

**Media Release**

Beijing, May 18 2021

**Greece is the Guest Country of Honor in the "The Tides of the Century – 2020 Ocean Flower Island International Art Exhibition”** which is to officially open on May 20, 2021 in Hainan, China. The exhibition, inaugurated at the Ocean Flower Island, will feature in 7 museums 176 works by 95 artists from 24 countries.

Approved by China’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the international exhibition is organized by the Chinese International Exhibition Agency (CIEA) and co-hosted by the Evergrande Fairyland Group and the China Arts and Entertainment Group Ltd. It is expected to run until Dec. 8, 2021 at the Ocean Flower Island Museum in Hainan’s Danzhou city and become one of the biggest art events during this year in China, offering visitors a broad selection of Chinese and International, pioneering artworks by established as well as young artists.

This year, Greece and China are celebrating the "Greece-China Year of Culture and Tourism". Also this year, Greece celebrates the 200-year anniversary of the National Revolution that led to the establishment of Modern Greece, one of the earliest constitutional nation-states in Europe. Both Greece and China have placed this Exhibition under the “Greece-China Year of Culture & Tourism 2021”.

The Guest Country of Honor exhibition is titled “Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis. In the Belt of Change” [“命题 - 对立 - 统一，追随变化的轨迹”]. It has been conceived and curated by Ms. Katerina Koskina, supported by “Polites”, Non-profit Cultural Association. The initiative of the Greek exhibition project and its coordination and production was undertaken by “PostScriptum” company under its CEO Mr. Kostas Konstantinidis.

The Greek exhibition, hosted in Building No.6 which is fully dedicated to Greece, brings together an eclectic selection of more than 50 works (sculptures, installations, videos, multimedia works, and digital art) by 34 contemporary, pioneer Greek artists or artists of Greek origin as well as emerging artists working with the use of latest technologies. Besides, Athens Digital Arts Festival (ADAF) is the invited Festival in the exhibition, with more than 20 artists exhibiting their works on screens in the Entrance Hall of the Greek Pavilion.

The Greek exhibition is presented under the Aegis of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Secretariat General for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad, the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Hellenic Ministry of Tourism, the Greek National Tourism Organization and the Municipality of Athens. The opening of the exhibition will be addressed through a video speech by Prof. John Chrysoulakis，Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic. Ambassador of Greece to China, Mr. Georgios Iliopoulos will attend and address the opening of the exhibition in Hainan island.

In the opening ceremony the Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Prof. John Chrysoulakis will address a speech.

While addressing the opening ceremony, Ambassador Iliopoulos noted that the Greek Pavilion exhibition offers the Chinese visitors unique glimpses into Modern Greek Art and may help them understand better Greece, the country’s history, cultural continuity and resilience, and, how the Mind of Greece has continuously sought, till today, to capture the inner significance and the essence of our World, or "Cosmos", through the beauty of forms and the balance of artistic expression!

**Exhibition concept:** Since antiquity, Greece is acclaimed as an open society and culture, where ideas flourish and flow. Dialogue has been the basis for communication with others as well as the cornerstone of all achievements of Greek culture including philosophy, science, art, theater and democracy. Few countries are comparable to Greece in terms of culture-sharing through dialogue and cultural interaction. As stated by the Curator, Ms K. Koskina, “the theme of the Greek Pavilion exhibition, “Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis. In the Belt of Change” arises from the common belief that the ancient Greek and Chinese civilizations, which have defined and shaped cultures beyond their borders, shared many common elements in their quest of understanding the World. For both cultures, the World was not limited to the physical earth or the natural world but encompassed the much wider, complicated, incomprehensible but harmonious structure of the World or Universe. The Greek exhibition is structured on the discursive method, where the flow of time and change is expressed in three stages of development, “Thesis- Antithesis – Synthesis” rooted in Ancient Greek philosophy, particularly the Socratic obstetric method. Besides, it conveys to the visitors the ancient Greek idea of endless movement which drives humanity to engage with change, an idea close to the notion of Yin and Yang in Chinese philosophy and cosmology. This triadic approach of “Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis” represents our perspective in creating this Exhibition and is aligned with the architecture of the building, divided in halls. The Exhibition is designed as an immersive experience for the public to imagine histories and futures, as well as to highlight the concepts of interaction, dialogue and fluidity.”

