

## **Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London Press Release**

Title: Shakespeare Dreams: Death & Desire

Exhibition by Leverhulme Trust artist-in-residence Elpida Georgiou at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, James Black Centre, Cutcombe Road, Denmark Hill, SE5 9RJ

Private view: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008, 6-8pm

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The Leverhulme Trust generously funded a year's artist-in-residence fellowship for Elpida in the Department of English, King's College London. The principal aim of her residency was the production of a series of twelve large-scale oil works based on key psychological moments in the plays of Shakespeare and offering challenging new perspectives on those moments. Elpida has sought in particular to represent the psychological models Shakespeare himself drew upon: finding negotiation between those models and contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives has been a genuine challenge.

Shakespeare has always provided a rich source of thematic inspiration for artists. He has also had a highly significant place in the history of psychoanalysis: Freud was as dependent upon Shakespearean archetypes as he was on Classical, and Jung similarly drew upon the mythic power of the plays in his approach to the intersection of psychoanalysis and aesthetics. It is to the conjunction of Shakespeare and psychoanalysis that Elpida is drawn as both the prompt and the thematic underpinning for a major series of works, combining ancient, early modern and post-Freudian models of human nature to confront key Shakespearean concerns: melancholy, depression, madness, narcissism, jealousy, child-parent relationships, the consequences of an absent parent, and the roots of violence.

The end result of the project is an exhibition of Elpida's Shakespeare paintings at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. The opening will also include a public seminar on the interconnections of Shakespeare, psychoanalysis and the history of art. For more information please contact [Antonella.Surdi@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Antonella.Surdi@iop.kcl.ac.uk) or 0207 848 5377

### **Notes for editors:**

The artist and an academic from the Department of English at King's are available for comment. Images from the exhibition are available on request. Please contact [Antonella.Surdi@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Antonella.Surdi@iop.kcl.ac.uk) or 0207 848 5377.

The Leverhulme Trust makes awards for the support of research and education. <http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk>

### **King's College London**

King's College London is one of the top 25 universities in the world (*Times Higher* 2007) and the fourth oldest in England. A research-led university based in the heart of London, King's has 19,700 students from more than 140 countries, and 5,400 employees. King's has an outstanding reputation for providing world-class teaching and cutting-edge research. The College is in the top group of UK universities for research earnings and has an annual income of approximately £400 million. An investment of £500 million has been made in the redevelopment of its estate.

King's has a particularly distinguished reputation in the humanities, law, social sciences, the health sciences, natural sciences and engineering, and has played a major role in many of the advances that have shaped modern life. It is the largest centre for the education of healthcare

professionals in Europe and is home to five Medical Research Council Centres – a total unsurpassed by any other university.