a tribute to all the cultures of the world...

... a FIG tribute to

GREECE

"I cannot teach anybody anything.
I can only make them think." Socrates

MARCH 2021

BLUE FIG

A culture within all cultures

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COFFEE CORNER

In Italy, standing patrons at a coffee-bar order a short espresso, drink it, and depart in a matter of few minutes. In the USA, millions order their coffees "to go" in tall paper takeout cups. Greeks sit down for a coffee or an alternative refreshment and stick around for an average of 93 minutes. That's not a coffee brake, that's a feature film!

No Greek village is complete without the traditional coffee shop, the "kafenio" Is the most important place in the village, the central point of communication, a place to meet friends, to play "Tavli" the Greek version of Backgammon or just pass time by drinking a Greek coffee, tea, fresh juice or a home-made fruit squash. Greek coffee is ordered "sketo"- no sugar, "metrio" equal portions of coffee and sugar or "gliko" more sugar than coffee. The kafenio, the men's coffeehouse, is an altogether Greek institution. You used to see them everywhere, in the main square of every village, in every part of town and at every major city crossroads. Although they may have lost some of their importance nowadays, being replaced by cafeterias, they still exist in the more rural areas, in small towns and on the Greek islands.

Kafenios are where men meet up to talk about the harvest, complain about a bad crop, or grumble about the failure of Brussels's agricultural policy. Family tragedies and personal crises are discussed alongside with politics. They sit over a cup of mocha coffee, a glass of water, or even a glass of wine or ouzo.

The kafenio is likely to be sparsely furnished with simple chairs and tables, yet there is something enduring and timeless about them which has remained unchanged despite the great social changes within Greece. The classic kafenio has managed to maintain it's role in Greek life in the days of dynamic developments of modern age.

www.athens-greece.us/greek-coffee

https://bit.ly/3dH9XQm

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BLUE FIG GREEK SPECIALS

GREEK ROOTS

ATHENIAN MYTH

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

MADE NA

(MAKING TREES BY BENDING METAL WIRE)

This might look like a bundle of copper wires up close, but take a step back and you'll be able to see something else. Beautiful Trees! These miniature trees are just like the real ones that so many people have fallen in love with, but these wire trees can last forever!

Ahmad Al Jundi twists, coils, and curls metal wires into these tree sculptures, but none of these movements are random. He's mastered different techniques to ensure that every branch, leaf, and root comes out looking like the real thing, and he's had a bit of practice to get those techniques down.

When Ahmad attaches the tree to driftwood, the whole piece comes together. Depending on the size of the tree and the amount of wire used, one tree can take a couple of hours to a couple of weeks to complete.

By creating these sculptures, Ahmad encapsulates the beauty of the trees in a way that'll last forever!

_made_na

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