

Yannis MORALIS

Moralis has exercised his exceptional capacity for organising the surfaces given to him with the greatest economy of means and the maximum of expression. The surfaces can be either the 626 square metres of the northwest or the southeast façades of the Athens Hilton Hotel, on which his great incised composition has withstood already 17 years of weathering and changing taste without becoming banal, or the colourful tiled sheltering walls of the Port of Piraeus Authority. They still attract the passengers by their stylised evocation of shapes so familiar that they would normally pass unnoticed - the gulls, the waves, the pediments and porticoes of Greece. However, it is in his intimate easel-works, elaborated in the silence of his island workshop, that he demonstrates in the most convincing manner how far stylisation can go without reducing expression. His human forms are not mere pure outlines but men and women in one of their most familiar yet most transcending functions, making love. They emerge in Moralis' paintings charged with a compact suggestiveness lacking in other works where presentation is more explicit.

A.X.

Born - 1916, Arta (Epirus)

Studies - School of Fine Arts, Athens, Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris
1937-1938 (with a State scholarship)

1947 elected Professor at the School of Fine Arts

Exhibitions - Four one-man shows Athens (1959, 1963, 1972, 1978)

Numerous participations in group shows in Greece and abroad,
of which Venice Biennale 1958, Canada, New York etc.

