

Studio INI Kinetic Installation Selected for Central Courtyard Exhibit at London Design Biennale 2018

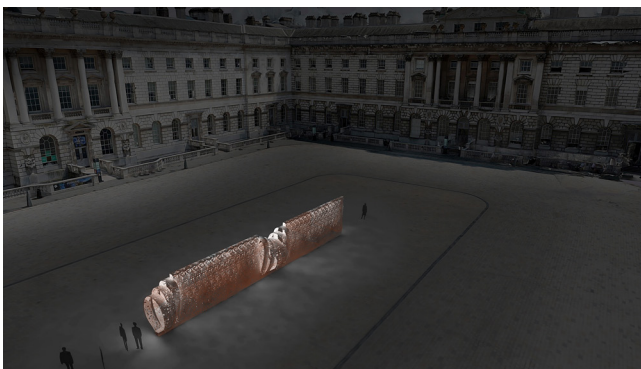


Experimental design practice Studio INI is pleased to announce that its new kinetic installation, which represents this year's Greek Pavilion, has been selected from 40 countries for the central courtyard exhibit at the London Design Biennale 2018. The Biennale will be held across Somerset House from 3 - 23 September.

The design engineers at Studio INI (London and Athens) led by Nassia Inglessis couple rigorous design research with public engagement to create experiential installations. For the London Design Biennale Studio INI presents a kinetic installation entitled ANYΠΑΚΟΗ (Disobedience) responding to the Biennale theme of Emotional States.

ANYΠΑΚΟΗ is comprised of a 17 metre-long wall constructed from a steel spring skeleton built up with recycled plastic which flexes, morphs and breathes around the human body. Visitors can transgress through this mechanical boundary, and as they tread, experience the skin of the wall transforming in response. The public are invited to participate in a mood of creative disobedience by transitioning from an obedient spectator to a disobedient actor, physically passing through (or 'in between') the wall along an undulating walkway. Emotions such as curiosity, ambivalence, frustration, temptation, excitement and wonder are amplified, as visitors experience the feeling of passing in between a boundary and uniquely impacting its shape.

ANYΠΑΚΟΗ is part experimental engineering, part walkable design, and will join London's public realm for the duration of the Biennale.

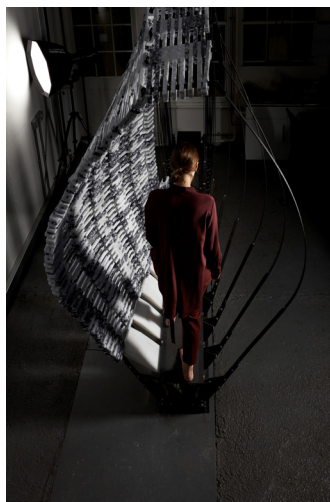


In the spirit of disobedience, the installation changes our interactions with the physical environment, challenging a perception of architecture as something static, or emotionally inert. It encourages visitors to imagine a world in which buildings, boundaries and walkways morph and adapt in response to human intent, shedding light on a potential future for cities.

Studio INI, which is led by designer Nassia Inglessis, calls this technique 'augmented materiality' or 'AM', using digital tools and computation to apply technologies and ideas derived from digital design to the physical, material world. Whereas the more commonly known 'augmented reality' enhances reality through layers of computer-generated information in order to simulate interactivity in a real-world environment, AM evolves away from the purely digital, embedding interactive capability in matter itself and in this way connecting the material world directly to human perception and response.

The concept of ANYΠΑΚΟΗ (pron. anipakoi) has been used throughout history to describe the Greek temperament, with explorations of disobedience dating back to Ancient Greece and its internationally influential mythology. From the cautionary tales of Ikaros and Antigone, to Prometheus, a hero who feels a moral obligation to disobey the gods in order to create opportunities for human progress.

Nassia Inglessis, Founder of Studio INI, comments: *"We believe that creative disobedience has the ability to break barriers, open borders and reconstruct a space for something better. Our design explores the duality in the nature of disobedience. How can we design to evoke or experience disobedience yet harness its constructive potential? Greece is now in a significant time of re-inventing itself. But for as long as there have been rules, there has been disobedience. Scientists discover by disobeying the assumptions of predecessors; children learn by disobeying the boundaries of parents; designers create by disobeying the norm."*





Press are invited to view an innovative performance produced by Farooq Chaudhry, creative producer of Akram Khan Company choreographed and performed by world-renowned dancer Dickson Mbi. The performance will be in the courtyard of Somerset House during the London Design Biennale 2018 Press Preview, on 3 September, [time TBC] at Studio INI's Greek Pavilion installation.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

