

NEON

Athens, 21 June 2022

PRESS RELEASE

WORLD WEATHER NETWORK

NEON | *112, Climate Tone*

From 21 June 2022

NEON joins the newly founded ground-breaking alliance of art institutions from 28 countries across the world to form the *World Weather Network*, creating an international digital platform of artistic creation in response to global climate crisis

The *World Weather Network* is a constellation of 'weather stations' created by 28 independent arts organisations located across the world in oceans, deserts, mountains, farmland, rainforests, observatories, lighthouses and cities. Artists, writers and scientists will share 'weather reports' in the form of observations, stories, images and imaginings about their local weather and our shared climate, creating an archipelago of voices and viewpoints on a new global platform.

It is an invitation to look, listen, learn and act. Engaging artists, writers, climate scientists and environmentalists, the *World Weather Network* brings together diverse world views and different ways of understanding the weather across multiple localities and languages.

112, Climate Tone

For the *World Weather Network*, NEON presents *112, Climate Tone*, a contemporary art project with a focus on climate change and the environmental crisis as an urgent and ongoing condition. In this context, three weather stations will be created – sonic, visual and dialogue-based – that will supply material to the *World Weather Network* online platform with the intention to broadcast an alert for the climate.

112 is the pan-European telephone number for the communication of information about emergencies, upcoming or ongoing. In recent years, such emergencies are becoming increasingly and systematically linked to climate change, almost identifying the number 112 with the environmental crisis; a ringtone on a mobile phone becomes both an update on a local event and a reminder of the ongoing global environmental catastrophe.

For *112, Climate Tone*, NEON commissions two artists, Greek composer and sound artist Stavros Gasparatos, and photographer Natalia Tsoukala, supported by the project's Scientific Advisor Professor of Meteorology and Climatology Prodromos Zanis, Lead Author of the 6th chapter of the 2021 IPCC report, addressing the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change.

The **sonic station**, operated by sound artist and composer **Stavros Gasparatos**, will explore the correlation of sound with current and historic meteorological data recorded by weather stations in Greece. Investigating the experience of hearing an alert tone from the 112 emergency number as the origin of a ripple that awakens sensory temporal paths that produce chains of thoughts and automated meanings, Gasparatos will create an online sonic machine that responds and alerts us to current weather phenomena and the climate crisis. A warning tone for the climate.

The **visual station**, operated by photographer **Natalia Tsoukala**, will record the transformations of the landscape in Greece by energy production and distribution networks, responding to the energy industry's widespread and substantial disruption of the climate on a global scale. From rural power stations to the everyday terrain that energy consumption practices construct in the metropolis of Athens, Natalia Tsoukala will create a photographic record that reports on the developing narrative of Greece in 2022 in parallel with images that capture the everyday weather.

The **dialogues (podcasts)** are a series of short recordings, podcasts which intend to send a localised signal from our geographical position to the world; Greece sending a local warning signal from the climate change hot-spot of the Mediterranean Basin to the global ecosystem. Greek scientists, locals affected by differing forms of climate change, groups working to counter-act the change that we are experiencing, and those making the ultimate decisions that are affecting our lives will take part in accessible and informative conversations with the aim of illuminating a subject still not part of everyday discourse in Greece.

NEON's curatorial team for the project comprises **Fanis Kafantaris, Ioanna Mimi and Andrew Spyrou**. According to the curators: *112, Climate Tone creates a number of 'weather stations' for the World Weather Network observing from the local scale to the global, one deriving from the other. Through conversations with scientists and researchers from the Greek and Mediterranean region, investigating how equipment and data participate in the global network, 112, Climate Tone attempts a contemporary documentation of our geographical area, seeking to contribute to the global dialogue on climate change.*

The *World Weather Network* launches on Tuesday 21 June 2022, on the summer solstice: the longest day in the northern hemisphere and the shortest day in the southern hemisphere.

As part of the launch, artists (and in some cases community participants) from each weather station will collaborate on a unique film project, co-creating a 'special report' for the Network, a single film, providing a global window onto local weather across the Network at a specific time of year.

Moreover, the London Review of Books are commissioning special reports from writers based in many of the locations in the *World Weather Network*.

More on the *World Weather Network* worldweathernetwork.org
Information neon.org.gr

The *World Weather Network* comprises the following 28 independent art organizations:

ARTANGEL, London
ARTINGENIUM, Donostia/San Sebastián
ART JAMEEL, Dubai
ART SONJE CENTER, Seoul
BUNDANON, New South Wales
DHAKA ART SUMMIT, Bangladesh
ENOURA OBSERVATORY, Japan
NICOLETTA FIORUCCI FOUNDATION, Grasse
FOGO ISLAND ARTS, Newfoundland
FONDAZIONE SANDRETTO RE REBAUDENGO, Torino
HOLT-SMITHSON FOUNDATION, New Mexico
ICELANDIC ARTS CENTRE, Reykjavik
IHME HELSINKI, Helsinki
KHOJ, New Delhi
MALI, Lima
MCAD, Manila
NEON, Athens
NGO, Johannesburg
WAAG, Amsterdam
RUYA FOUNDATION, Iraq
SAHA, Istanbul
SOPHIA POINT, Guyana
TERRA FOUNDATION, Comporta
TE TUHI, Aotearoa / New Zealand
UCCA, Beijing / Qinhuangdao
YINKA SHONIBARE FOUNDATION, Lagos / Ijebu
32 DEGREES EAST, Uganda

Notes to editors

Stavros Gasparatos (b. 1975, Patras, Greece) is a Greek composer and sound artist. Apart from his solo projects and albums, he composes music for dance, theatre, and cinema.

His music has been performed in all major Greek venues and also in New York, Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Munich, Toronto, Sofia, Amsterdam, Paris, Napoli and many other cities. He has composed music for over 130 productions and he is considered as one of the most important and prolific composers of the new Greek generation.

Gasparatos composes minimalist, instrumental and experimental music as well as site-specific sound installations. Since 2017 he has been the artistic coordinator of the Transmedia Lab of the Greek National Opera. In 2019 he was appointed Member of the Board of Directors of the Athens & Epidaurus Festival.

<http://www.stavrosgasparatos.com/about>

Natalia Tsoukala (b. 1980, Athens, Greece) studied photography at Focus Photography and Video-art School, in Greece, and at Nottingham Trent University in England. She has been working as a freelance photographer since 2005 shooting interiors, portraits, still life, art performances etc. She has collaborated with NEON, Okeanos Foundation, Pelagos Institute, Benaki Museum and other esteemed cultural institutions in Greece and abroad.

In 2012, Tsoukala travelled across the Pacific Ocean for almost a year, in order to capture images for “Te Mana O Te Moana”, a project committed to promoting sustainability in the Pacific by merging ancestral values and voyaging traditions with renewable energy.

She has taken part in several projects around the world and has a passion for traveling and documenting nature in all its forms. She lives and works in Athens.

<https://www.nataliatsoukala.com>

Prodromos Zanis is Professor at the Department of Meteorology and Climatology, School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH). He received a degree in Physics in 1992 (AUTH), a M.Sc. in Atmospheric Sciences in 1994 from University of East Anglia, UK and a Ph.D. degree in Natural Sciences in 1999 from University of Bern, Switzerland.

He is Lead Author of Chapter 6 of WGI AR6 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, member of the Scientific Committee of the Ministry for Environment and Energy of Greece for facing Climate Change, and member of the National Committee facing Desertification of the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

<https://users.auth.gr/~zanis/>

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.

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