

In His Own Words – Writing

Among the many reflections offered by Kostas Kartelias on the creative process, one sentence stands out for its simplicity and depth: “What I wrote I did not imagine; I remembered it.” Spoken during his 2016 interview with Ioanna Pitaouli, the statement captures his understanding of writing as an act of discovery rather than invention.

For Kartelias, the writer does not create by escaping reality into fantasy. Instead, writing begins with memory—personal experience, lived emotions, forgotten impressions, and the enduring traces of the past. The task of the poet is to recover these hidden memories and give them a clear and authentic voice. In this sense, the creative act resembles recollection more than fabrication.

This brief remark provides an important key to reading Kartelias's poetry. It explains why his works often evoke places, people, and moments that feel deeply familiar, even when expressed through symbolic language. His writing invites readers to recognize their own memories within the poem, transforming individual recollection into a shared human experience.