

NEON

Αμαρουσίου Χαλανδρίου 89
Χαλάνδρι, 152 33, Αθήνα

Amaroussiou Halandriou 89
Halandri, 152 33, Athens, GR

T +30 213 0187 700

F +30 210 6853 011

neon.org.gr

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Program of NEON Organization for the year 2015

NEON Organization, being consistent in its effort to communicate contemporary civilization to the general public, is announcing its Program for the year 2015. Having a firm belief in the ability of contemporary artistic creativity to rouse, emotionally move and motivate, NEON advocates all institutions which are established in the field of learning, new productions and the dialogue with the city.

NEON PATHS | EXHIBITION PROGRAM

NEON does not restrict itself to just one space,
it energizes public spaces in Athens and the periphery

Athens | Garden of the French Archaeological School | An exhibition in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery, London
May 26th – July 26th, 2015

NEON maintains, for the second consecutive year, its collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery, presenting an exhibition of public art by Greek and international artists at the garden of the French Archaeological School, curated by Iwona Blazwick, OBE, Director, Whitechapel Gallery. International artists with works loaned from various collections are shown alongside five Greek artists with commissioned works, namely: Athanasios Argianas, Eleni Kamma, Dionissis Kavallieratos, Aliko Palaska and Kostas Sahpazis, partake in this exhibition which will be framed by a parallel program of educational activities.

Rethymnon – Thessaloniki | One exhibition, two stops

Rethymnon | May 2nd – September 27th, 2015 / Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete | Archaeological site of Rethymnon | Ibrahim Khan Mosque, Fortezza

Thessaloniki | November, 2015 – February, 2016 | Thessaloniki Centre of Contemporary Art and Othoman monuments in the city

NEON presents the exhibition 'Flying over the Abyss' in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete and its Director, Maria Marangou who, along with Dimitris Paleocrassas, is co-curating the show. Following the presentation in Crete, the exhibition will travel to Thessaloniki to be hosted at the city's State Museum of Contemporary Art.

The selection of the participating artists, both international and Greek, is influenced by 'Ascesis: The Saviors of Gods' (Ασκητική), the spiritual exercises written by the renowned Cretan thinker, Nikos Kazantzakis. The exhibition will establish a creative dialogue among the artists' works and the essay, tracing the enlightenment of a human life's pathway, from the time of birth 'till death. The original manuscript of *Ascesis* will be on display, a courtesy of The Nikos Kazantzakis Museum.

Community Projects 2015 | Attica Prefecture

Community Projects is an initiative NEON established in 2014 purposing order to materialize artistic programs in the neighborhoods of Athens, based on the participation of residents, groups and artists. Community Projects form a living field of artistic activities in which artists give prominence, along with citizens, to issues that concern specific local communities. In 2015, NEON will initiate two community projects, thus firmly contributing to the broader effort of the city's gentrification and the inhabitant's every day routine, and, at the same time, to the remediation of a citizen's relation with the function and the events of the city.

PATISSION AREA: URBAN DETAILS II

The title refers to activities in their totality, which develop gradually throughout the whole year in the broader area of Patission Street, under the organization and curatorship of Loukas Bartatilas, in collaboration with Urania Mavriki. The activities apply to the next step of the artistic initiative "Urban Details. Ongoing reflections on Patission str.", which took place during the months of November and December of 2014, as part of NEON's Grants Scheme.

Based on the triptych "Art-Space-Citizen", the initiative's goal remains the creative projection of the area's historical heritage and its prospect of future possibilities through collective endeavors as well. The program is realized through partnerships with local entities, citizens' groups and schools, to encourage new readings and alter perceptions of the neighborhood. The results of the project will be presented at the end of the year.

AIGALEO CITY 2

The community project "Aigaleo City", which started in 2014, is evolving by maintaining the logic of multiple narrations in order to compose a deeper narrative surrounding the city of Aigaleo and the periphery of the western suburbs in general. New projects and multiple activities regarding Aigaleo's public space are being added, which will be realized by different Athenian groups, both in open-air and enclosed spaces.

The project's core activities will include the production of an extensive publication, both in electronic and printed forms, a photographic project, an open-air activity- in total synergy with the public, a short feature film, an unconventional game of verbal storytelling exchanges along with dance. These will form the epicenter of the second part of "Aigaleo City". The project is realized by locus athens, under the curatorship of Maria-Thalia Carras and Olga Hatzidaki.

