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AUGUST 2022

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OUR BELOVED
PROF. DR. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER

ATAFOM NEWSLETTER

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FEATURES

STORY

A Phenomenon Called THEOS

Known across the globe as the King of Action Painting, Prof. Dr. Theodorus Michael Berthus Sijrier, THEOS, was born on the 27th of December, 1947 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.



When the action fades away – Remembering Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. Sijrier



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When the action fades away – Remembering Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. Sijrier

THEOS – The King of Action Painting

Prof. Dr. Theos was a great artist and was known as the “King of Action Painting”, a title which Pablo Picasso gave him when he met the young, talented and ambitious THEOS in one of their first joint exhibitions.

When very young, Prof. Dr. Theos found Jackson Pollock’s artistic style particularly impressive, which made a strong impression on him. It was perhaps this encounter which led Prof. Dr. Theos to train in arts and painting with a focus on Abstract Expressionism.

He also collaborated with many greats of action painting and Abstract Expressionism like Willem de Kooning, John Cordell, Anatol et al to create masterpieces which have found a lot of international recognition and admiration.

He attended one of the prestigious art schools in the Netherlands known as the Academy for the Art (later named after an alumnus and famous artist, Willem de Kooning) from 1963 to 1967. He also studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp in Belgium between 1967 and 1971; and the Art Academy Dusseldorf, Germany in 1974 and 1975, with Joseph Beuys and Anatol.

He also started parttime studies in psychology the following year. THEOS met the great action painter Willem de Kooning in 1971 and was struck with his admiration. It was the beginning of his journey into the world of abstract art which featured mainly in gestural paintings, gestural abstraction and abstract impressionism. This association and admiration helped THEOS develop a strong artistic appetite for Action Painting.



OUR BELOVED
PROF. DR. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER

Paintings by the Late Prof. Dr. THEOS

His individual and group exhibitions have been held in a lot of countries



When the action fades away – Remembering Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. Sijrier

It was in the year 1975 when he registered and started as a free artist, the brand name THEOS was born.

As he started getting more and more creative, he participated in individual and group exhibitions around the world with his unique artworks.

His individual and group exhibitions have been held in Brussels, Antwerp (Belgium), Paris (France), Düsseldorf, Berlin (Germany), Ibiza (Spain), London (England), Malmö (Sweden), Heeswijk, Den Haag, Eindhoven, Rotterdam (Netherlands), Los Angeles, New York (USA) and Barcelona (Spain).

Some of the important stages of his artistic and academic success were:

2002

New York Awarded a lifelong visiting professorship at the Columbia University, New York City.

2006

Riga Visiting professorship, Action Painting, at the Art Academy of Latvia.

2021

Bangui Appointment as Professor Vice Rector and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at ATAFOM University International, Central African Republic.

Paintings by the Late Prof. Dr. THEOS

His individual and group exhibitions have been held in a lot of countries



Paintings by the Late Prof. Dr. THEOS

Paintings by the Late Prof. Dr. THEOS are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco), the Winckelmann Museum (Stendal, Germany), The Clemens-Sell Museum (Neuss, Germany), The Royal Family of the Netherlands, The SayArtsCollection (Türkiye) and many other private collectors.

Similarly, he has been involved in a lot of performances that promoted the philosophy of Action Painting all around the world and collaboration with many great impressionists and artists such as Pablo Picasso in London, David Hockney in London, Corneille in Eindhoven, Anton Heyboer in Eindhoven, Karel Appel in Rotterdam, Wasseburg Hanshaus in Rotterdam, Willem de Kooning in Zuidwolde, Clive Miller in Zuidwolde and many more.

Some of his works are displayed in the ATAFOM Digital Museum and on several other online platforms and museums in the world. Some of his great designs remain untitled, however, other titles include; "Without You" (2007), "Summertime" (2008), "Back to Germany" (2009), "Garden Around the House" (2011).

The co-operation partner for the Department of Fine Arts of ATAFOM University, SayArtsCollection owns the exclusive rights to marketing and selling THEOS works since 2008.