Interested Chinese Media may learn more about Greece’s participation in the “The Tides of the Century – 2020 Ocean Flower Island International Art Exhibition” by contacting the Embassy of Greece Press and Communication at: pdo.beijing@mfa.gr, Tel. 8532695, Cell: (Euthymios Athanasiadis, Press Counselor): 1391057109。

**Contributors:**

**Title of the Exhibition**: The Tides of the Century

**Title of the Greek exhibition:** Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis. In the Belt of Change

**Location**: Pavilion 6, Ocean Flower Museum Park, Ocean Flower Island, Hainan Province, PR China

**Organizers:** Chinese International Exhibition Agency (CIEA) and the Ocean Flower Island Museum

**Co-Organizers:**  Evergrande Fairyland Group & China Arts and Entertainment Group Ltd.

**Exhibition Concept / Curation: Katerina Koskina**

**Production & Coordination**: Kostas Konstantinidis - PostScriptum

**Research – Museological Study – Texts:** ΑΜΚΕ POLITES

**Digital Arts Expert:** Ilias Chatzichristodoulou

 **Architectural Design – Lighting:** Maria Maneta

**Invited Festival:** [Athens Digital Arts Festival](https://www.adaf.gr/) (ADAF)

**Under the Aegis of:** Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Secretariat General for Public Diplomacy and Greeks Abroad, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, Hellenic Ministry of Tourism, Greek National Tourism Organization and the Municipality of Athens.

**The Guest of Honor Country Exhibition is placed under the "Greece-China Year of Culture & Tourism 2021”.**

**Special support:** National museum of Modern Art, Onassis Foundation, PACE Gallery New York, KΕΤΕ Foundation, George Zongolopoulos Foundation, Stephen Antonakos Studio, New York.

**Artists:**

ALITHINOS Dimitris 迪米修斯•阿里帝诺斯

ANGELIDAKIS Andreas 安德烈•安杰里达斯

ANTONAKOS Stephen 斯蒂芬•安佟纳克斯

C O S T I S 克斯迪斯

CHANDRIS Pantelis 潘迪力斯•畅德瑞斯

CHRYSSA 克里萨

DASKALAKIS LEMOS, Manolis 马努里斯•达斯卡拉奇斯•莱蒙斯

DRIVAS George 乔治• 德瑞瓦斯

FAITAKIS Stelios 斯泰尤斯•法伊塔基斯

HARONITAKI Aspassio 阿斯帕修•哈诺尼达基

HATJIGEORGIOU Yioula 尤拉• 哈吉伊尤伊吾

KRANIDIOTIS Yiannis 雅尼斯•阮迪斯

MICHALOU(di)S Ioannis 雅尼斯•米哈卢斯

MORIS Petros 彼得•莫瑞斯

NAVRIDIS Nikos 尼克斯•纳瑞帝斯

PAPADOPOULOS Nikos 尼克斯•帕帕多普罗斯

PAPAMARGARITI Eva 伊娃•帕帕玛亚瑞蒂

PAPAPHILIPPOU Aemilia 阿米利亚•帕帕菲利浦

PASTRA Nafsika 纳夫斯卡•帕斯特拉

ROUFANIS Aristotle 亚里士多德•鲁法尼斯

SAMARAS Lucas 卢卡斯•萨马拉斯

SANTORINEOS Manthos 曼托斯•萨托瑞纳斯

Stelarc 斯泰拉克

STRAPATSAKI Marianna 玛瑞亚娜•斯塔帕萨基

TAKIS 塔基斯

THEODOULOS 思奥多普罗斯

TRAGKAS Dimitris 迪米修斯•特拉卡斯

TRIANTAFYLLIDIS Theo 思奥•特安达菲利蒂斯

TSOCLIS Costas 科斯塔斯•索克利斯

VAROTSOS Costas 科斯塔斯•瓦若索斯

VENETOPOULOS Babis 巴比斯•瓦乃托普罗斯

VENIERI Lydia 莉迪娅•万尼瑞

XAGORARIS Pantelis 帕蒂里斯 •哈若拉瑞斯

ZONGOLOPOULOS George 乔治•宗戈罗普洛斯

**Introduction by the Curator of the Guest Country of Honor, Katerina Koskina**

Tides of centuries gone, tides of centuries to come -- and amidst the ever-shifting sands of time, we find ourselves twenty years into the 21st century. We are living in a historical moment of global change due, in part, to the unprecedented developments in technology leading us forward to a largely predicted common future. Simultaneously, however, we have the persistent need to delve into the tides of the past, to our principles, traditions, roots, making connections with our cultural heritage. This crossroads of the tides of past and future worlds affects and is affected by art across the globe navigating inspiration in this flow of change.