Αθήνα | City Project 2015 | Commission for the creation of a temporary public installation

In 2015, NEON will collaborate with the visual artist, Maria Loizidou, and curator Sirago Tsiara, Director of the State Museum of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki, to advance a proposal of an ephemeral, in situ, public installation, through which the issues of memory, trace, physicality, fragmentation and the ceremonial role of art in relation to space will be examined. The proposed installation has been drawn up with archaeologists and has been submitted for final approval.

Αθήνα | Athens and Epidaurus Festival, 2015 | Exhibition *Renaissance Stories* June 4th – July 24th, 2015

NEON will participate, for the fourth consecutive year, in the annual Athens and Epidaurus Festival with the exhibition

Renaissance Stories. The exhibition, curated by Dimitris Paleocrassas, will present five new works by Greek artists who have been commissioned for the Festival, using a historic installation by Vlassis Caniaris from 1974 as their inspiration.

Artists participating in the exhibition are as follows: Savvas Christodoulides, Kostas Ioannidis, Maro Michalakakos, Alexandros Psychoulis and Dimitra Vamiali. They will each act out a metaphorical re-narration of Kaniaris' personal story through their contemporary vantage. The exhibition aims at providing Greek artists with a platform. Though silent witnesses of stories of maladies and overage, the artists will recount narratives as a confirmation of life.

Athens | Museum of Cycladic Art, 2015 | Exhibition Mario Merz October 22nd – January 31st, 2016

NEON will present an exhibition by Mario Merz at the Museum of Cycladic Art under the curatorship of Paolo Colombo, in collaboration with Fondazione Merz and Bernier-Elliades Gallery. The exhibition will present works by the renowned artist of the Arte Povera movement and its close relationship to the Fibonacci mathematical sequence, which the artist himself first introduced to his work in 1970. The exhibition is the first presentation of Merz's oeuvre in a Greek Museum. The exhibition's parallel program will be formulated in collaboration with the group THALES+FRIENDS, placing an emphasis on the educational aspects, while working with the Greek writer, Apostolos Doxiadis.

This specific production will mark the commencement of a series of exhibitions within NEON's Program, aimed at presenting, on a biennial basis, a collaborative-dialogue between a visual artist and a scientist, both of international acclaim. This series will focus on the understanding and use of science in an unforeseen way within the framework of its implementation.

NEON LEARNING | EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Using art as an educational leverage, NEON cultivates the relationship between young people and awareness of contemporary art

Educational Program "Is this Art?" | Co-founded with the Museum of Greek Children's Art

Annual Report for 2014

During 2014, and within the framework of program "Is this Art?", more than 180 educational programs were realized, with enthusiastic response from both schools and students. Around 2,100 pupils participated from various areas of Attica, namely Artemida, Palaio Faliro, Marathonas, Ilion, Ilioupoli, Eleusis, Agia Varbara, Asprorygos, Piraeus, Petroupoli, Lykovrisi, Nikaia, Halkidona, Nea Smyrni and Aigaleo.

Program for 2015

By the end of the current academic year, 80 additional educational programs will be realized where approximately 700 students are expected to have participated. The program will be developed in schools that have expressed the desire to host 'Is this Art'. Additionally, it forms part of NEON's parallel exhibition and educational programs. The implementation of the program within the exhibition at the French Archaeological School of Athens will be its seminal focus point.

"Is this Art?" is the first educational program of its kind to be realized in Greece. It is an initiative of NEON's, which has been designed and accomplished in total synergy with the Hellenic Children's Museum, to bring 9th grade students into contact with the creators of all aspects of contemporary art.

The program includes significant and influential artists who have reevaluated the way we look at and define art nowadays, including Marcel Duchamp, Joseph Beuys, Louise Bourgeois, Andy Warhol, Gerhard Richter, Martin Kippenberger, William Kentridge, Marina Abramović, the Greek artist Jannis Kounellis and Mario Merz, as the latest addition.

The program is delivered through an electronic platform, which encompasses short videos outlining the life and work of

each artist, as well as providing information and details about contemporary art and its most representative movements. The instructive educational material are supplemented by educational games and tactile materials, which enhance a student's relation to art through a self-experienced way. The Hellenic Children's Museum and NEON collaborated with visual artist, Katerina Zacharopoulou for the scientific development of the program.