A PHENOMENON CALLED **THEOS** MB SIJRIER

**A LIFE LIKE NO
ONE ELSE**

For years he lived an
excessive, restless life in
the fast lane

STORY OF
PASSION
THEOS

A Phenomenon Called THEOS



A tall, slim man of international renown, slender with sensual lips and fiery eyes and yet with a transparent, glassy and fragile personality, THEOS was loved for his eccentric – elegant charisma, his charm, humour and spirit. And in turn, he loved women – seven times married, six times divorced, once widowed, several children and yet the search for the perfect muse seemed never ending.



Life well Lived

For years he lived an excessive, restless life in the fast lane. Women, alcohol and drugs were just as much a part of it as his art. He narrowly escaped the social collapse in which many of his prominent contemporaries, such as Immendorf, Friedmann, Konstantin Wecker fell.



His Battles

It was his battle with severe lung cancer which got him out of this vicious circle in 1997. From 1998 he began visiting a Hindu monastery in Bali for meditation. There, he regularly visited a shaman who helped activate his body's defences.

BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

In the year 2000, Prof. Dr. THEOS met Sakir Yavuz, the Founder and President of ATAFOM University International.





Bonds of Friendship and Camaraderie

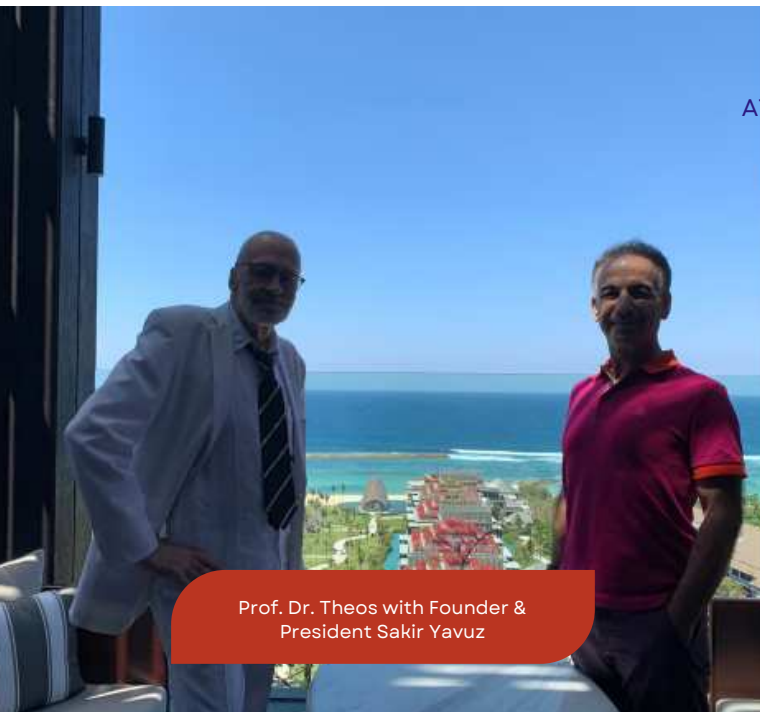
In the year 2000, Prof. Dr. THEOS met Sakir Yavuz, the Founder and President of ATAFOM University International.

Mr. Yavuz was very impressed by the art of Prof. Dr. THEOS and he bought many of his works. This was also the beginning of a deep friendship and camaraderie which stood the test of time and stayed strong. Mr. Yavuz not only supported his friend THEOS financially but also with creative expertise wherever he could.



All this while THEOS continued his battle with Lung Cancer and in December 2007 it took a turn for the worse. At his request, his friend Mr. Yavuz then sent him back to Bali in 2010 to conquer his illness there.

In Bali, THEOS regained new courage to face life, new energy and he created excellent new masterpieces that reflect his freshly gained vitality in a great way.



Prof. Dr. Theos with Founder & President Sakir Yavuz

Bonds of Friendship and Camaraderie

THEOS not only conquered his illness, but also conquered his addiction to drugs and alcohol.

