

31 May – 20 July 2024

With works by
Despina Charitonidi
Antonis Theodoridis
Kostis Velonis

in collaboration with
SWAN S.A.
E. SKRIMIZEAS S.A.
OCEANIC PRO



Sina 9, 10680 Athens

Tue, Wed, Fri 11 am – 7 pm

Thur 11 am – 8 pm

Sat 12 – 4 pm and upon request

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In the realm where art intersects with environmental consciousness, a dynamic force is at play. Picture this: an electrifying collaboration that melds the creativity of three artists with the forward-thinking ethos of three pioneering companies, all aimed at igniting conversations and catalyzing action. Despina Charitonidi, Antonis Theodoridis, and Kostis Velonis—each offering an individual showcase—unite under the banner of a summer exhibition poised to redefine the boundaries of art and environmental awareness. At the core of this initiative lies the exclusive utilization of materials that effectively capture the environmental zeitgeist of our time. Each artist is strategically paired with a specific company, fostering a symbiotic relationship where creativity and sustainability intertwine.

The collaboration between artist Despina Charitonidi and SWAN S.A. stands as a testament to innovation and sustainability. Utilizing wastage from latex balloons at various production stages and repurposing non-used porcelain forms, Charitonidi transforms these materials into artworks. This partnership not only showcases creativity but also underscores the importance of repurposing materials to reduce waste and promote environmental consciousness. Through Charitonidi's artistic vision and SWAN S.A.'s commitment to sustainability, new life is breathed into discarded materials, turning them into unique pieces of art that captivate and inspire.

Charitonidi's artistic exploration delves into the intriguing relationship between industrial materials and the natural world, finding inspiration in the transformative journey from raw elements to refined products. Her work contemplates the symbolic significance of balloons and porcelain, tracing their origins back to the earth. Balloons, with their playful and ephemeral nature, symbolize the fleeting essence of life and the delicate balance of existence. Meanwhile, porcelain, originating from humble clay, embodies the enduring beauty and resilience found in the natural world. Charitonidi's artistic process involves a deep engagement with these materials, seeking to unveil their inherent connection to the environment and the intricate patterns of life. In Charitonidi's artistry, the dialogue between industrial production and natural forms takes center stage, with balloons and porcelain serving as her primary medium of expression. Through meticulous craftsmanship, she manipulates these materials to mimic the organic shapes and textures found in nature, evoking the mesmerizing intricacies of coral reefs, microorganisms, and bacteria. By juxtaposing the manufactured with the organic, Charitonidi invites viewers to contemplate the blurred boundaries between human innovation and the innate beauty of the natural world. Her work serves as a poignant reminder of the interconnectedness of all life forms and the enduring influence of nature's design on artistic creation.

The collaboration between E. SKRIMIZEAS S.A. and artist Antonis Theodoridis showcases a symbiotic relationship between industry and artistry, characterized by resourceful creativity and environmental consciousness. Initially, Theodoridis ingeniously repurposed "wastage" from E. SKRIMIZEAS S.A.'s industrial procedures as the primary material for his artworks. These discarded materials, often overlooked as byproducts of production processes, found new life and purpose in Theodoridis' hands, undergoing a metamorphosis from industrial waste to artistic expression. Through his innovative utilization of these raw materials, Theodoridis imbued his works with a sense of raw authenticity and textured depth, while simultaneously advocating for sustainability by minimizing waste. This collaboration not only transformed overlooked remnants into captivating art but also highlighted the potential for artistic innovation to emerge from unexpected sources within industrial landscapes.

Antonis Theodoridis's project "Sungazers" (2024) continues his exploration of Athenian sunlight as an agent of change, juxtaposing the pristine with the decaying and the contemporary with the old, as in his series "Nothing New Under the Sun" (2019). This new work draws visual inspiration from close-up photographs of the sun taken during the summer wildfires of 2023 near Athens, where the sun, viewed through smoke clouds, appeared dimmed and ever-changing in color and brightness. Theodoridis uses industrial and commercial materials like acrylics and UV ink, which deteriorate under sunlight, reflecting the decay of both materials and images. Specifically working with plexiglass—a non-environmentally friendly material—he examines its lifespan, discoloration, and fragility, and considers the emotional impact and shifting perceptions of such materials in the context of environmental awareness. Utilizing unrefined by-products from acrylic production, he embraces their organic-like qualities such as melting, flowing, and cracking, in contrast to refined commercial materials. The work consists of semi-transparent "black boxes" with sun and sky photographs printed on all sides using ultraviolet printing. These boxes, inspired by traditional devices used to experience solar effects, such as darkened glass and camera obscura, feature a strict, defined shape juxtaposed with the organic textures of the materials. Acting as light-capturing devices, the boxes obscure and reflect images of the sun and sky while also reflecting the viewer's image. Through this project, Theodoridis not only captures the ephemeral beauty of sunlight but also invites contemplation on material decay, environmental impact, and the complex relationship between the natural and industrial worlds.

