

In His Own Words – Memory

One of Kostas Kartelias's most revealing statements about his creative philosophy appeared in an interview published on 22 October 2016, entitled "*We Are All Relatives with Similar Memories*". The interview, conducted by Ioanna Pitaouli for Enallaktikos, accompanied the theatrical production of *Drawing Block* (ΜΠΛΟΚ ΙΧΝΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΣ) at the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation.

Asked whether returning to childhood helped him redefine himself, Kartelias answered with a reflection that has become one of the clearest expressions of his poetics: "I do not believe in imagination. It is a crutch, a defeat... I believe in memory as a tool." He went on to explain that a writer does not need to imagine the end of a story, but rather remember its beginning—the first encounter with life. Later in the interview he added: "What I write I did not imagine; for some strange reason, I remembered it."

The interview presents memory not simply as recollection but as the foundation of artistic creation. For Kartelias, poetry grows from recovering lived experience rather than inventing fictional worlds. This conversation therefore offers an essential key to understanding both his poetry and his broader creative vision, where memory becomes the source from which language, identity, and artistic truth emerge.