THEOS married for the eighth time; converted to Islam and lived very happily in Bali with his wife and son. This relaxed environment brimming with artistic freedom helped him create his new masterpieces.

The love for teaching and charity brought THEOS and Mr. Yavuz closer together and the current collaboration for the Department of Fine Arts in the Faculty of Arts at the ATAFOM University was forged.

The training and curriculum of the programme at ATAFOM University are geared towards achieving the ideals of Prof. Dr. THEOS such that it helps the budding artists project their artwork beyond the humdrum life and societal mediocrity.



Founder & President Sakir Yavuz, Vice President Mark Huseby with Prof. Dr. Theos



THEOS with Sakir Yavuz on his birthday



Prof. Dr. Theos with President & Founder Sakir Yavuz in Bali, 2019



Prof. Dr. Theos with President & Founder Sakir Yavuz in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2018



Specially painted Painting by Prof. Dr. Theos for the President's birthday
"For my friend Sakir" Signature "THEOS, 2009"

BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CAMARADERIE



Prof. Dr. Theos Celebrating President Sakir Yavuz's Birthday 2009



Prof. Dr. Theos with President & Founder Sakir Yavuz in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2018



Prof. Dr. Theos with President & Founder Sakir Yavuz, Vice President Mark Huseby in Bali, 2019

AN UNFORGETTABLE LEGACY



“There are some who bring a
light so great to the world that
even after they have gone, the
light remains.”

~ Unknown



Prof. THEOS' idea for art is to project its importance beyond the mediocre perception of society. He believes the speed with which technology has progressed over the years is not enough to erode the sound, image, and representation of social movements and currents for which the arts symbolise.

Like every other Action Painter, Prof. THEOS believed this genre of arts gives the artist complete freedom for creativity to thrive thereby making the act of painting more important than the work itself. The canvas becomes a tool to feast on rather than for the display of tangible images.

The action has faded out of THEOS' hands as he bows to the coldness of death but the power of impression and the action in his paintings will dwell with all those who come in contact with his personality and works. THEOS will be forever remembered by all of us for his well-executed artistic works and the pivotal role he played in the establishment of ATAFOM University.

His legacy and tribute would be the young, budding artists benefiting from the Faculty of Arts at the ATAFOM University which he helped conceive and nurture. Through them THEOS lives on.



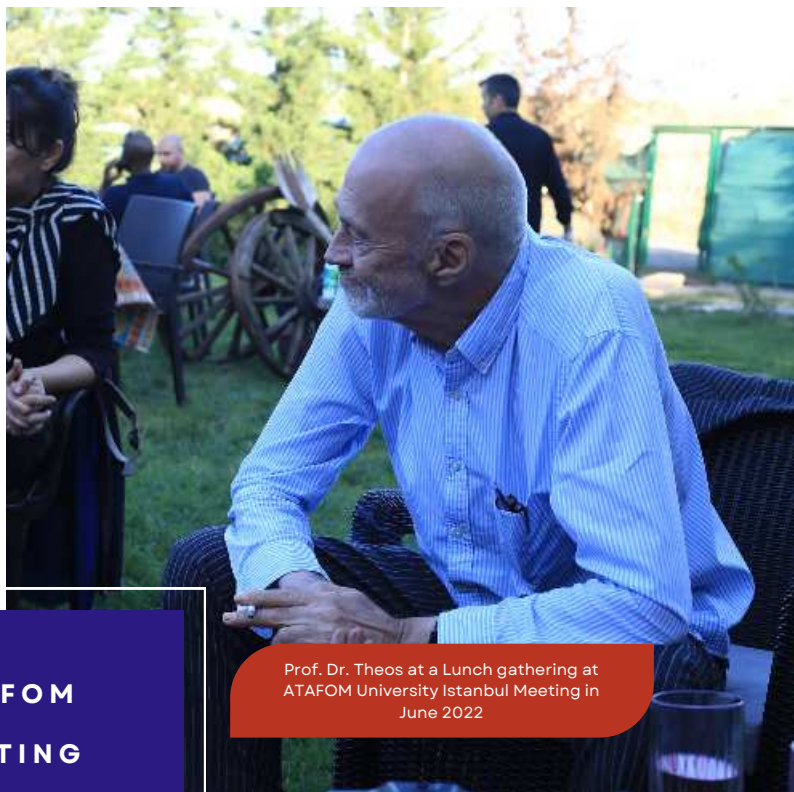
Photo (From Left): Prof. Dr. Nevers Mumba, Prof. Dr. THEOS, President Sakir Yavuz at ATAFOM Istanbul Meeting in June 2022



