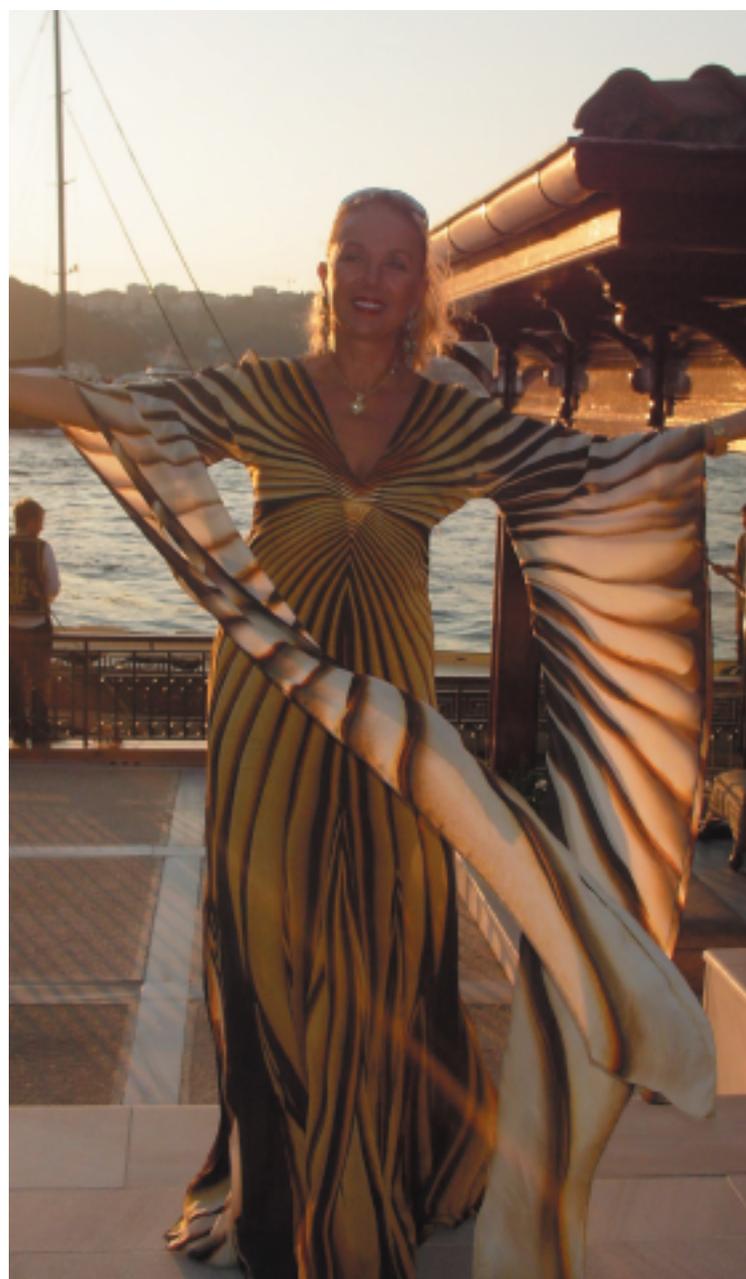


Living LA VIDA LOCA in the midst of LA DOLCE VITA...

Photos courtesy of Lucia Hwong Gordon



First it was an email invite - requesting we SAVE THE DATE for three days of festivities celebrating Della Rounick's 50th birthday. Bring out the calendars, see what other wondrous adventures can be planned. Then came the invite - a HUGE portfolio of heavy papered gold embossed invites, a welcome to Mykonos celebration at Della's home. THE BIG VIEW, perched atop a promontory with just that a BIG VIEW. Della also was showing and exhibition of her artwork to visiting collectors.



Lucia Hwong Gordon, Dennis Basso, Nurit Kahane Haase and Tansa Mermerci at Della Rounick's God & Goddess White and Gold birthday party in Mykonos.

The second day was an homage to GREEK GODS & GODDESSES in Gold and White, which left no doubt in your mind as to the dress code. The final day, Sunday, was an informal barbeque on the beach, which was as glamorous as the Beach Club in Monte Carlo.



Dick and Donna Soloway, Niki and Terence Cole at Greek Gods in White & Gold - Della's birthday party.

Birthday Girl, Della Rounik

Three days in paradise - well, it might have been if the winds hadn't been up! Mykonos, probably the most famous sybaritic island in the Greek Isles, is known as the "Windy Island." If anyone wanted to measure winds against Chicago - I think Chicago might have lost! Most of the time, the wind howled, that sound that used to come off the Yorkshire Moors, when you'd hear Kathy calling plaintively for Heathcliff. Shutters banged, mattresses were bolted down, eating outside was impossible, and forget the hair. Even if hair had been cemented down, the wind just whooshed it away.

The other big problem with Mykonos as far as the traveling elite from so many other countries and places were concerned, was the lack of transportation. Not even a small Jitney running around the island or between the big hotels. No, just 32 drivers/cabs to haul international tourists wherever they wanted to go. A 5 minute trip became a 1 hour nightmare of waiting. And, it is against the Mykonos constitution to book cars in advance.