

NYMH

PORTALS

11 JUNE — 31 DECEMBER 2021

- 001 NIKOS ALEXIOU

002 EL ANATSUI

003 DIMITRIOS ANTONITSIS

004 KUTLUĞ ATAMAN

005 KOSTAS BASSANOS

006 VLASSIS CANIARIS

007 JOANA CHOUMALI

008 ANASTASIA DOUKA

009 EIRENE EFSTATHIOU

010 BRENDAN FERNANDES

011 APOSTOLOS GEORGIOU

012 JEFFREY GIBSON

013 ROBERT GOBER

014 VANGELIS GOKAS

015 SONIA GOMES

016 FELIX GONZALEZ-TORRES

017 SHILPA GUPTA

018 ELIF KAMISLI

019 KAPWANI KIWANGA

020 PANOS KOKKINIAS

021 CHRYSANTHI KOUMIANAKI

022 JANNIS KOUNELLIS

023 JANNIS KOUNELLIS

024 LOUISE LAWLER

025 GLENN LIGON

026 LILIANE LIJN

027 MARIA LOIZIDOU

028 TALA MADANI

029 TERESA MARGOLLES

030 STEVE M<sup>c</sup>QUEEN

031 SIDSEL MEINECHE HANSEN

032 MARISA MERZ

033 AD MINOLITI

034 ALEX MYLONA

035 NIKOS NAVRIDIS

036 TOYIN OJIH ODUTOLA

037 DURO OLOWU

038 MARIA PAPADIMITRIOU

039 DIMITRIS PAPAIOANNOU

040 CORNELIA PARKER

041 ADAM PENDLETON

042 SOLANGE PESSOA

043 FRANCIS PICABIA

044 GALA PORRAS-KIM

045 MICHAEL RAKOWITZ

046 ED RUSCHA

047 DANA SCHUTZ

048 PAUL MPAGI SEPUYA

049 ELIAS SIME

050 CHRISTIANA SOULOU

051 DO HO SUH

052 ANNA TSOUHLARAKIS

053 ALEXANDROS TZANNIS

054 ADRIANA VAREJÃO

055 ERIKA VERZUTTI

056 ERIKA VERZUTTI

057 ADRIÁN VILLAR ROJAS

058 DANH VÕ

059 DAPHNE WRIGHT

060 MYRTO XANTHOPOULOU

061 BILLIE ZANGEWA
- 062 CHARTA OF GREECE, RHIGAS VELESTINLIS

The numbers above correspond to each artist's entry on the **NEON app** available for iOS and Android



Hellenic Parliament  
Former Public Tobacco Factory  
Lenorman 218, Athens, 104 43

Access  
Sepolia Metro Station  
Bus & Trolley: A13 & 12  
Free parking of the Municipality of Athens  
Amfiaraou and N. Chatziapostolou

Please note that in accordance to the health authorities' regulation on public health and safety, entry to the exhibition is by timed ticket booked in advance only.  
[neon.artsvp.co](https://neon.artsvp.co)

FREE ENTRANCE

Opening Hours

11.06 – 30.09.2021  
Monday, Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 12.00 – 20.00  
Thursday: 12.00 – 20.00  
Sunday: 11.00 – 14.00 & 17.00 -21.00

01.10 – 31.12.2021  
Monday, Tuesday: Closed  
Wednesday, Saturday: 11.00 – 19.00  
Thursday, Friday: 12.00 – 21.00  
Sunday: 11.00 – 17.00

**HELLENICPARLIAMENT.GR**  
**NEON.ORG.GR**

**#HELLENICPARLIAMENT**  
**#NEONGREECE**  
**#NEONPORTALS**

HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

The Hellenic Parliament is the supreme representative institution of the people, as it expresses the popular will and sovereignty. Citizens are represented through elected Members of Parliament. It enjoys universal recognition and is the strongest symbol of democracy in the very heart of the Republic.

Parliamentary work, namely voting on Bills and Law Proposals and exercising parliamentary control over the Government, is the institution’s core activity. In addition to law enactment, the Parliament exercises other competences, namely the election of its own President who oversees parliamentary functions and represents the institution abroad. Moreover, the Parliament elects the President of the Hellenic Republic, oversees the revision of the Constitution, and can resolve to proclaim a referendum. It further provides a vote of confidence to the Government, votes on the state budget and critical foreign policy issues and strengthens ties with the Greek Diaspora. The Hellenic Parliament actively participates in European and international institutional bodies, while through the Parliamentary Friendship Groups it promotes the country’s international relations.

Extroverted and with a strong focus on social awareness, the Parliament also engages in cultural, educational, and social activities aspiring to preserve historical memory, highlight humanitarian values, foster political culture and promote democratic principles.

PORTALS

From June 11 to December 31, 2021 NEON, in partnership with the Hellenic Parliament, marks and reflects on the bicentenary of Greece’s War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire by presenting a new cultural space and contemporary art exhibition at the former Public Tobacco Factory.

The exhibition *Portals* | Πύλη brings together 59 artists from 27 countries. It features existing works in different mediums – installation, painting, sculpture, photography and performance – alongside 15 new commissions from international and Greek artists.

Two hundred years ago the Greeks had to design their future as an independent state and uphold the values of democracy. The building of our modern nation started with the belief of a small group of people that change was possible, that transition to a new state was necessary, and that independence was the ultimate goal.

The political and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic once again require active participation from citizens; it is no longer possible for the majority of us to remain passive onlookers to change. The world has started to search for answers to restructure society, economics, ethics and politics.

In the past year citizens have had time to reflect, to rethink and question humanity’s priorities and long-held assumptions, and now, to pivot towards an uncertain future. Today we are being asked to imagine lives born out of upheaval, to determine what it is that we stand for, and to reshape everyday reality. *Portals* |

NEON

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 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.



Πύλη explores ideas about what this different reality may look like through four vectors where a post-Covid universe may best be seen to emerge: Movement, the Communal, Connection and Home.

Author and novelist Arundhati Roy<sup>1</sup>, writing in the *Financial Times* on 3 April 2020, highlighted our shared experience as the pandemic spread around the globe. “Whatever it is, coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to ‘normality’, trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists...Nothing could be worse than a return to normality... It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.”

Arundhati Roy’s idea of the portal – and how we negotiate our transition through it – is the inspiration for this exhibition. “We can choose to walk through it,” she suggests, “dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world.”

This exhibition aims to highlight how this particular moment in history takes us through a “portal”. When we emerge on the other side, we will need to reaffirm - for the sake of present and future generations - our commitment to certain values: equity, interdependence, mutually agreed upon consensus, and respect for human

EXHIBITION GUIDE

dignity. The global scale of the challenges and consequences of the pandemic make this reaffirmation imperative.

What is normal? What should be the next normal? What are the values that will define it? What are the new boundaries? How can we negotiate our way towards and through a portal to the other side?

In 2021 at the Former Tobacco Factory we imagine a non-hierarchical space, a space of togetherness, a space where social and political strategies are rethought and reconstructed. In *Portals* | Πύλη artists from different continents and diverse cultural backgrounds come together to build a community of ideas; their works become witnesses to and agents for the laying out of a possible new normal, a story that demands to be heard.

Curated by Elina Kountouri, Director, NEON and Madeleine Grynsztejn, Pritzker Director, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

ΠΥΛΗ PORTALS

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca>