

# STEFANIA VELDEMIRI

2/5/1973

Ath. Diakou 7-9, Agios Pavlos, Thessaloniki

2310247570 - 6978 315324

[info@stefanieveldemiri.com](mailto:info@stefanieveldemiri.com)

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## ART | PAINTING

Art, and in particular painting, has always been an integral part in the life of Stefania Veldemiri. Her studies as a conservator of archaeological finds and works of art helped her acquire all necessary technical knowledge and skills, which contributed to her growing into a talented artist exceptionally handling her tools. Conservation requires a deep knowledge of construction technologies and materials, so Stefania had the opportunity to study and work on a wide range of technologies and painting/art materials; frescoes, Byzantine icons, oils, temperas, watercolours, acrylics.

### *Materials / styles / forms*

Her favourite materials are: oil paint and watercolours on handmade paper. While learning how to manufacture handmade cotton paper, she loved the combination of these two materials, which appeared to defy the creator and act in a strangely independent manner.

Her teaching experience in Elementary Schools significantly affected the way she presents form in her works. She integrated in them the viewpoint and raw artistic intelligence of children and learned how to use simple, almost primitive, lines, while consciously ignoring volume and perspective.

### *Painting and literature*

Book illustration is her ultimate artistic love. At the beginning of her professional artistic career, she realised that she was mainly inspired by her readings. It is rather a reflex choice; to transform words into images and to use her words –when she is the writer of the literary texts she illustrates– as brushes that create beautiful images. She illustrates fairytales, short fiction and poetry. Her unconfessed dream: to illustrate a novel.

### *Painting and children*

She teaches painting and history of art to children and adults, either in the form of private lessons or in small groups, in her studio or in various creative spaces for children. She has also worked as an Art Teacher in public Elementary Schools. Her teaching goal is to boost her students' self-confidence, while

her greatest teaching pleasure is hearing them say while they look at a work of art: “I can paint that! It’s a piece of cake!”. Her students learn all fundamental drawing and painting techniques, because if you don’t learn how to master the basics, you cannot be a painter; if you don’t know the rules, you cannot convince anyone that you are entitled to break them!

Her professional experience as an artist is unfolded in a more formal way [here](#).

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2003-2010

Art teacher in Public Elementary Schools

Elementary School of Anatoliko (extended school)  
13<sup>th</sup> Elementary School of Gefyra (extended school)  
15<sup>th</sup> Elementary School of Evosmos (extended school)  
25<sup>th</sup> Elementary School of Evosmos (extended school)  
1<sup>st</sup> Elementary School of Diavata (extended school)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Elementary School of Stavroupoli (extended school)  
7<sup>th</sup> Elementary School of Polichni (extended school)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Elementary School of Agios Pavlos (extended school)  
13<sup>th</sup> Elementary School of Polichni (extended school)  
Elementary Intercultural School of the 4<sup>th</sup> Office of Primary Education  
Directorate of Thessaloniki.

### EXHIBITIONS

2009

Painting exhibition “*A door to colour*”  
Art House, Thessaloniki, Greece

2010

Participation in the group exhibition “*Nothing is lost!*” with two sculptures. The exhibition was part of the urban experiment for the city of Thessaloniki initiated by the free-press magazine *Parallaxi*. The exhibition was organised in cooperation with the Technical Chamber of Greece / Section of Central Macedonia.  
Thessaloniki Centre of Contemporary Art, Greece  
Curator: Aliko Tsirliangou

2011

Painting exhibition “*... and this is how fairytales are made*”  
Partizan, Thessaloniki / Kallitechneio Acharnon, Athens / Steki tis odou Averof 7A, Chalandri, Athens, Greece

2012

Painting exhibition “*15 scary colourful months and a butterfly net*”  
Art House, Thessaloniki / Vimata Art Space, Thiseio, Athens, Greece

2012

Painting exhibition  
EPT3 Public Television stand, Thessaloniki Book Fair, Greece

2012  
Participation in a group exhibition organised within the context of *SaniEcoDay* with two sculptures  
Sani Resort, Chalkidiki, Greece

2014  
Personal painting exhibition on the illustration of literary texts and poetry entitled “*Coloured notes – painted words*”  
Pw Art Space, Thessaloniki, Greece

2015  
Participation in the group exhibition “*twenty eight, 28 quatrains, 28 creators inspired by the work of Odysseas Elytis ‘The Thrills of Love’*”  
Pw Art Space, Thessaloniki, Greece

2015  
Participation of εσθήτα in the painting, art and installations exhibition, which was organised within the context of the two-day conference “*Invisible cities: an interdisciplinary and art meeting*”  
Department of Communication and Media Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens / Italian Institute of Culture

2015  
Participation of εσθήτα in the group exhibition “*6+1 ochres, warm rusts, apricots and pinks*”  
Pw Art Space, Thessaloniki, Greece

2013-2015  
Participation in the la mamart group exhibitions (winter & spring)

2014-2015  
Participation in the BAZAART events organised by the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art

### E-BOOKS

*The boy, the girl and a tiny little bit of reality*  
Words and illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
Saita Publications  
<http://www.saitapublications.gr/2013/07/ebook.36.html>

*The yellow fairytale*  
Words: Kostas Stoforos  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<http://www.saitapublications.gr/2013/06/ebook.31.html>