Prof. Dr. Theos with President and Founder of ATAFOM University, Sakir Yavuz



Photo (From Left): Mr. Andreas Gleisenstein, Founder & President Sakir Yavuz and Prof. Dr. Theos at ATAFOM Istanbul Meeting in June 2022



Prof. Dr. Theos at a Lunch gathering at ATAFOM University Istanbul Meeting in June 2022

ATAFOM MEETING ISTANBUL JUNE 2022 MEMORIES



Photo (From Left): Prof. Dr. Theos, Mr. Nicolas, Mr. Mike Mumba and Mr. Anas Jawed at ATAFOM Istanbul Meeting in June 2022



Prof. Dr. Theos with President and Founder of ATAFOM University, Sakir Yavuz



From Left: Prof. Dr. Theos, Assoc. Prof. Özge Kutluay and Prof. Dr. Michael Bauer at ATAFOM Istanbul Meeting June 2022



From Left: Prof. Dr. Theos, Assoc. Prof. Can Katipzade and Prof. Dr. Michael Bauer at ATAFOM Istanbul Meeting June 2022

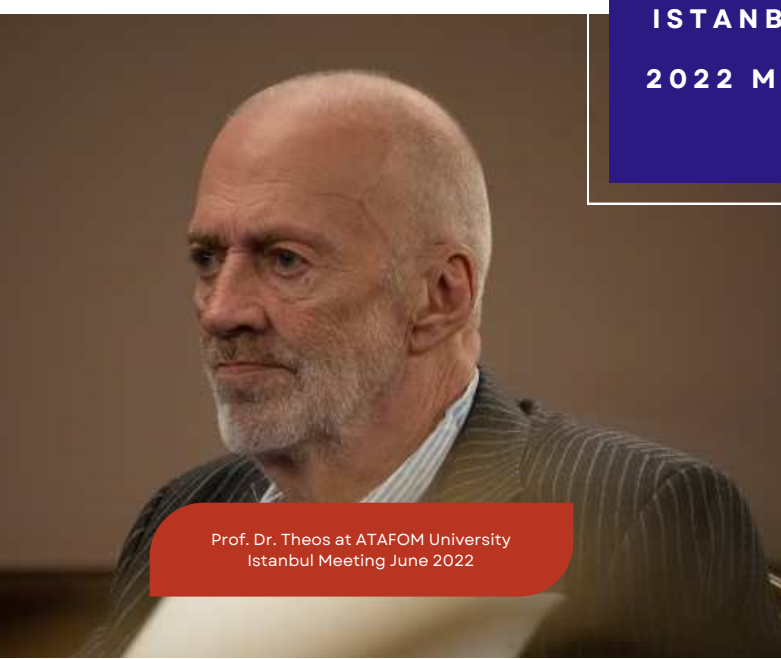


From Left: President & Founder Sakir Yavuz with Prof. Dr. Theos and Dr. Razi Safarov at ATAFOM University Istanbul Meeting June 2022



From Left: Prof. Dr. Theos with Prof. Dr. Michael Bauer at ATAFOM University Istanbul Meeting June 2022

