

Athens, 12 May 2025

## PUBLIC PROGRAMME

### ***Allspice* | Michael Rakowitz & Ancient Cultures Acropolis Museum and NEON**

**13 May, 6:30 pm** | Lecture

*Of Gods and Kings: The Material Legacy of Mesopotamia, Eternal Yet Fragile* with Kiersten Neumann, PhD, Curator, Research Associate, Lecturer, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures & Department of Art History, University of Chicago. Moderated by Rachel Donadio, Journalist & Public Programme Advisor

Acropolis Museum (auditorium "Dimitrios Pantermalis") | Free Entrance

**17 May, 6:30 pm** | Conversation

Artist Michael Rakowitz in conversation with one of the two exhibition curators, Elina Kountouri, Director of NEON. Moderated by Rachel Donadio, Journalist & Public Programme Advisor

Acropolis Museum (auditorium "Dimitrios Pantermalis") | Free Entrance

**21 Μαΐου, 9 μ.μ.** | Προβολή

*PERSEPOLIS*, Marjane Satrapi | A collaboration between NEON, the Acropolis Museum and Cinobo

Cine Paris (Kydathinaion 22, Plaka, Athens) | Free Entrance. Pre-reservation required. Reservations open on 14 May at [more.gr](http://more.gr)

**13 May, 6:30 pm** | Lecture

***Of Gods and Kings: The Material Legacy of Mesopotamia, Eternal Yet Fragile***

**Kiersten Neumann**, PhD, Curator, Research Associate, Lecturer, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures & Department of Art History, University of Chicago.

**Moderated by Rachel Donadio**, Journalist & Public Programme Advisor

**Location** | Acropolis Museum (auditorium "Dimitrios Pantermalis") | Free Entrance

The land between the two rivers, the cradle of civilization, the fertile crescent, the birthplace of great empires—Mesopotamia is known by many names. Yet these only begin to capture a land deeply inscribed with a rich tapestry of peoples, places, and enduring legacies. From the votive-filled mudbrick temples of the Early Dynastic period to the richly adorned monumental palaces of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, from portable stone statues to colossal guardian figures, from colonial-era excavations to modern exhibitions and ongoing preservation initiatives, Mesopotamian objects and their material worlds tell a story of cultural traditions, political power, economic networks, artistic ingenuity, and resilient identities layered across time.

This talk traces the intricate journey of these artifacts—from their creation and significance in antiquity to their modern rediscovery, from scholarly study and public display to widespread displacement, irreparable destruction, and the determined efforts to preserve them. In dialogue with the *Allspice* | *Michael Rakowitz and Ancient Cultures* exhibition at the Acropolis Museum, it further reflects on the persistence of cultural memory and critical artistic engagements—among them *The invisible enemy should not exist*, the ongoing project of Iraqi-American artist Michael Rakowitz, that confronts erasure and reimagines Mesopotamia's enduring presence in the modern world.

**17 May, 6:30 pm** | Conversation

Artist **Michael Rakowitz** in conversation with **Elina Kountouri**, one of the exhibition's two curators

**Moderated by Rachel Donadio**, Journalist & Public Programme Advisor

**Location** | Acropolis Museum (auditorium "Dimitrios Pantermalis") | Free Entrance

As part of the exhibition *Allspice*, the Iraqi-American artist Michael Rakowitz will discuss with one of the exhibition's two curators, Elina Kountouri, Director of NEON. The discussion will be moderated by Rachel Donadio, journalist and advisor to the exhibition's public program.

The conversation will explore Rakowitz's multifaceted practice, which engages in dialogue with antiquities from the Middle East and the southeastern Mediterranean. His work addresses themes of loss and restoration, as well as the formation of new cultural identities. Rakowitz's deeply political practice spans the past three decades and encompasses a range of media, including sculpture, film, performative actions, and installations.

**21 May, 9 pm** | Film Screening

**PERSEPOLIS, Marjane Satrapi** | A collaboration between NEON, the Acropolis Museum and Cinobo

**Location** | Cine Paris (Kydathinaion 22, Plaka, Athens) | Free Entrance. Pre-reservation required. Reservations open on 14 May at [more.gr](http://more.gr)

NEON, the Acropolis Museum and Cinobo present a special open-air screening of *Persepolis* (2007), the animated film adaptation of Marjane Satrapi's autobiographical comic book. The screening is part of the public program for the exhibition *Allspice* | *Michael Rakowitz and Ancient Cultures*, held at Cine Paris.

Using a distinctive black-and-white animation with personal storytelling, *Persepolis* portrays Satrapi's youth in Iran during the Islamic Revolution and her later experiences in exile. The film explores themes of identity, resistance, and the impact of political unrest on personal freedom. It has received international recognition, including the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival and an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature.