

15 December 2016

Whitechapel Gallery Announces Winner of the 2016 NEON Curatorial Award

Whitechapel Gallery is pleased to announce **Emily Riddle** as the winner of the 2016 NEON Curatorial Award.

Curators were invited by the Gallery to devise an exhibition proposal drawing from the D.Daskalopoulos Collection, which includes over 500 contemporary artworks by 220 leading international and Greek artists. For this year's Award proposals were submitted by aspiring curators from Greece, as well as students and alumni from the following Masters programmes: *Curating the Contemporary*, London Metropolitan University and Whitechapel Gallery; *Curating the Art Museum*, Courtauld Institute of Art; *Curating Contemporary Art*, Royal College of Art, and *Curating*, Goldsmiths College.

Emily Riddle received the award from Dimitris Daskalopoulos for her submission proposal, *XENIA: Guests, Hosts, Friends*, at a ceremony held at the Whitechapel Gallery this evening, Thursday 15 December.

Riddle's proposed exhibition, *XENIA: Guests, Hosts, Friends* presents three moving image works from the D.Daskalopoulos Collection, shown together in Athens for the first time, across three venues over the course of two months.

Conceived as a contemporary response to a commemorative exhibition at the National Archaeological Museum titled *Odysseys*, Emily Riddle's proposal draws its inspiration from the same eponymous Homeric text. Whilst the National Archaeological Museum recounts a chronological narrative of Mediterranean journeys primarily through ancient objects, the aim of *XENIA: Guests, Hosts, Friends* is to allow for the relationship of host and guest – so crucial to the Odyssey – to be considered within the contemporary contexts of migration.

The works will be shown simultaneously at three locations across the district of Exarcheia (Athens): Isaac Julien's *Paradise Omeros* (2002) at the National Archaeological Museum, Kutlug Ataman's *Küba* (2004) in the former Green Park Café, and Julian Rosefeldt's *Asylum* (2002) in the Patision campus of Athens Polytechnic University. With each work exploring oscillations between xenophobia and xenophilia, between the individual and the community, *XENIA: Guests, Hosts, Friends* aims to bring the diverse communities of the Exarcheia district together, reaching beyond first impressions and media stereotypes.

The judging panel for the 2016 NEON Curatorial Award are: **Mathieu Copeland**, Independent Curator; **Laura McLean-Ferris**, Adjunct Curator at the Swiss Institute, NYC; **Andrew Renton**, Director at Marlborough Contemporary, London, chaired by **Nayia Yiakoumaki** Curator Archive Gallery & Project Manager of NEON Curatorial Exchange & Award.

Press Release

Whitechapel Gallery
77–82 Whitechapel High Street
London E1 7QX

T +44 (0)20 7522 7888
F +44 (0)20 7539 3340

whitechapelgallery.org

Whitechapel Gallery Trustee Limited is a private limited company, registered in England and Wales, registered company no. 4093862 and the corporate trustee of Whitechapel Gallery, registered charity no. 312162. VAT no. 863 586 582.

Of the winning proposal Nayia Yiakoumaki, Chair of the judging panel commented: “Emily Riddle’s *XENIA: Guests, Hosts, Friends* is an outstanding proposal that links ancient Mediterranean journeys with the contemporary subject of migration, addressing strong global issues of current social and political concern. Emily Riddle looks at the D.Daskalopoulos Collection in a new light for both a local and an international audience, as well as making poignant connections between art and archaeology.”

Emily Riddle completed her MA in Curating at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, in September 2016. She co-curated the group exhibition *Confusion of Tongues* (The Courtauld Gallery, June-July, 2016), and assisted Nada Raza and Chris Dercon in preparing for *Bhupen Khakhar: You Can’t Please All* (Tate Modern, June-November, 2016). Riddle works part-time as a studio assistant for Peter Liversidge and Nigel Hall RA. Prior to her curating studies, she completed a BA degree in English at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

The NEON Curatorial Award was established in 2012 to champion curatorial excellence, and is part of an ongoing partnership between the Whitechapel Gallery and NEON, a non-profit organisation in Athens. Building links between emerging curators in London and across Greece, the prize celebrates the exchange of ideas and innovations in the presentation of contemporary art.

Elina Kountouri, Director of NEON said: “I am confident that this important cultural dialogue between Greece and the UK through our partnership with the Whitechapel, has gone from strength to strength with each year of the Curatorial Award. During these times that call for a greater need for mutual cross-cultural understanding, Emily Riddle’s exhibition proposal sheds light on this with its timely relevance and thoughtfulness. We were impressed with her strong grasp and integration of NEON’s core philosophies into her exhibition concept, and we congratulate Emily on this well-deserved Award.”

Notes for Editors

- The NEON Curatorial Award is open to curators across Greece and London, including current and alumni students from London Metropolitan University, The Courtauld Institute, Goldsmiths College and the Royal College of Art. The award builds on the Whitechapel Gallery’s local and international networks with academic departments of curatorial studies.
- Since the Curatorial Exchange/Award programme began in 2012, a total of 109 curators from Greece and London have participated to date.
- The NEON Curatorial Award is part of the NEON Curatorial Exchange, in which curators benefit from a four-day study trip to Athens and London, including guided tours of the Athenian and London art scene. The exchange is designed to open up networking and professional development opportunities for young curators. The programme is organised by the Whitechapel Gallery and has been devised and coordinated by Nayia Yiakoumaki, Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery and Project Manager of the NEON Curatorial Exchange and Award.
- Applications for next year’s award will open in summer 2017.
- NEON works to bring contemporary culture closer to everyone. As a non-profit organisation it aims to create new conversations and a larger, informed society around the arts. It aspires to change perceptions and introduce a culturally relevant and cosmopolitan activity in Greece. 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. This constitutes a diverse and open space within society,

where information is disseminated and the relationship between the city, the arts and its inhabitants is reflected.

- For over a century Whitechapel Gallery has premiered world-class artists from modern masters such as Frida Kahlo, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko to contemporaries such as Sophie Calle, Lucian Freud, Gilbert & George and Walid Raad. With beautiful galleries, exhibitions, artist commissions, collection displays, historic archives, education resources, art courses, dining room and bookshop there is always something free to see.

The Gallery is a touchstone for modern and contemporary art internationally, plays a central role in London's cultural landscape and is pivotal to the continued growth of the world's most vibrant contemporary art quarter.

- For further information on NEON please visit <http://neon.org.gr>
- For further information on the D.Daskalopoulos Collection please visit <http://ddcollection.org>

Press Information

Melissa Emery at SUTTON

+44 (0)207 183 3577

melissa@suttonpr.com

Anna Jones at Whitechapel Gallery

+44 (0) 20 7522 7871

AnnaJones@whitechapelgallery.org

NEON