Selling an American Dream: Australia’s Greek Café

20 March to 1 May 2013

Greek-run cafés populated Australian country towns and cities, merging local fare with new American food-catering ideas.

Prior to the explosion of American fast-food franchises, Greek cafés contributed to a major change in Australian eating habits. While a traditional mixed grill remained a favourite, Greek cafés were known for their introduction of sundaes, milk shakes, hamburgers and ‘American style’ milk chocolates and candies into communities right across Australia.

Alexakis’ stunning photographs capture the decor of the cafés, their customers and the owners who worked hard to make their businesses successful. Janiszewski’s research undertaken throughout Australia and internationally highlights these cafés as a ‘Trojan Horse’ for the Americanisation of Australian popular culture – not only affecting eating habits but also cinema, music and architecture – throughout most of the twentieth century.

Since Initially Opening At The National Museum Of Australia In 2008, This Touring Exhibition Has Continued To Attract Both Critical And Popular Acclaim.