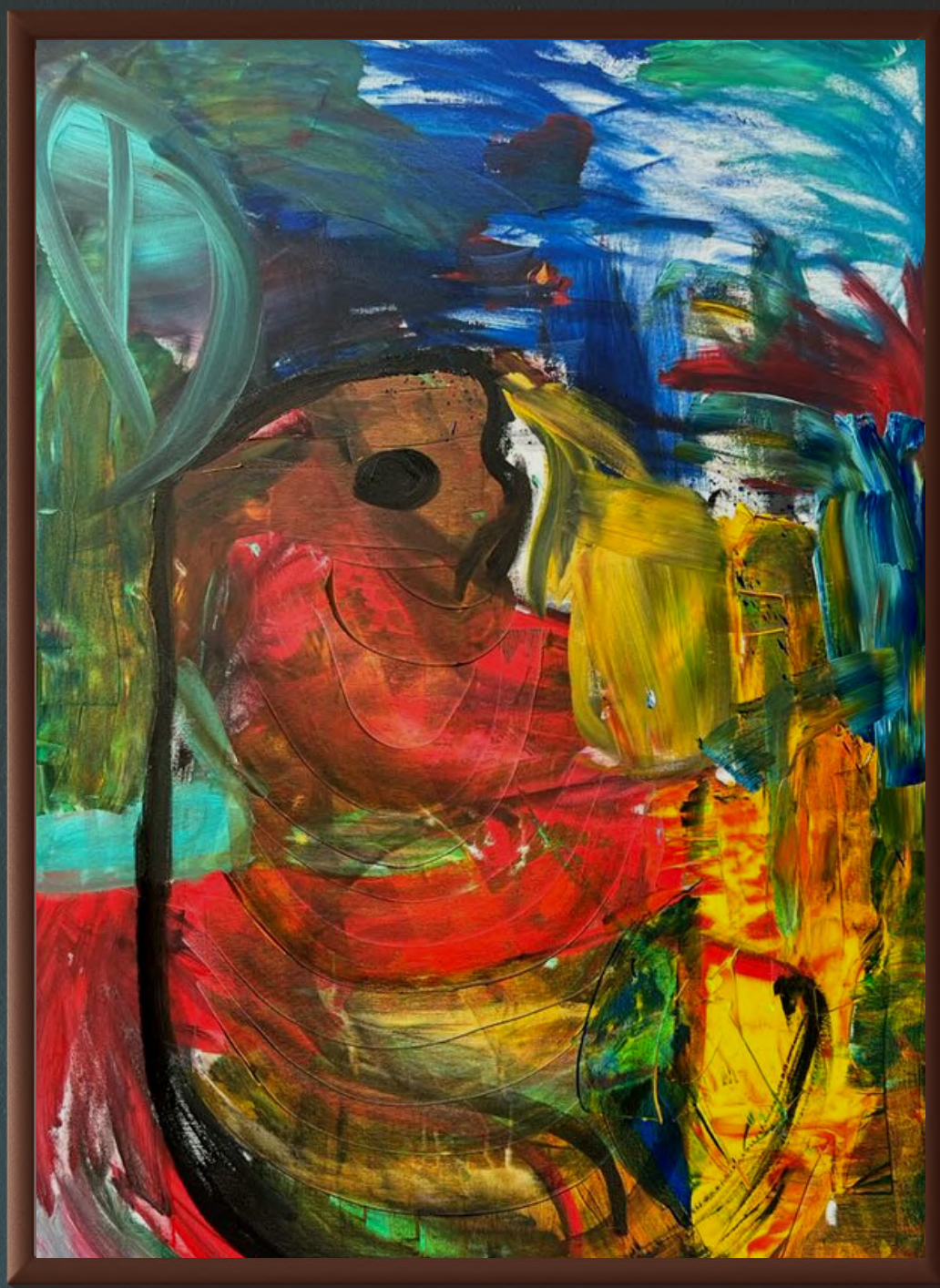
ATAFOM MEETING ISTANBUL JUNE 2022 MEMORIES



