Spiros Baras

Spiros Baras (b. 1977, Athens, Greece) is a visual artist whose practice centers on drawing and watercolor, exploring perception, atmosphere, and the subtle presence of everyday life. After earning a Diploma in Graphic Arts from Sivitanidios School in Athens (2002–2005) and a Certification in Digital Art from the University of the Aegean, he began painting and exhibiting in the early 2010s.

His first public presentation took place in 2010 at Technopolis, Athens, in the exhibition 35 Artists Exhibit Their Works on Global Poverty, where he showed his work alongside established Greek artists. Since then, Baras has illustrated three books, and his artworks have been featured in several public spaces.

In 2013, he relocated to the island of Syros, where he founded and continues to direct Plastico Café-Gallery, an independent meeting place for artists, musicians, writers, and friends. The space functions both as a gallery and as a cultural hub within the Cyclades art scene.

Despite his deep roots in the European tradition, Baras emphasizes the crucial influence Japanese art has had on him. Speaking about his experience of interaction and recognition, the artist offers revealing insight into his intellectual and emotional relationship with Japan, adding an important contextual layer to his practice. He situates his work not only within the aesthetic lineage of ukiyo-e but also within the broader dialogue between Western modernism and Japanese visual philosophy.
In his own statement, Spiros Baras traces his evolving relationship with Japanese culture - from early misconceptions to a deep and respectful understanding. His honesty about initial misreadings (imagining tattoos and shunga as common domestic motifs) underscores his self-awareness and humility as an outsider engaging with another tradition. Rather than aesthetic appropriation, his approach becomes one of study, reflection, and homage.

Baras's artistic path mirrors the trajectory of many Western modernists who were transformed by Japanese prints, yet his process unfolds with a contemporary sensitivity, acknowledging not only the influence of form but also the ethical and cultural context of that influence.

Ultimately, his statement reveals Baras as an artist of cultural empathy. His drawings are acts of attention, and his tribute to Japan becomes a study in how looking itself can be a form of love.

Education

Diploma in Graphic Arts, Sivitanidios School, Athens (2002–2005)
Certification in Digital Art, University of the Aegean, Greece

Selected Exhibitions

2026 One Finds Another, G. & E. Vati Art Gallery, Hermoupolis, Greece
2025 Longing for Summer (solo), Gallery G-77, Kyoto, Japan
2025 SyrArt and Life Fest - A Way of Being, Cyclades Art Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece
2024 Syros Island, G. & E. Vati Art Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece
2023 Drawings and Watercolours (solo), Plastico Café-Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece
2022 Drawings and Watercolours (solo), Plastico Café-Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece
2019 Awagami International Mini-Print Exhibition, Inbe Art Space, Yoshinogawa, Japan
2018 Visual Approaches to Greek Poetry, Ano Syros Cultural Center, Ano Syros, Greece
2016 Man and the Sea, Ro Art Space, Thessaloniki, Greece
2016 Immersion into Digital Culture, Cyclades Art Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece

2014 Invisible Islands, Cyclades Art Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece
2014 Open Studios, G. & E. Vatis Art Gallery, Hermoupolis, Syros, Greece
2010 Testamento (solo), Centro Filarmonico Comunale, Savoca, Sicily, Italy
2010 35 Artists Exhibit Their Works on Global Poverty, Technopolis, Athens, Greece

Books Illustrated

2013 Rainworms, written by Samuele Livornese, illustrated by Spiros Baras
2015 La Virgola, written by Laura De Luca, illustrated by Spiros Baras (La Vita Felice, Italy)
2024 La Solitudine del Derviscio, written by Samuele Livornese, illustrated by Spiros Baras