NEON Curatorial Exchange Program for Young Curators and Curatorial Award | In collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery

The NEON Curatorial Exchange and Award encourage a curatorial exchange between students in Greece and the UK. Both programs are being realized for the fourth consecutive year in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery and so far have included participation from 70 Greek and international curators. The programs incite young curators based in Greece and the UK to connect with colleagues abroad and exchange ideas and experience. In Greece, participation is made possible through an Open Call. From the UK, participating students originate from the London Metropolitan University, The Courtauld Institute, The Royal College of Art and Goldsmiths University. The curatorial award is presented on an annual basis to the best curatorial proposal virtually curated using works drawn from the D. Daskalopoulos Collection.

Adopt a Studio | In collaboration with the Athens School of Fine Arts

In collaboration with the Athens School of Fine Arts, NEON realizes the program "Adopt a Studio". Its goal is to extend support, to the sum of €10,000 annually, to one of the School's studios for the reinforcement of its activities. This year's recipient studio is that of Nikos Navridis.

Educate the Educator | In collaboration with IVEPE Centre for Vocational Training

Annual Report for 2014

NEON adheres to the partnership with IVEPE Centre for Vocational Training within the framework of the program "Education Through Art". During 2014, more than 600 educational practitioners participated in this program's training seminars, which took place in Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras and Volos.

Program for 2015

Upon completion of the programs for the academic year of 2015, more than 1,200 educators will have participated in this platform. The program is aimed at optimizing art as a tool for education, thus contributing to creativity, innovation and the development of critical thought. The program's objective provides training for educators in order to implement a pioneering teaching method with their students, both children and adults. The program is designed for teachers at secondary educational level, "second chance" schools and school counselors. It is conducted by a specialized team of lectures under the supervision of Professor Alexis Kokkos.

NEON CONNECT

NEON partners with cultural institutions to implement common-ground activities with the aim of making contemporary art accessible to the public

NEON and the National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST)

NEON maintains its support to the National Museum of Contemporary Art in order to contribute to its operations and viability, aiming towards the further promotion and understanding of contemporary art and culture. NEON's funding has become the vehicle for the realization of the following programs:

Enrichment of EMST's permanent collection

Since 2012 NEON has supported EMST with two annual programs, in order to enrich the Museum's permanent collection.

NEON allocates the sum of €50, 000 on an annual basis, which enables the institution to buy artwork of its choice from the Frieze Art Fair. In 2014, the works *SPRD 13, 2012, SPRD 15, 2012, SPRD II – 5, 2013, SPRD II – 6, 2013*, by the Brazilian artist Iran Do Espirito Santo, were bought along with *The Prestige of Terror, 2010*, by the artistic duo Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin. The program's duration is for three years and will be completed in 2015.

Simultaneously, a new artwork is donated to the Museum, selected by the institution itself, as a collaborative result of the organizations OUTSET and International Production Fund.

Both the museum Director and the Board of Trustees are informed of NEON's firm intention to realize the existing programs and commence their implementation upon the completion of the Museum's new building. NEON is committed to the following activity:

EXHIBITIONS

Το παρακάτω πρόγραμμα του NEON έχει ήδη ανακοινωθεί το 2014 και αποτελεί δέσμευση του Οργανισμού η οποία θα υλοποιηθεί με την έναρξη λειτουργίας του νέου κτιρίου.

Annual Commission Series in the rooftop of EMST's building

An annual initiative that will involve renowned artists creating a specially commissioned work to be exhibited in the open-air gallery of the EMST building. The series will be curated by EMST.

Major installations at EMST

The organization and funding of temporary exhibitions, which will present major works from the collections of international museums as well as from the D.Daskalopoulos Collection. The exhibitions will run at regular intervals.

EDUCATION

NEON funds the position of 'NEON Exhibitions Program Curator' as well as that of 'NEON Educational Program Curator'. The selection of the curators is made by EMST. The duration will be biennial with the option to be extended.

The NEON "Mentor a Curator" Educational Program: An EMST curator will be trained at an international museum for one year. The tenure is fully funded by NEON, while the curator will be selected by EMST.

Enhancement of the EMST Library by an annual acquisitions endorsement to the sum of €30,000. The duration of the program is for a period of three years.

The co-creation of the EMST Educational Programs for schools, with an annual funding of €20,000 for a period of three years.