Prof. Dr. Theos at ATAFOM University Istanbul Meeting June 2022



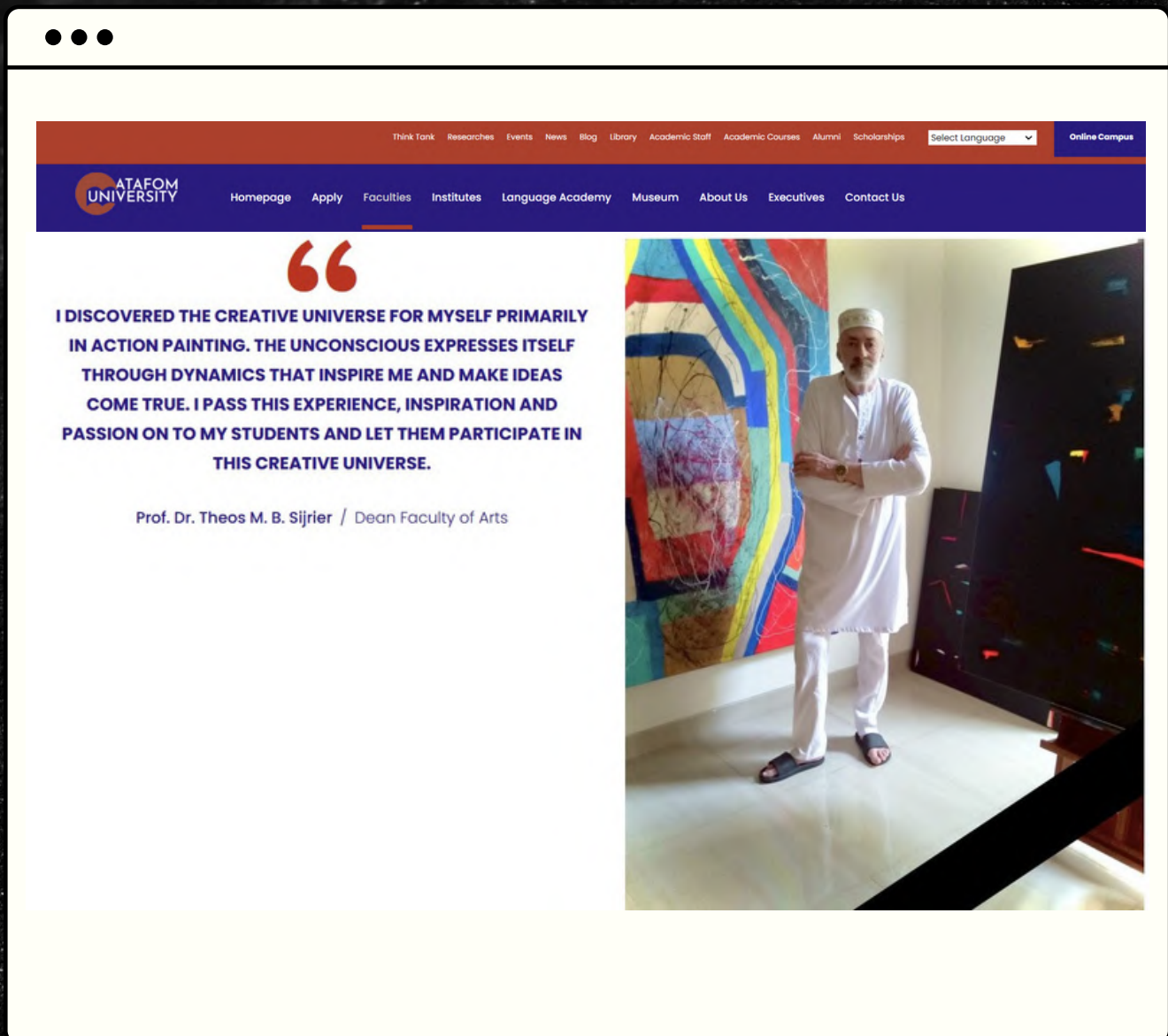
From Left: President & Founder Sakir Yavuz, Mrs. Sefa Ilhan, Prof. Dr. Theos and Mr. Andreas Gleisenstein