*The red fairytale*  
Words: Kostas Stoforos  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<http://www.saitapublications.gr/2013/06/ebook.30.html>

*The white fairytale*  
Words: Kostas Stoforos  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<http://www.saitapublications.gr/2013/07/ebook.33.html>

*The Tallow Candle*

An unknown fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen  
Translation into Greek: Christina Markoulaki, Kostas Stoforos  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<http://www.openbook.gr/2013/06/andersen.html>

*How did butterflies become colourful?*

Words: Antigoni Doumou  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
[http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2013/05/blog-post\\_24.html](http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2013/05/blog-post_24.html)

*The orange fairytale*

Words: Kostas Stoforos  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<http://www.saitapublications.gr/2013/06/ebook.32.html>

### ILLUSTRATIONS HERE AND THERE

*The green grasshopper*

Words: Katerina Efthymiou  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2014/09/blog-post.html>

An illustration specially created for Grimm Brothers' fairytale *The Straw, the Coal, and the Bean*. The project was proposed by Giota Kotsafti for publication in the web magazine *Sugarmama*  
<http://sugarmama.gr/index.php/vivliothiki/item/1260-to-axyro-to-karvouno-kai-to-fasoli>

*Orpheus and the tiny ant girl*

Words: Georgia Manafi  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
[http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2013/05/blog-post\\_30.html](http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2013/05/blog-post_30.html)

### BOOKS WRITTEN BY STEFANIA VELDEMIRI, "DRESSED" BY HER ILLUSTRATIONS AND TURNED INTO VIDEOS

*The man, the colour grey and the bird*

Words: Stefania Veldemiri  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
Music: Thanasis Zlatanios  
Narrator: Mara Tsikara  
<http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2014/05/blog-post.html>

*The dog was smarter than the taverna guy*

Words: Stefania Veldemiri  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
Music: Thanasis Zlatanios  
Narrator: Eleni Kourtidou  
[http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2014/04/blog-post\\_4487.html](http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2014/04/blog-post_4487.html)

### BOOKS WRITTEN BY OTHERS, "DRESSED" BY STEFANIA'S ILLUSTRATIONS AND TURNED INTO VIDEOS

*The greedy grasshopper*

Words: Katerina Efthymiou  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
Music: Orestis Benekas  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3UtmlNgC1U>

*Yohann*  
Words: Katerina Efthymiou  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
[http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2013/06/blog-post\\_8.html](http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2013/06/blog-post_8.html)

### OTHER PROJECTS

CD COVER & SONG VIGNETTES for the album *Fairytale talk*.  
Lyrics: Sofia M. Karachaliou  
Music: Peny Papakonstantinou  
[http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2015/03/blog-post\\_13.html](http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2015/03/blog-post_13.html)

THREE SONG VIGNETTES were used for the CREATION OF VIDEO CLIPS:

*The cypress and the fountain*  
Lyrics: Sofia M. Karachaliou  
Music: Peny Papakonstantinou  
Voice: Peny Papakonstantinou  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amZpuKBOsU4>

*The souls*  
Lyrics: Sofia M. Karachaliou  
Music: Peny Papakonstantinou  
Voice: Angeliki Toumbanaki  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omSoAw8aQbQ>

*Lies, truths and whys*  
Lyrics: Sofia M. Karachaliou  
Music: Peny Papakonstantinou  
Voice: Savveria Margiola  
Illustrations: Stefania Veldemiri  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQSJYUmmRoQ>

THE COVER of the first re-circulation issue of *Exostis* free press  
<http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2011/05/blog-post.html>

### COLOUR IN SCHOOLS

While working as an Art teacher in various public Elementary Schools, Stefania Veldemiri discovered how colourless and often ugly the school environment is in Greece today. Her wish to change this reality and create colourful and bright oases in the schools located in the wider area of the city of Thessaloniki, lead her to integrate into her classes wall painting projects, as well as to voluntarily offer to paint the walls of schools where she did not teach. Working together with her students and starting from their own random brush strokes, she responded to their need –which was more than obvious to her– to learn to love their school environment through painting its empty walls, yards, classrooms. Lots of colour, interesting shapes and forms, magic forests, strange-looking cities and villages, moons and birds, magic umbrellas and deep-blue seas were the motifs she chose to depict.

Her goal was for her students to experience how aesthetics and art can be part of our everyday life, how fantasy can actually be a part of our reality. She also wanted to boost students' self-confidence and sharpen their ability to truly and deeply observe their surroundings. This action was actually a result of her strong belief that this is how future citizens can learn to fight for their right to beauty both in their own lives and in the lives of those next to them.

#### WRITE YOUR LETTER TO SANTA\_2014

Collaboration with the Hellenic Post (ELTA).

Stefania Veldemiri painted and was responsible for the aesthetic result of Santa's response letter to all of his little friends that wrote and sent him a letter.

[http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2015/01/blog-post\\_6.html](http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2015/01/blog-post_6.html)

#### A STAMP / IKLAINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Stefania Veldemiri designed a stamp for Hellenic Post (ELTA).

Depiction of the fragment of a wall painting that was conserved within the context of the *Iklaina Archaeological Project*

<http://stefaniaveldemiri.blogspot.gr/2014/01/iklaina-archaeologigal-project.html>