Dedicated to immerse ourselves in the flow of these tides -- to contemplate and envision -- we are proud that our proposal was selected to become a part of The Tides of the Century-2020 Ocean Flower Island International Art Exhibition and Greece is honored in its role as Guest Country.

The starting point of our Exhibition Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis. In the Belt of Change is the common belief that the ancient Greek and Chinese civilizations, which have defined and shaped cultures beyond their borders, shared many common elements toward understanding the world. For both cultures, the world was not limited to the physical earth but encompassed the much wider, complicated, incomprehensible but harmonious structure of the universe. The foundations of these cultures have transcended time and have continued to influence culture throughout the centuries. What similarities can be drawn today between these two countries?

In the global arena, we observe a need to decode and decipher the world around us toward understanding; an urge which fluctuates between the Universe (Cosmos) and humankind. There is also a personal need to find visual and tangible languages to interpret and understand our own world.

This Exhibition is structured on the method of discourse, where the flow of time and change is expressed in three stages of development and consciousness—Thesis- Antithesis - Synthesis, rooted in Ancient Greek philosophy, particularly the Socratic obstetric method. This triadic approach of Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis represents our perspective in creating this Exhibition and is aligned with the architecture of the building, divided in halls. The Exhibition is designed as an immersive experience for the public to imagine histories and futures, as well as to highlight the concepts of interaction, dialogue and fluidity. (“Ta panta rei” (everything flows), as stated by the ancient pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, refers to the endless movement which drives humanity to engage with the idea of change and flux, not very different from the Yin and Yang philosophy. The water, particularly, is an element which has played a decisive role not only in ancient economic and territorial expansion, but also in the diffusion of the culture and artistic characteristics of the two countries. Our purpose today is to place emphasis on their similarities as civilizations of great influence across the tides of time and highlight the Belt and Road of China, not only as a trade route, but especially, as a pathway for cultural exchange, such as this significant, International Art Exhibition.

The Exhibition brings together an eclectic selection of works (sculptures, installations, videos, multimedia works, and digital art) by pioneer Greek artists or artists of Greek origin such as Takis, Zongolopoulos, Antonakos, Tsoclis, CHRYSSA, Samaras, and Stelarc, as well as the established artists namely Varotsos, Navridis, Strapatsaki and Angelidakis. The Exhibition also includes emerging artists such as Lemos, Triantafyllidis, Roufanis and Moris, who are shaping the artistic reality of the new era.

In the Entrance Hall, leading to the three main exhibition areas, visitors have the opportunity to get to know Greece and its cultural and touristic development, as well as showcase the work of a new generation of Greek artists exploring the digital world and its latest applications. Covid-19 changed our plans to highlight the immersive technologies employed by the artists of the Athens Digital Art Festival

(ADAF), and its display is limited to a number of films.

Aimilia Papaphilippou’s work ‘Chess Continuum’ serves as an introduction to the concept and the Exhibition. Space B is titled Artistic Endeavors: Science and the Cosmos. In this space, visitors can explore the interaction of artists with the cosmos. How artists translate natural forces, kinetics, sound and computer technology.

Moving from the world of science and the universe to the world of spirituality, Space C hosts Spiritual Quests: Transcending the Everyday, a more esoteric journey of escaping the everyday experience to explore the spiritual quest of the man’s interaction with the urban and environmental surroundings.

In the last space, Mythologies of the past, Mythologies of the future, we see the artists’ engagement with technology, machines, robotics, the urban and post-humanist world. Technologies focus on Nature, and the body as a work of art mediated by various media. Artists delve into the present and the past, in a search to find their identity in their history while translating and interpreting the past into the present.

The works of this Exhibition are evidence that tradition and science are not conflicting worlds; rather, art has the capacity to bring subjects to life regardless of the medium used for its creation.

The Exhibition “Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis. In the Belt of Change” was affected by COVID 19 and was installed remotely. Through advanced technology and the dedication of teams in both countries, we were not only able to make it possible, but worked in unity to overcome challenges, the odds and to see the broad potential for future collaborations. With great respect and appreciation to the Chinese culture stakeholders for devoting a world-class venue and International Art Event for sharing the art and culture of Greece with a broad public, we would like to thank all and each one separately for having worked together on this challenging project.

The Ocean Flower Island experience affirms our capacity to create new worlds, which demand that we acknowledge the tides of the past and present and to realize that the future is already here.