THE LAST CANVAS



THEOS ON ATAFOM UNIVERSITY WEBSITE



The screenshot shows the ATAFOM University website. The header includes a navigation bar with links: Think Tank, Researches, Events, News, Blog, Library, Academic Staff, Academic Courses, Alumni, Scholarships, a language selection dropdown, and an Online Campus button. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with the ATAFOM University logo and links: Homepage, Apply, Faculties, Institutes, Language Academy, Museum, About Us, Executives, and Contact Us. The main content area features a large quote in red and blue text, followed by the name and title of Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier. To the right of the text is a photograph of Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier, a man in a white thobe and ghutra, standing in an art gallery with colorful abstract paintings in the background.

“

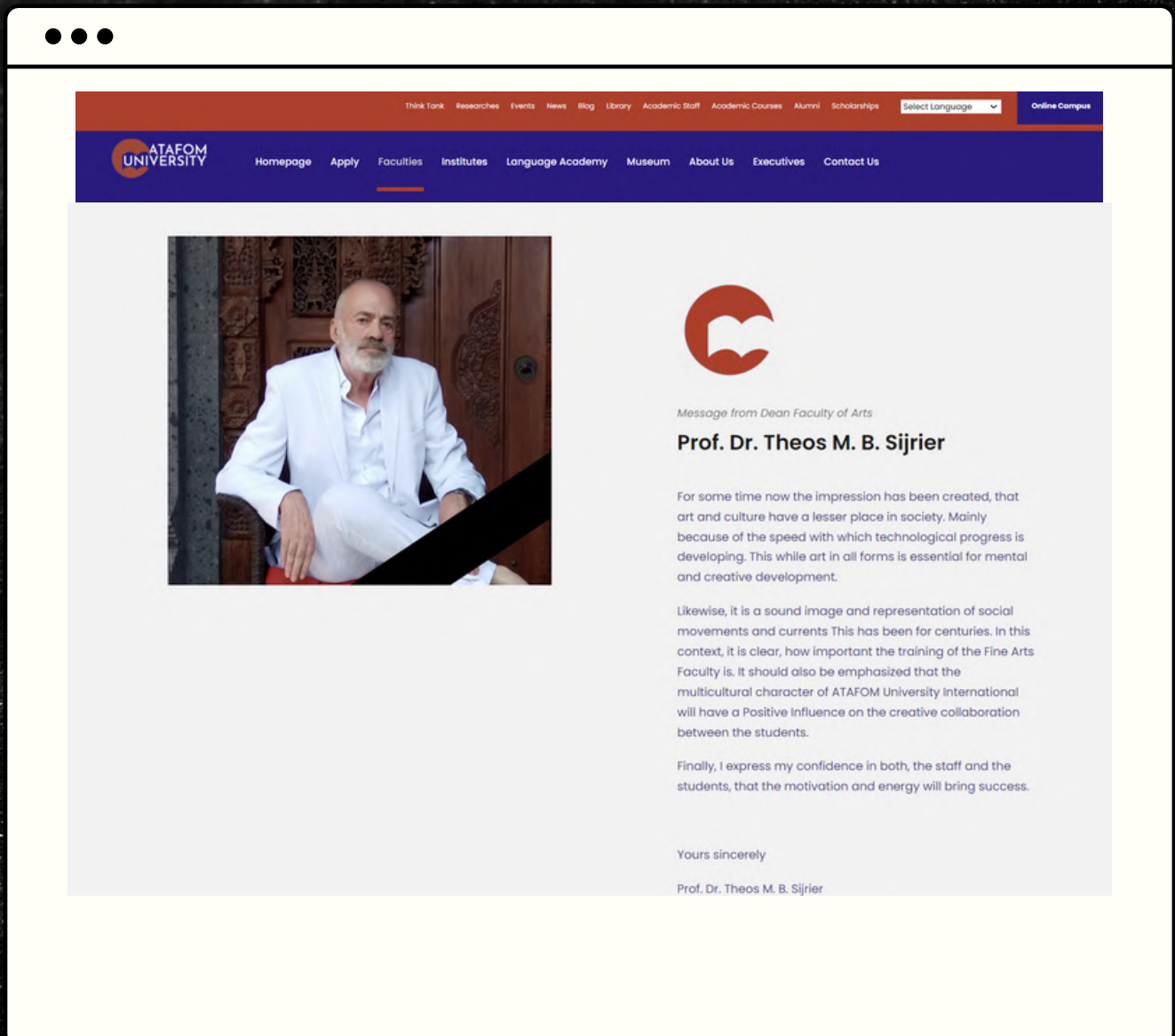
I DISCOVERED THE CREATIVE UNIVERSE FOR MYSELF PRIMARILY IN ACTION PAINTING. THE UNCONSCIOUS EXPRESSES ITSELF THROUGH DYNAMICS THAT INSPIRE ME AND MAKE IDEAS COME TRUE. I PASS THIS EXPERIENCE, INSPIRATION AND PASSION ON TO MY STUDENTS AND LET THEM PARTICIPATE IN THIS CREATIVE UNIVERSE.

