

Nikos Siragas Greece

My passion for woodturning began at age 24, after watching a friend work at a lathe and then, soon after, buying a lathe of my own. This was the start of a long career as a professional turner. Early on, I produced utility pieces for carpenters, then restoration parts for old properties in the Venetian town of Rethymno, and later, artistic work for my gallery. I also teach and demonstrate woodturning internationally.

In 1986, I converted my old family home in Rethymno into a woodturning gallery and workshop. Rethymno is a popular tourist location on the northern coast of Crete, and my gallery is positioned very close to the main beach road. Twenty-five years ago, I set up my 100-year-old Czechoslovakian lathe on the road outside the gallery and offered live demonstrations. These days, the gallery is open during the seven-month tourist season, and I travel for woodturning shows and demonstrations in the winter.

In 1995, I visited England and learned a lot from exhibitions and woodturners there. With new tools in hand—and following advice from my mentor, Stuart Mortimer—I started combining turning and carving to create pieces that express elements of the sea, which I have lived next to all my life. In 2003, I built my current home on a hill overlooking Rethymno, where I have a more spacious workshop and a large woodstore.

More recently, I have been serving as honorary president to support the new Greek Woodturning Association, set up to encourage the growing numbers of hobby woodturners here. In this way, I hope that woodturning will develop and continue in Greece for future generations. ■

For more, visit siragas.gr.



Inside the author's gallery in the tourist town of Rethymno, Crete.



Fishbone Goblet, 2022, Carob, 19" x 4" (48cm x 10cm)



Winged Bowls, 2018-2022, Back two: Sycamore, each approx. 4" x 8" (10cm x 20cm); Front: Elm, 2¾" x 7" (7cm x 18cm)



Curvaceous, 2018,
Plane, 5¼" x 11"
(13cm x 28cm)



Slanted Hollow Form, 2021, Mimosa,
8" x 7½" (20cm x 19cm)



Twisted Goblet,
2020, Olive,
15½" x 3½"
(39cm x 9cm)



Stepped Goblet, 2021,
Olive, 14" x 3"
(36cm x 8cm)



Lily, 2020, Olive, 12" x 3½" (30cm x 9cm)



Flower, 2021, Olive,
8½" x 5½"
(22cm x 14cm)



Eel, 2016, Japonica, 7" x 4"
(18cm x 10cm)