

STEFANIA VELDEMIRI

2/5/1973

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CONSERVATION OF ANTIQUITIES AND WORKS OF ART

The professional specialisation of Stefania Veldemiri in the conservation of antiquities and works of art covers a wide range of activities. She chose this professional path triggered by her love of the archaeological find; the find that is brought to light being deconstructed and disturbed and then is brought by the conservator as close as possible to its initial form, so that the information carried by its material, form and structure can lead the researcher to a plausible interpretation, a conclusion that can then be transferred to the public. The conservator's contribution to this whole process, his or her role in the study of the archaeological material and in the development of archaeology as a science is what excites Stefania and gives meaning to her work.

Her work focuses on the manufacturing of replicas or casts of archaeological finds, e.g. sculptures, pots, coins, etc., which are then exhibited or sold.

She specialises in the manufacturing of replicas or casts of fossils, and she has an extensive experience in the conservation of prehistoric pottery. Her professional interests also include the conservation of prehistoric frescoes, since this is a field that intrigues and activates her second professional status as a painter.

The materials she has worked on cover the whole range of possible archaeological finds: metal, mosaic, all kinds of organic material, such as bones, wood, leather and textiles, as well as stone objects, mortars, glass, etc.

She has worked with major institutions and museums both in Greece (*Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, Museum of Byzantine Culture, Archaeological Institute of Macedonian and Thracian Studies, Natural History Museum of Crete, Goulandris Museum of Natural History, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest*) and abroad (*University of Missouri-St. Louis, Smithsonian Institution, American Museum of National History*).

She also has long experience in *in situ* conservation projects, the most recent and longer being the *Iklaina Archaeological Project* carried out by the *University of Missouri-St. Louis*.

She also works with children teaching them how to manufacture casts of typical fossils, bones and figurines (e.g. the renowned Cycladic figurines). Apart from the creative process itself, which is both educational and captivating, casts can be valuable educational tools used by teachers in the classroom

when teaching the corresponding educational subject.

She sets up special educational programs aiming at bringing the world of archaeology and conservation of antiquities closer to children. By attending such programs, children take part in mini archaeological excavations and discover different types of finds, which then they learn how to clean, glue together and, finally, exhibit in their classroom. This whole process helps them trace the course a find follows from the moment it is unearthed by archaeologists to its transformation into an exhibit integrated into a museum.

CONSERVATOR

1999

Conservator

First-aid conservation in the field. Conservation of pottery, stone objects and organic material
Excavation at the Prehistoric Lakeside Settlement of Dispilio, Kastoria, Greece

1999-2001

Conservator

Laboratory of the Orthodox Institution of Education and Culture, Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki

2000-2001

Conservator

Collaboration for the construction of a cast of a mastodon's lower jaw
Natural History Museum of the Aegean, Samos, Greece

2002

Conservator

Collaboration for the study and conservation of contemporary sculptures
Municipality of Thessaloniki, Greece

2003-2004

Conservator

Laboratory for the conservation of pottery, glass and small artifacts

Head: Dimitra Bakirtzi

Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, Greece

2004

Conservator

Collaboration for the construction of casts of the "Petalona skull" and four fossilised skulls for their exhibition in the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki

Laboratory of Geology and Paleontology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.)

Head: Georgios Koufos

2005-2006

Conservator

Processing of Thessaloniki excavations material and conservation of pottery and glass objects

Archaeological Institute of Macedonian and Thracian Studies

Head: Dimitra Bakirtzi

2006

Conservator

Collaboration for the construction of casts of the *Ouranopithecus macedoniensis*' skull and lower jaw for their exhibition in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.
Laboratory of Geology and Paleontology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.)
Head: Georgios Koufos

2007

Conservator

Collaboration for the removal of older layers of varnish, works for the stabilisation and protection of the "Petralona skull". Cast construction.
Laboratory of Geology and Paleontology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.)
Head: Georgios Koufos

2008

Conservator

Collaboration for the construction of casts and replicas of the "Petralona skull", the skull and lower jaw of the *Ouranopithecus* found in Xirochori, Thessaloniki, Greece, two *Mesopithecus* skulls and a lower jaw of an early elephant found in Amyntaio, Greece
Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, Greece

2008

Collaboration for the conservation, as well as for the construction of a cast and a replica, of the lower jaw and tusk of the gigantic *Deinotherium* found in Sitia, Crete, Greece
Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece

2009

Conservator

Collaboration for the construction of casts and replicas of the "Petralona skull", the skull and lower jaw of an *Ouranopithecus macedoniensis* for their exhibition in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History
Laboratory of Geology and Paleontology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.)
Head: Georgios Koufos

2015

Conservator

Conservation of the exhibits
Historical & Folklore Museum of Nikiti, Greece

2015

Conservator

Study, recording, initial cleaning and preventive conservation works for re-exhibition purposes
Folklore Museum of Portianou, Lesvos, Greece

2010- 2016

Conservator

Field and laboratory collaborator mainly working on the conservation of prehistoric pottery, metal artifacts and fresco fragments
Iklaina Archaeological Project, Pylos, Greece
Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Missouri-St. Louis, USA
Director: Michael B. Cosmopoulos

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

03-07-2000 - 31-10-2000

Continuing Vocational Education & Training program

«*Traditional bookbinding*»

Vocational Training Centre, Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki

21-2-2000 - 30-6-2000

Program against Exclusion from the Labour Market

“*Cultural tradition (Conservation of antiques)*”

Vocational Training Centre, Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki

10-01-2000 - 18-3-2000

Continuing Vocational Education & Training program

“*Byzantine art – Conservation of icons*”

Vocational Training Centre, Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki

06-12-1999 - 17-2-2000

Continuing Vocational Education & Training program

“*Byzantine art*”

Vocational Training Centre, Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki

2003-2004

Teaching at the *Laboratory for the Conservation of Glass Objects, Theory and practice*

Institute of Vocational Training (IEK) POLITISTIKO