



HELLENIC PARLIAMENT

NEON

Athens, 6 June 2022

PRESS RELEASE

A Collaboration between the Hellenic Parliament and NEON

***Dream On* exhibition**

Curator: Dimitris Paleocrassas, Art Historian

former Public Tobacco Factory – Hellenic Parliament Library & Printing House

8 June – 27 November 2022

For a second consecutive year, NEON activates the emblematic building of the former Public Tobacco Factory as part of its collaboration with the Hellenic Parliament to present *Dream On*, a contemporary art exhibition that celebrates art in the public space.

Curated by Dimitris Paleocrassas, Art historian and consultant of the D.Daskalopoulos Collection, *Dream On* brings together 18 large-scale installations from the D.Daskalopoulos Collection by Greek and international artists, as well as a newly commissioned work, and 20 drawings.

The exhibition follows the announcement of the [D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift](#), presenting some of the most important works of the Collection which will then be donated to 4 museums in 3 countries over 2 continents (EMST, Tate, and jointly to the Guggenheim and MCA Chicago).

This is the first time that a crucial mass of the large-scale works of the D.Daskalopoulos Collection will be exhibited in Greece, gathered in the open, freely accessible space of the former Public Tobacco Factory.

According to the exhibition's curator Dimitris Paleocrassas, *Dream On* is permeated by a sense of plenitude brought about by the realization of a great dream: an artist's ambitious yet elusive goal attained through the unbridled creativity of large-scale installations. Similarly, through the D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift, the dream of its owner becomes a reality: a private collection transformed into a public good to be preserved for future generations of audience and artists.

Dream On features 18 large-scale installations by artists John Bock, Helen Chadwick, Abraham Cruzvillegas, Martha Dimitropoulou, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, David Hammons, Thomas Hirschhorn, Damien Hirst, Michael Landy, Maria Loizidou, Paul McCarthy, Annette Messager, Maro Michalakakos, Wangechi Mutu, Paul Pfeiffer, Alexandros Psychoulis, Matthew Ritchie and Anna-Maria Samara. In addition, Kostas Ioannidis, a new commission by NEON, creates a large-scale audio work delivered in whistling language.

Alongside the installations are 20 artist's drawings of some of the works prior to their creation.

Constantine An. Tassoulas, President of the Hellenic Parliament says: *The Hellenic Parliament proudly reopens the exhibition space of the former Public Tobacco Factory, to present an impressive collection of works of contemporary art made by internationally-acclaimed artists, donated by the D.Daskalopoulos Collection to four major international museums, including EMST - National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens.*

The exhibition is an outcome of a highly creative, continuous collaboration between Hellenic Parliament, NEON and its founder Dimitris Daskalopoulos who contributed to the renovation and transformation of a large part of the former Public Tobacco Factory into a stimulating exhibition site where the highly successful Portals exhibition took place.

As President of the Hellenic Parliament, an institution which serves as an active supporter and guardian of arts as public good, I warmly congratulate Mr. Daskalopoulos for his inspirational initiative, which accurately illustrates the importance of social contribution and fair play motivation. Exhibiting significant artworks that were included in the D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift in the emblematic building of the Hellenic Parliament is a remarkable and perhaps unique opportunity for Greek and international visitors to immerse themselves into an authentic aesthetic thrill.

Dimitris Daskalopoulos, NEON Founder notes: *I feel particularly proud to be collaborating again with the Hellenic Parliament; the leading state institution, so that NEON can host another exceptional exhibition in the historical building of the former Public Tobacco Factory. We witness the building's transformation -after its renovation into a new cultural hub for the city of Athens- delivering NEON's aspiration regarding the importance of the public space.*

This exhibition reflects a turning point in my personal path in the field of arts. The large-scale installations exhibited in Dream On will then embark onto a new journey; the works will travel in 3 different countries over 2 continents to be included in the collections of 4 different museums, as part of the D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift. Through this donation, these works -along with many others from the Collection- will be reborn, become accessible to an even wider audience and shall receive the necessary care to be preserved for future generations and maintain a dialogue with the art of the future.

According to **Elina Kountouri, Director of NEON**, *contemporary art focuses on current issues, political and social ideas – identity, ideology and globalization. Especially in large scale installations, many artists work in a variety of media often using everyday materials to create environments that engage the viewer into a unique, immersive encounter.*

Dream On presents this selection of important large-scale installations, the majority of them for the first time in Athens, before they are disseminated to their new guardians and made available to even wider audiences.

This exhibition encapsulates the firmly held belief of Dimitris Daskalopoulos and NEON that art takes its meaning by its interaction with people.

Dimitris Paleocrassas, exhibition curator, Art Historian and Consultant to the D.Daskalopoulos Collection, notes: *Large-scale installations are where artists go when they want to make their dreams come True. It is striking how awe-inspiring and viscerally impactful large-scale installations usually are. A speculative explanation would posit that when artists are liberated from the spatial constraints of the physical space of their studio environment, they freely express their most ambitious dreams in a burst of unbridled creativity.*

PARALLEL PROGRAMME

In the framework of the exhibition, the innovative educational program **"Is This Art?"**, designed and implemented by the Hellenic Children's Museum and NEON, shall also take place. Through an experiential process, visitors become familiar with contemporary art and develop multiple ways of understanding the works made by contemporary artists.

The program is aimed at **families with children aged 8 years and above.**

Programme dates/time:

Saturday 25/6, 2/7, 9/7, 16/7, 23/7, 30/7, 12:15 – 13:45

Wednesday 29/6, 6/7, 13/7, 20/7, 27/7, 17:00 – 18:30

Information and reservations: Irini Mantzavinou, 2103312995 (int.110), email: secretariat@hcm.gr

Organized school visits, information, and reservations: tickets@neon.org.gr

Group guided tours (10-15 people) will take place during the days:

Thursday and Friday at 17:00 and 18:00

Saturday at 14:00, 16:00 and 17:00

Information and reservations: tickets@neon.org.gr

NEON app enables the user to browse the exhibition autonomously, see various artwork images and learn about the exhibited works and their creators, as well as receive information about the parallel programme and events.

NEON app is available on iOS and Android.

Dream On

former Public Tobacco Factory – Hellenic Parliament Library & Printing House, Lenorman 218, Kolonos, Athens

A collaboration between the Hellenic Parliament + NEON

Curator: Dimitris Paleocrassas, Art Historian

Duration: 8 June – 27 November 2022

Opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday: closed

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday: 11:00-19:00

Saturday: 12:00 - 20:00

Free Entrance

Reservation required via neon.artsvp.co

More Information neon.org.gr

Information on the D.Daskalopoulos Collecton Gift ddcollection.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

NEON is a non-profit organisation 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 programmes of public and private institutions to enhance increased access and inventive interaction with contemporary art.

More information:

Hellenic Parliament, Press Office, 210 3707431, a.kariofilli@parliament.gr

NEON, Reliant Communications, 6932296850, elazaridou@reliant.gr