For press enquiries, interview and image requests please contact Zara Doshi at Flint
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Credits:

Designed, engineered and curated by Studio INI led by Nassia Inglessis, Lead Designer and Engineer with team E. Brial, M. Vordonarakis, L. Walker, N. L' Huiller, A. Yioti and with Neiheiser Argyros, C. Hornzee-Jones, Elliott Wood Partnership Ltd. With thanks to: G. Piscitelli, J. Bertolaso, S. Roots, F. Avgerinos, A. Lavail. With thanks for their fundraising efforts to: A. Kyriakopoulou, G. Kekatos, L. Modiano, D. Spiegelberg. Primary sponsor: Eurobank Private Bank Luxembourg. Other sponsors: Yiotis S.A., U. Kyriakopoulos, TERNA S.A., NEON, Martinos Art, Leventis Foundation, King's College London, VETA S.A, E. Tsangrides, F. Kyriakopoulos, Plomari Ouzo S.A., SmilePlastics.

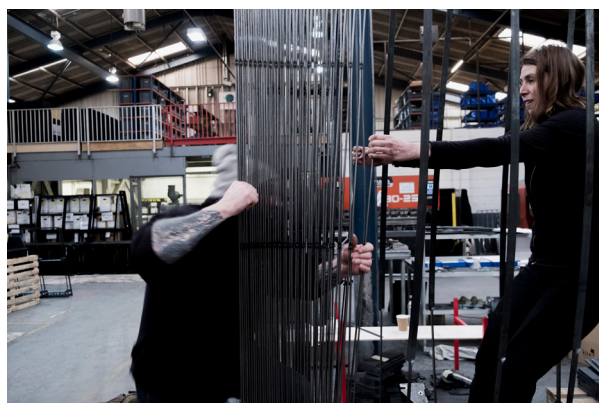


NOTES TO EDITORS

About Studio INI:

Studio INI, founded and led by Nassia Inglessis, is an experimental design studio, based in London and Athens, that couples rigorous design research with public engagement through experiential installations. The practice believes that a crucial part of design is to use scientific and empirical research to challenge pre-existing ideas about the way we behave and interact with the built environment, and inspire new perspectives and behaviours.

Studio INI uses digital tools and computation that apply new technologies to the material world. The Studio calls this 'augmented materiality' or 'AM'. Whereas the more commonly known 'augmented reality' enhances reality through layers of computer-generated information in order to simulate interactivity in a real-world environment, 'augmented materiality' evolves away from digital augmentations to material ones. AM seeks to embed new dynamic capability in matter itself rather than overlay content onto its static state.



Nassia Inglessis (pictured above) received a technical foundation in Engineering Science (Oxford University) and training in Art & Design (The Royal College of Art & MIT Media Lab).

Among the most recent Studio INI projects is an exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum for London Design Festival 2017 *In Need of Transformation*, which explored the convergence of craft with pneumatic automation. Nassia Inglessis presented at Triennale di Milano during Milan Design Week, 2017, with an architectural design installation entitled *Glass II*, for the Lexus Pavilion created from 3D printed glass and caustics in collaboration with MIT Media Lab, Mediated Matter Group & Professor Neri Oxman. With her installation, *Spine*, Nassia Inglessis and her Studio INI also exhibited a focal installation for the London Design Festival 2015. Two interactive light structures, exploded in scale to architectural size, were suspended in the Stamp Staircase of Somerset House. They invited the public to experience an exaggerated and externalised manifestation of the role of electricity in their own physiology, as a trail of light followed their movement and traveled along the spinal structure.

In the upcoming months leading up to the end of the year, Nassia Inglessis's work on Swarm Robotic Fabrication at Architectural Scale with the Mediated Matter Group of MIT Media Lab, will be presented at the conference for Robotic Fabrication in Architecture, Art and Design in September (RoblArch 2018, Sep 5-15th). In October Studio INI will be presenting Glass artwork from Nassia's work for the V&A Museum in Athens - Martinos Art Gallery (Oct 4 - Oct 31) and exhibiting the outputs of her artist residency with King's College London at Bush House Building in Aldwych (date TBC).

About London Design Biennale 2018

4–23 September: London Design Biennale 2018 will take over the entirety of Somerset House, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court and River Terrace. The event will explore big questions and ideas about sustainability, migration, pollution, energy, cities, and social equality. Visitors will enjoy engaging and interactive installations, innovations and proposed design solutions — within an immersive and inspiring tour of the world. | www.londondesignbiennale.com

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