NEON and OUTSET.GREECE

NEON funds for the third consecutive year the activities of Outset.Greece, an annex of the international cultural organization Outset Contemporary Art Fund in England. This aims to support Greek artists, new producers and artistic initiatives, both in Greece and abroad.

For 2015, NEON will support the following initiatives:

AGRIMIKÁ - Why look at animals?, by Maria Papadimitriou. Official participation in the 56th Venice Biennial, Greek Pavilion, May 9th – November 22nd, 2015

Radio Athènes, an independent, non-governmental organization for contemporary art. Radio Athènes will continue its work, based on the expansion of the network and program already developed through the activities of Nice and Fit gallery in Berlin and, since 2004, Melas-Papadopoulos gallery in Athens. In 2015, Radio Athènes will present the artists Fischli & Weiss, Kristy Bell and Kostas Sahpazis, as well as a series of lectures | www.radioathenes.org

State of Concept, a non-profit gallery based in Athens, which promotes Greek and international artists in Greece. NEON has been steadily supporting its activities since its inception. In 2015, State of Concept will host the artists Hera Buyuktşciyan, Mihut Boşcu Kafchin, Laure Prouvost and Margarita Bofiliou | www.stateofconcept.org

The exhibition **Genuine Fake** at the Sachtoureion High School of Hydra, within the artistic platform 'Hydra School Projects', already in the 15th year of its operation. The artists Cyril Duval, Gerd Rohling, Verouska, Andreas Lolis, Dimitrios Antonitsis will be included in the exhibition.
Duration: June 26th 'till the end of September, 2015.

NEON CREATIVITY

NEON supports new creators, securing their access into knowledge, research and production

Scholarships | Announcement of the Program: January 15th 2015 – Deadline for submission of applications: April 30th, 2015

The NEON scholarships are offered to young art creators and students in the following areas:

- Post Graduate studies Abroad (Masters) in a) Art History, b) Curatorial Studies and c) working towards obtaining an MFA (Masters of Fine Arts). Four (4) scholarships, of €10, 000 each, will be awarded. One (1) of the above mentioned scholarships concerns The MFA Program at the Ruskin School of Art (University of Oxford).
 - Completion of Doctoral Studies in a) Art History / Philosophy of Art and b) Curatorial Studies. Two (2) scholarships, of €10, 000 each, will be awarded to cover travel and fieldwork expenses.
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Grants | Announcement of the Program: January 15th, 2015 – Deadline for submission of applications: March 31st 2015

Through a program of grants, NEON continually supports contemporary Greek artistic creativity as much in Athens and the periphery, as abroad, In 2014, various activities were made possible with funding from NEON in Athens, Thessaloniki, Amfissa, Patras, Andros, Rome, Prague, Maastricht, Cáceres (Spain) and Glasgow.

The NEON grants refer to both public and private non-profit organizations and/or art entities for the realization and production of ideas for:

- Contemporary art exhibitions, solo or group, of Greek artists held in Greece or abroad. Seven (7) grants, of €5,000 each, will be awarded.

- Performance and dance productions. Four (4) grants, of €8,000 each, will be awarded.
- Contemporary art publications: artist or art movement monographs, exhibition catalogues, studies and catalogue raisonnés. Applications must be submitted either by institutions or organizations. Six (6) grants, of €3,000 each, will be awarded.

Information on these programs has already been communicated through NEON's website, neon.org.gr and NEON's facebook page, facebook.com/NEONGREECE.

Note to Editors:

NEON works to bring contemporary culture closer to everyone. As a non-profit organization it aims to create new conversations and a larger, informed society around the arts. Founded by art collector and entrepreneur Dimitris Daskalopoulos, and under the Directorship of Elina Kountouri, NEON breaks with the convention of a permanent space as the home of activities for a collector and instead acts on a multi-locality of initiatives, spaces, civic and social contexts, where activities are developed and public accessibility is encouraged. It seeks to expose the ability contemporary art has to stimulate, inspire and affect the individual and society at large. NEON realizes its mission through free exhibitions, educational programs, grants and scholarships, talks and events and a creation of a network of international partnerships. NEON constructively collaborates with cultural institutions and supports the program of public and private institutions to enhance increased access and inventive interaction with contemporary art.

For more information:

Sara Macdonald, Sutton PR
sara@suttonpr.com or +44 (0)20 7183 3577

Elena Davidson, Sutton PR
ellie@suttonpr.com or +44 (0)20 7183 3577