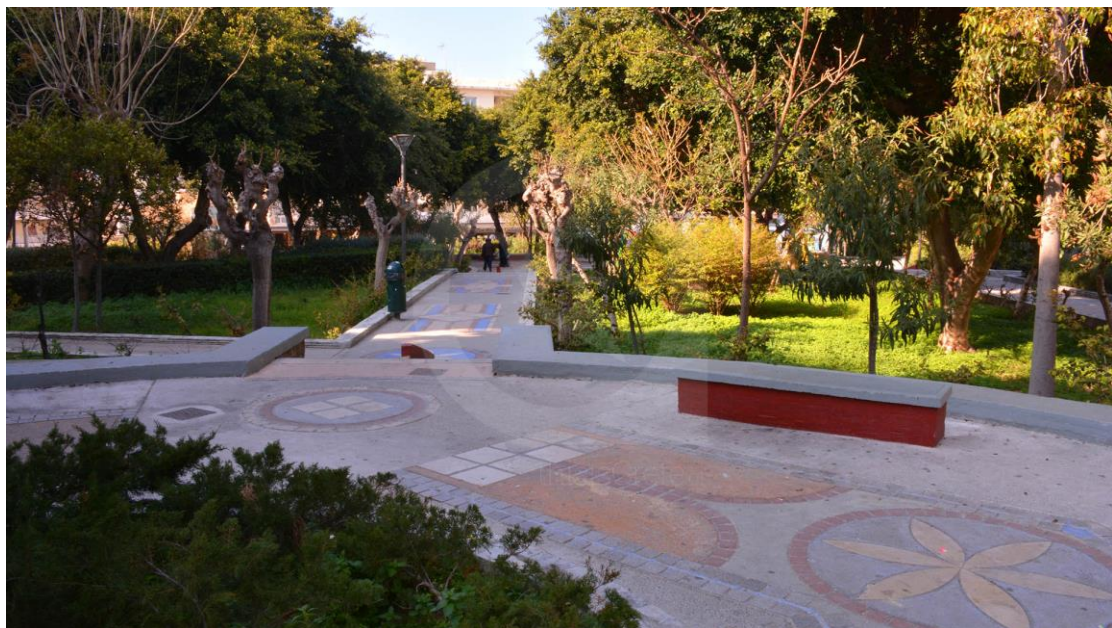


# THEOTOKOPOULOS PARK



**Theotokopoulos Park** is located in the heart of the city of Heraklion, west of August 25<sup>th</sup> St.



It offers a small oasis of green in the heart of the city center, with rest and recreation areas for children and adults. The park welcomes the bust of the

great **Cretan painter Dominikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco)** who started as a hagiographer in Crete, but then went to study in Venice. He lived in Italy and Spain, influenced by the greatest painters of the time and created his own unique style that ranked him among the most important painters in the world. Apart from a painter, he was also a sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance.

"**El Greco**" was a nickname, a reference to his Greek origin, and the artist normally signed his paintings with his full birth name in Greek letters, Δομήνικος Θεοτοκόπουλος, *Doménikos Theotokópoulos*, often adding the word Κρής *Krēs*, Cretan.

El Greco was born in the Kingdom of Candia on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1541, which was at that time part of the Republic of Venice, and the center of Post-Byzantine art. He trained and became a master within that tradition before traveling at age 26 to Venice, as other Greek artists had done. In 1570 he moved to Rome, where he opened a workshop and executed a series of works. During his stay in Italy, El Greco enriched his style with elements of Mannerism and of the Venetian Renaissance taken from a number of great artists of the time, notably Tintoretto. In 1577, he moved to Toledo, Spain, where he lived and worked until his death on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1614. In Toledo, El Greco received several major commissions and produced his best-known paintings.

El Greco's dramatic and expressionistic style was met with puzzlement by his contemporaries but found appreciation in the 20th century. El Greco is regarded as a precursor of both Expressionism and Cubism, while his personality and works were a source of inspiration for poets and writers such as Rainer Maria Rilke and Nikos Kazantzakis. El Greco has been characterized by modern scholars as an artist so individual that he belongs

to no conventional school. He is best known for tortuously elongated figures and often fantastic or phantasmagorical pigmentation, marrying Byzantine traditions with those of Western painting.



**ATHANASIA VAGE, 3<sup>RD</sup> GYMNASIUM OF HERAKLION CRETE**

**ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT, “MY HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE”**

***INFORMATION ABOUT IMPORTANT LOCAL PEOPLE OF CRETE WHOSE NAMES WERE GIVEN TO STREETS AND OTHER CENTRAL LOCATIONS OF HERAKLION CITY.***