

# NEON

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NEON CITY PROJECT 2019** ***Panos Kokkinias: Stock Images*** **September – November 2019**

Now in its sixth edition, NEON's CITY PROJECT 2019 will present a new body of work by Panos Kokkinias, the first photographer to be commissioned for the annual site specific contemporary art installation. The exhibition will be curated by Shoair Mavlian, Director of Photoworks UK.

CITY PROJECT is an initiative for public art and the city, conceived and commissioned annually by NEON to a Greek artist. NEON aims to activate public and historical places through contemporary art, contributing to the interaction of art, society and the city. NEON's previous City Projects include Aemilia Papaphilippou at the Ancient Agora of Athens (2014), Maria Loizidou at the Kerameikos Archaeological Site and Museum (2015), Zafos Xagoraris at a parking space in Athens behind the historic Athinaion theatre (2016), Kostis Velonis at a historical residence at 11 Kaplanon Street (2017) and Andreas Lolis at the British School at Athens (2018).

Kokkinias' project *Stock Images* takes the fabric of the city itself as its starting point, exploring the many facets of the complex urban metropolis and the people who reside within it. The new body of work, made up of more than 20 images, will be on display together for the first time to reveal a collective portrait of Athens, reflecting on both the realities and fictions of contemporary urban life. With a background rooted in the history of street photography and documentary practice, Kokkinias is best known for his large-scale photographic tableaux.

#### **Notes to Editors**

**Panos Kokkinias** was born in 1965 in Athens where he lives and works. He studied photography at the School of Visual Arts in New York, at Yale University (MFA) and Derby University (PhD) with grants from Yale University, Alexander Onassis Foundation and the Greek State Scholarships Foundation. His monograph *Here We Are* was published in the US with a grant from Stavros Niarchos Foundation. His work has been published internationally, among other in *Vitamin Ph: New Perspectives in Photography*, Phaidon Press. Kokkinias has exhibited worldwide in solo and group exhibitions, including Athens, Paris, Brussels, Rome, Madrid, Munich, New York, Singapore, Beijing and Kassel. Solo shows include *Replay* at Pallas Theater, Athens, Greece (2016) and Bozar Centre for Fine Art, Brussels (2012). His photographs are included in public and corporate collections in Europe and the US. He recently became Associate Professor of Photography at the Athens School of Fine Arts.

**Shoair Mavlian** is Director of Photoworks and curated the 2018 Brighton Photo Biennial *A New Europe*. From 2011 - 2018 she was Assistant Curator, Photography and International Art at Tate Modern, London, where she curated the major exhibitions *Shape of Light: 100 Years of Photography and Abstract Art* (2018), *The Radical Eye: Modernist Photography from the Sir Elton John Collection* (2016), *Conflict, Time, Photography* (2014). While at Tate Modern she also researched acquisitions and curated displays from the permanent collection including *Dayanita Singh* (2017), *Lynn Cohen and Taryn Simon* (2017), and *Sirkka-Liisa Konttinen* (2016). Recent independent projects include the exhibition *Don McCullin: Looking Beyond the Edge* (Les Rencontres d'Arles, 2016) and the publication *Ursula Schulz-Dornburg: The Land In Between* (Mack 2018). She lives and works in London.

**NEON** is a nonprofit organization that works to bring contemporary culture closer to everyone. It is committed to broadening the appreciation, understanding, and creation of contemporary art in Greece and to the firm belief that this is a key tool for growth and development. NEON, founded in 2013 by collector and entrepreneur Dimitris Daskalopoulos, breaks with the convention that limits the contemporary art foundation of a collector to a single place.

NEON's space is the city. It acts on a multitude of initiatives, spaces, and civic and social contexts. It seeks to expose the ability contemporary art has to stimulate, inspire, and affect the individual and society at large. NEON constructively collaborates with cultural institutions and supports the programs of public and private institutions to enhance increased access and inventive interaction with contemporary art. [www.neon.org.gr](http://www.neon.org.gr)

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