

NEON

PRESS RELEASE

Michael Landy: *BREAKING NEWS-ATHENS*

An exhibition that evolves over the course of four months with the public's engagement

Diplarios School, Athens | 30 March – 11 June 2017

Open Call | 14 February – 26 May 2017

Presented by NEON



NEON is proud to present Michael Landy's *BREAKING NEWS-ATHENS* at the Diplarios School in Athens. Michael Landy will develop the fourth iteration of his acclaimed exhibition, *Breaking News*, introducing direct participation from the public for the first time in the *Breaking News* series.

Breaking News takes the form of drawings on paper, pinned directly to the wall, which read like commercial packaging, warning signs or headlines in a tabloid newspaper. An assemblage of texts, illustrations, headlines, advertisements, aphorisms and quotes of Landy's own and other's artwork; the piece is a visual panopticon, a reflection on over-production, consumerism, and the noise and didacticism of the media.

For the Athens presentation, Landy will allow the format of the work to respond directly to its Greek context. Like in previous editions, he will employ the familiar colour codified language of signs, but this time will make use of the colours blue and white. The exhibition will begin as an empty room, and for its duration the Greek public will be invited to contribute their own slogans, thoughts, feelings, drawings and texts. Landy will transform these images into a visual language developed in his recent work, aiming to capture contemporary Athens and its social and political landscape; allowing a view of the city through the eyes of inhabitants and visitors. The images will ultimately be gradually posted in the rooms of the Diplarios School, realizing the exhibition as an in situ installation in progress. The collation of these prints will form a communal and collaborative portrait of Athens, drawn and built from the city and the country at large, to create a map of a common and often unseen daily environment. Participants can collect submissions that have been selected and converted to drawings after the de-installation.

The work will also be brought to the public through the *BREAKING NEWS-ATHENS* dedicated Instagram account (@breakingnewsathens) which will individually present all works featured in the exhibition.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Open Call Process, managed by NEON, will take the form of submitted Instagram posts or printed photographs, via a microsite for submitting images. These will then be reviewed by Landy and his team and transformed into drawings, which will be displayed on the walls of the Diplarios School. For more information please visit www.neon.org.gr

Michael Landy was born in 1963 in London, where he continues to live and work. He studied at Goldsmiths College and while there he exhibited in the now historic *Freeze* exhibition in London in 1988.

Throughout his practice he has created epic installations and performances to explore political and social issues.

His 2001 monumental commission for Artangel, *Break Down*, was a systematic destruction of his 7,227 possessions in a former department store in London. In 2004, he created *Semi-Detached*, a full scale model of the front and back facades of his parents' house, shown at Tate Britain. Landy is also known for his meticulous, detailed drawings, having created a vast series of 80 intimate portraits of his family and friends, as well as his series of carefully rendered botanical drawings of weeds.

Landy's work was the subject of the major survey exhibition *Out of Order* at Museum Tinguely in Basel last year. Recent projects include a presentation of *Art Bin* at the 2014 Yokohama Triennale, a giant receptacle for failed artworks, first realized at the South London Gallery in 2010. Also in 2014, his 2013 National Gallery show *Saints Alive* travelled to Antigua Colegio de San Ildefonso in Mexico City. *Saints Alive* was a culmination of Landy's year in residence at the National Gallery and consisted of vibrant kinetic sculptures, inspired by images of saints in the collection.

Landy was elected as a Royal Academician in May 2008. His works are held in many public institutions including the Tate Collection, London; the Arts Council England; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

The **Diplarios School, Athens** was originally founded in 1892 as The Greek Artisanal Company, aiming to offer young people free vocational training (mainly carpentry & furniture making), in a building that is now the Athens central market. The current building was bought after 1916 with money inherited by Aristides Diplaris, and is in the square which acted as the shelter for Greek immigrants from Smyrne after the Greek-Turkish war of 1919-1922. The school opened its doors in 1932, and more than 70,000 young people have graduated from it (including Leonidas Varangis, the famous Greek furniture maker). Today, Information Technology & Tourism Administration and Finance are taught.

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.

Exhibition information

Submission Dates: 14 February – 26 May 2017

Duration of Exhibition: 30 March – 11 June 2017

Opening Hours:

Thursday – Sunday, 12pm to 8pm

Please note that BREAKING NEWS-ATHENS will be closed the week of Easter from Thursday 13 April to 16 April 2017.

Press Enquiries

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