakatsanis current show continues this tradition with an exhibition titled "Wearing Apparel" consisting of collage paintings of personal garments which, when stretched out and painted become striking compositions.

Jeans or T-shirts cavort on canvas almost as human form personifying the body in an abstract manner.

An active anatomy may be imagined under the lacy slips or the hanging dress shirts, creating the acute sense of a human presence. Even human attitudes are evoked by the position or motion of the collage garments: a pair of blue jeans seems to be strutting proudly out of the canvas; a shirt hangs dejectedly, as if mourning its wrinkled image.

The relief surface of all the paintings is quite painterly as motif patterns of short, swift, multicoloured brushstrokes characterize all the work, recalling textile designs. Their dark tonalities set against the vivid colour or the surface textures add a dramatic and theatrical tone to the compositions.

The small collage items are interesting shoes, bags, gloves, ties, etc. Enclosed in box-like frames, glazed and colored, they assume the air of small relief sculptures or still lives. Also noteworthy are the collage paintings, wood and fabric, of a chair with brightly colored garments flung down by someone undressing in haste. Karakatsanis highlights his whimsical exhibition with a plaster model's form dressed in apparel similar to that portrayed in the painting. (The skirt he has designed would arouse envy in any fashion designer.)

This is a most interesting exhibition to be missed. Karakatsanis has studied art in Athens at the School of Fine Arts, in Barcelona, and in Venice, and has had numerous one-man shows in Majorca, Hamburg, Athens, Hydra and Rhodes.