

# UNITED STATES SPORTS ACADEMY

*"America's Sport University"*



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Academy Sport Artist of the Year Mina Papatheodorou-Valyraki Receives FICTS Highest Honor and Featured in Two International Art Shows**

DAPHNE, Ala. — Greek artist Mina Papatheodorou-Valyraki, the Academy's 2002 Sport Artist of the Year, was recently awarded "Guirlande d'Honneur," the highest honor presented by the Fédération Internationale Cinéma Télévision Sportifs (FICTS).

During this year's 18<sup>th</sup> International Contemporary Art Fair of Athens "Art-Athina 2013," President of FICTS Dr. Franco Ascani presented Valyraki the award for her contributions and excellence in cinema, television and sports culture.

Valyraki was a featured artist at this year's Art-Athina exhibit held May 16-19 at the shorefront of Athens, Greece, in Faliro Pavilion – a former Taekwondo Olympic Games venue. With the help of Ikastikos Kiklos Art Gallery, Valyraki presented her work titled "Suns in the Sunset."

Launched in 1993 by the Hellenic Art Galleries Association, Art-Athina promotes Greek contemporary art creation and is now the largest annual international visual art event in Greece attracting more than 18,000 visitors.

More of Valyraki's artwork will be featured in an exhibition titled "Art and Cars - Mina On Park Lane" at the Bob Forstner Pagani showroom in London beginning June 19. Valyraki, who is the official artist for Lamborghini, Ferrari and F1, will display much of her well-known car artwork at the exhibit.

Some of Valyraki's colorful and vibrant artworks can be seen at the American Sport Art Museum & Archives (ASAMA) in Daphne, Ala. ASAMA's collection features nearly 20 pieces by Valyraki.

ASAMA, a division of the Academy, is dedicated to the preservation of sports art, history, and literature. The ASAMA collection is composed of nearly 1,700 works of sport art across a variety of media, including paintings, sculptures, assemblages, prints and photographs. It is arguably the largest sport art collection in the world. The museum is open free to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at One Academy Drive in Daphne, Ala. For more information about the Academy's sport art museum, please visit [www.asama.org](http://www.asama.org).

The United States Sports Academy is an independent, nonprofit, accredited, special mission sports university created to serve the nation and the world with programs in instruction, research and service. The role of the Academy is to prepare men and women for careers in the profession of sports. For more information about the Academy, call 251-626-3303 or visit [www.ussa.edu](http://www.ussa.edu).

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