Prof. Dr. Theos M. B. Sijrier / Dean Faculty of Arts

"A treasured memory"

When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.

THEOS ON ATAFOM UNIVERSITY WEBSITE



"A treasured memory"

When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.

THEOS ON ATAFOM UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ATAFOM University website. The header includes the email 'info@atafom.university', a navigation menu with links like 'Think Tank', 'Researches', 'Events', 'News', 'Blog', 'Library', 'Academic Staff', 'Academic Courses', 'Alumni', 'Scholarships', a 'Select Language' dropdown, and an 'Online Campus' button. Below the header is a dark blue navigation bar with the ATAFOM UNIVERSITY logo and links: 'Homepage', 'Apply', 'Faculties', 'Institutes', 'Language Academy', 'Museum', 'About Us', 'Executives', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER' in white on a red and blue background. Below the banner is a profile section for Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER, Vice Rector & Dean Faculty of Arts. It includes a portrait photo, a 'cv' button, and two sections: 'Education' and 'Antwerp Gallery Camp'. The 'Education' section lists his academic background from 1963 to 1977. The 'Antwerp Gallery Camp' section lists his gallery experiences in Barcelona, Berlin, Brussel, Den Haag, Dusseldorf, and Heeswijk.

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Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER

Prof. Dr. THEOS M. B. SIJRIER
Vice Rector & Dean Faculty of Arts

cv

Education

- 1963-1967 academy for fine arts "willem de Kooning"
- 1967-1971 royal academy of fine arts Antwerpen, Belgium
- 1971-1973 studio in New York. First meeting with Willem de Kooning Start of a life time friendship
- 1974-1975 study art academy Dusseldorf, Germany Working with Joseph Beuys and Anatol
- 1976 Start as a free artist
- 1977 Start part-time study psychology

Antwerp Gallery Camp

- Barcelona - Gallery Moure Caor Gloria
- Berlin - Art Gallery Enno Becker Gallery Carlos Hulsch
- Brussel - Gallery Antoine
- Den Haag - Posthoorn Gallery
- Dusseldorf - E.P. Gallery
- Heeswijk - Inter-Art

"A treasured memory"
When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes
a treasure.

[Click here](#)



[Click here](#)



Rust in Vrede THEOS!
Ruhe in Frieden THEOS!
Huzur icinde Yatsin THEOS!
Rest in Peace THEOS!



"My Dear friend, the whole world and I will always remember you. Thanks to your countless artworks, they are a beautiful contribution to this world and they have already made you immortal during your lifetime:

<https://www.sayarts.global/sayartscollection/sayartscollection-theos/>
<https://www.sayarts.global/sayartscollection/sayartscollection-theos/theos-personell/>"

You will always live in our hearts!

Sakir Yavuz
President & Founder
ATAFOM University

About ATAFOM University Newsletter Team

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Let's meet our team members who are professional and have rich experiences.

Thank You!

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