OCEANIC PRO has collaborated with Kostis Velonis in a unique partnership that repurposes non-recyclable and mostly non-reusable materials from the company's boat manufacturing processes into compelling works of art. Velonis transforms these discarded materials into sculptures and installations exploring themes of resilience, vulnerability, and the human condition. This collaboration not only emphasizes OCEANIC PRO's commitment to sustainability but also revitalizes these remnants through Velonis' creative vision. The resulting artworks demonstrate the power of innovation and artistic expression in addressing environmental challenges, showcasing how the fusion of industrial waste and artistic ingenuity can yield profound and meaningful works.

"The Boat" is a classic silent comedy film directed by and starring Buster Keaton, released in 1921. The film follows Keaton's character and his family's escapades aboard a small homemade boat. Drawing inspiration from themes and motifs in Keaton's silent short film, Kostis Velonis' "Fragile Ship Adrift" series informs his work across sculpture, installations, drawings, and ephemeral events, serving as a metaphor for the human condition. It explores individuals' navigation of life's unpredictable seas, often feeling vulnerable and adrift. The juxtaposition of the ship's precarious situation with moments of humor and slapstick underscores the irony and absurdity inherent in human existence. In "The Boat," Keaton navigates a series of comedic mishaps and perilous situations aboard a small vessel, highlighting the fragility of human endeavor against nature's vast and unpredictable forces. Similarly, the "Fragile Ship Adrift" series delves into themes of resilience, determination, and the absurdity of human striving in the face of adversity. The second body of works, "Fair Winds and Following Seas," features a 2024 sculpture crafted from marine plywood. This piece embodies the essence of the nautical phrase 'Fair Winds and Following Seas,' which originates from two distinct sources and is universally embraced as a maritime blessing, wishing travelers a safe and fortunate voyage. 'Fair winds' symbolize the blessing of favorable breezes

guiding one's journey homeward, while 'following seas' signify the supportive currents propelling one toward their intended destination. This sculpture encapsulates the optimism and hope inherent in these phrases, celebrating the guidance and support we seek in our life's journeys.

Phase two is already in the works, set to launch in September with a fresh trio of artists and companies. While the exhibition will undergo a complete transformation, one artwork from each artist featured in the summer show will remain on view—a testament to the ongoing dialogue between art, sustainability, and corporate innovation.

BLOOM

Callirrhoë, Athens
31 May – 20 July 2024

Despina Charitonidi

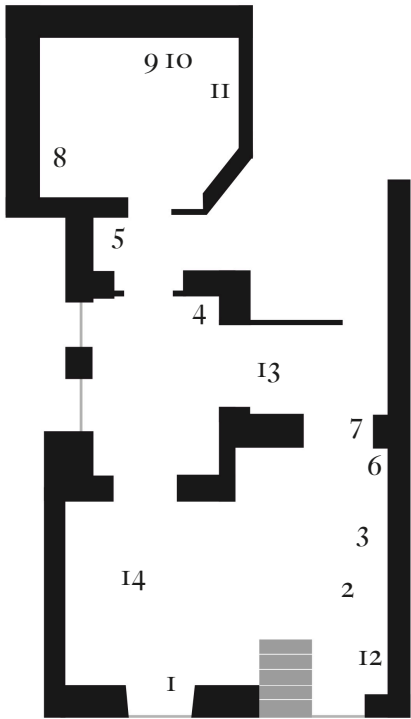
- 1 *Pegantba patheon* , 2024
Porcelain, latex balloons
25 x 20 x 20 cm
Unique
- 2 *Phaeodarea*, 2024
Porcelain, latex balloons
Ø 38 cm, 9 cm (height)
Unique
- 3 *Discoidea Heliodiscus*, 2024
Porcelain, latex balloons
Ø 45 cm, 18 cm (height)
Unique
- 4 *laticis/ λάτᾱξ*, 2024
Latex
83.5 x 40 x 4 cm
Unique
- 5 *Calcispongiae porifera*, 2024
Porcelain, latex balloon
12 x 34 x 18 cm
Unique

Courtesy the artist
Collaboration with
Callirrhoë
Commissioned by
SWAN S.A.

Antonis Theodoridis

- 6 #2, 2024
Ultraviolet print on acrylic
60 x 55 x 10 cm
Unique
- 7 #1, 2024
Ultraviolet print on acrylic,
aluminum frame
34 x 25cm
Unique
- 8 #3, 2024
Ultraviolet print on acrylic
60 x 55 x 10 cm
Unique
- 9 #4, 2024
Ultraviolet print on acrylic
60 x 55 x 10 cm
Unique
- 10 #5, 2024
Ultraviolet print on acrylic
60 x 55 x 10 cm
Unique
- 11 #6, 2024
Ultraviolet print on acrylic
60 x 55 x 10 cm
Unique

Courtesy the artist
Collaboration with Callirrhoë
Commissioned by
E. SKRIMIZEAS S.A.



Kostis Velonis

- 12 *The propeller (Keeps Turning)*, 2024
Polyester reinforced fiberglass with
gelcoat, steel
98 x 57 x 46 cm
Unique
- 13 *Sea Masonry III*, 2024
Wood
148 x 130 x 25 cm
Unique
- 14 *Sea Voyeurism*, 2024
Wood, spray filler
127 x 87 x 127 cm
Unique

Courtesy the artist and Kalfayan Gallery
Collaboration with Callirrhoë
Commissioned by OCEANIC PRO