



Yannis Ziogas

Out at a restaurant in Girona having dinner, late in the evening, Andrew Stuck discovers that his plan to interview walking artist Yannis Ziogas the following morning have gone awry as Yannis has to leave on the earliest flight. So to interview Yannis in person, they had to do it there and then. They walk near-deserted streets close to midnight, talking about Yannis' unique bond with Prespes, on the disputed, remote northern border of Greece. 32'33" 15.2MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in July 2022 and published in May 2023. <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Yannis Ziogas is Professor at the Department of Applied and Visual arts at the University of Western Macedonia, and has served as a Dean of the School. Author of a Visual march to Prespes: Walking as a Contemplative Process <https://walkingart.interartive.org/2018/12/ziogas>

Beginning in the early 2000s, with a 50 kms walk from Florina to Prespes as 'artistic colonisers', repeated on many occasions is now fully integrated into the local community, through the efforts of Yannis, in part in re-using abandoned properties, to create a centre for community arts. The process is named "Visual March to Prespes" and is still developing in different ways. <https://visualmarch.eetf.uowm.gr/index.php?lang=en>

An area of 60 kms in diameter and a population of little more than 1,500, more than 300kms from the nearest airport, mountainous and remote that has seen wars for over one hundred years, until 1989, the NATO frontline, has meant non-stop military occupation either as a theatre of war, or in clearing minefields.

Macedonia: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Macedonia-region-Greece>  
A History of modern Macedonia: [https://profilbaru.com/article/History\\_of\\_modern\\_Macedonia\\_\(Greece\)](https://profilbaru.com/article/History_of_modern_Macedonia_(Greece))

In 2019, in collaboration with Geert Vermeire, Yannis ran a walking arts encounter that attracted more than 250 practicing artists from around the world. Prespes has earned the reputation as a point of return. <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/>

Geert Vermeire talking walking: <https://www.talkingwalking.net/geert-vermeire-talking-walking/>  
<https://walklistencreate.org/walkingevent/walking-beyond-borders-walking-arts-before-and-after-the-pandemic-between-prespes-2019-and-2021/>

The return in 2021, constrained by the pandemic, attracted a similar number of participants, many. Contributing through local community hubs around the world. <https://walklistencreate.org/walkingevent/walking-as-a-question/>

Yannis' recommended walk:

A 9 day walk along and across the border between Albania and Greece, commemorating all those that died in one hundred years of war.