

NEON

PRESS RELEASE

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NEON Talks | Online Series Mapping Current Challenges

A Conversation between Katerina Gregos, Curator, Art Historian and Museologist & Orestis Andreadakis, Director of Thessaloniki International Film Festival and Thessaloniki Documentary Festival Moderated by journalist Maria Katsounaki. Tuesday 26 May 2020 | 7pm (Greek Time)

NEON presents an online discussion series around contemporary culture in the era of social distancing enforced by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

With a focus on the presentation of contemporary art in public spaces, NEON remains faithful to its mission, and through alternative channels of communication proposes a reconnection with art, to redesign the 'new normal' together with the people of the cultural world.

The NEON Talks – an online discussion series – connects the general public with contemporary art and its actors. The programme introduces people from the world of culture, such as artists, curators, collectives and representatives from art galleries and non-profit organisations, through live unplugged conversations about the new conditions of art in the age of social distancing, addressing problems, concerns and questions, and offering suggestions for the future.

Next Tuesday, 26 May 2020, the Director of Thessaloniki International Film Festival and Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Orestis Andreadakis, will discuss with Curator, Art Historian and Museologist, Katerina Gregos. The conversation will be moderated by journalist Maria Katsounaki.

How much can art affect or shape this new era? What is art's place and which characteristics, abilities and skills must artists develop in order to both face and express the world's differing post-pandemic needs and views? How will we evaluate the field of art and culture in a post-Covid-19 era?

The discussion will be live-streamed on NEON's YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/neongreece>, and questions may be submitted in advance, by Monday 25 May 2020, via e-mail at talks@neon.org.gr. The conversation will take place in Greek and will be made available shortly after on NEON YouTube channel with English subtitles.

NEON's objective is to convey to the public the value of contemporary art and culture and to help document the issues that will arise in this new reality.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Katerina Gregos is an art historian, curator and museologist. She has curated numerous large-scale exhibitions in museums and art centres in several European countries, as well as nine international biennials including, the 1st Riga Biennial, the 5th Thessaloniki Biennial, the Göteborg Biennial and Manifesta 9, and E V+ A, Ireland's biennial. She has also curated three critically acclaimed national pavilions at the Venice Biennale: those of Croatia, Belgium and Denmark. She began her professional life as founding director of the Deste Foundation's Centre for Contemporary Art, Athens and moved to Brussels, where she is currently based, in 2006 to assume the position of artistic director of Argos – Centre for Art & Media. Since 2016 she is curator of the visual arts programme of the Munich-based not-for-profit Schwarz Foundation. Her next exhibition is entitled *Modern Love (or Love in the Age of Cold Intimacies)*. It will open in the fall at the Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg (DE), then travelling to Tallinn Art Hall (EE) and IMPAKT Media Arts Organisation, Utrecht (NL). Gregos is a visiting lecturer at HISK: the Higher Institute of Arts in Ghent and the Jan Van Eyck Academy, in Maastricht. She is a member of the artistic committee of KANAL Pompidou due to open in Brussels in 2023.

Orestis Andreadakis is the Director of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival and Thessaloniki Documentary Festival. He was born in Heraklion, Crete and studied in Athens and Paris. He was a founding member of the Athens International Film Festival *Opening Nights* (1995) and the Athens Open Air Film Festival (2010), where he was a Director (2007–2016). He has written reviews and articles on cinema and arts and he has curated a number of exhibitions in Athens, Thessaloniki, and Geneva. In 2017, he was the curator of the Greek Pavilion of the 57th Venice Biennale. In 2013, he was decorated as a Chevalier dans l' Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Maria Katsounaki is a journalist and columnist at Kathimerini newspaper. She was born in Athens. She studied Public Law and Political Science at the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She started working within the realm of journalism in 1984, initially for the newspaper Ethnos and in 1987 moved to Kathimerini. She delved deeply into cultural reporting, assuming the role of Head of the Arts and Culture desk for the daily edition from 1992 till 2007. In parallel, she focused on cinema criticism and op-eds. From 2000 and for a total of 12 years she was also the main presenter of a programme on Greek public television (ERT1) which focused on Greek cinema and featured movies and interviews of some of the most prominent Greek filmmakers, including Michael Cacoyannis, Nikos Koundouros, Theo Angelopoulos and Yorgos Lanthimos. In 2007 she received an award by the Botsis Foundation for her continuous work in promoting the arts and culture through her trajectory in the press.

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.

International Press Enquiries
Melissa Emery | SUTTON
E: melissa@suttonpr.com | T: +44 (0)20 7183 3577

neon.org.gr