

El Greco (Doménikos Theotokópoulos)

El Greco **was born** in Hania, Crete in 1541. At that time Crete **was** part of the Republic of Venice.

As a young man he **studied** Byzantine icon painting in Hania. He **moved** to Venice in 1567 where he continued to study painting. In 1570 he **went** to Rome. He **lived** and **worked** in Rome until 1577.

In 1577 he **moved** to Spain in Toledo, near Madrid where he **lived** and **worked** until the end of his life. He **died** in 1614 at the age of 73.

El Greco **had** a very individual style. His paintings show both Byzantine and Italian styles. They also show strong Catholic religious elements from Spain.

He is one of the most famous painters of the 16th century. His paintings **influenced** many famous artists after him, for example Picasso and Cézanne.



In honour of El Greco, Nikos Kazantzakis **called** his autobiography "A  Tribute to Greco".

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