



printed edition

Left: Giyorgos Stamatakis' work "Two the depths", 2023 Indigo (Japanese), on linen, next to right is Dr. Nina Fragkopoulou who organized and edited the exhibition.

▪ Group exhibition and lectures from 23 November 2023 to 25 February 2024 ▪

"The breath of the ocean" at the Heraklion Museum

■ SCIENTIFIC NEWS

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Spyros Manouselis

In recent decades there has been intense concern among experts in the planetary, biological, ecological and climate sciences about climate change and the ecological disasters that are already being observed and are due to the reckless exploitation of the planet by man. Exploitation that upsets the balance of the planetary system Earth and endangers the survival of countless animal and plant species that live on land and in the seas.

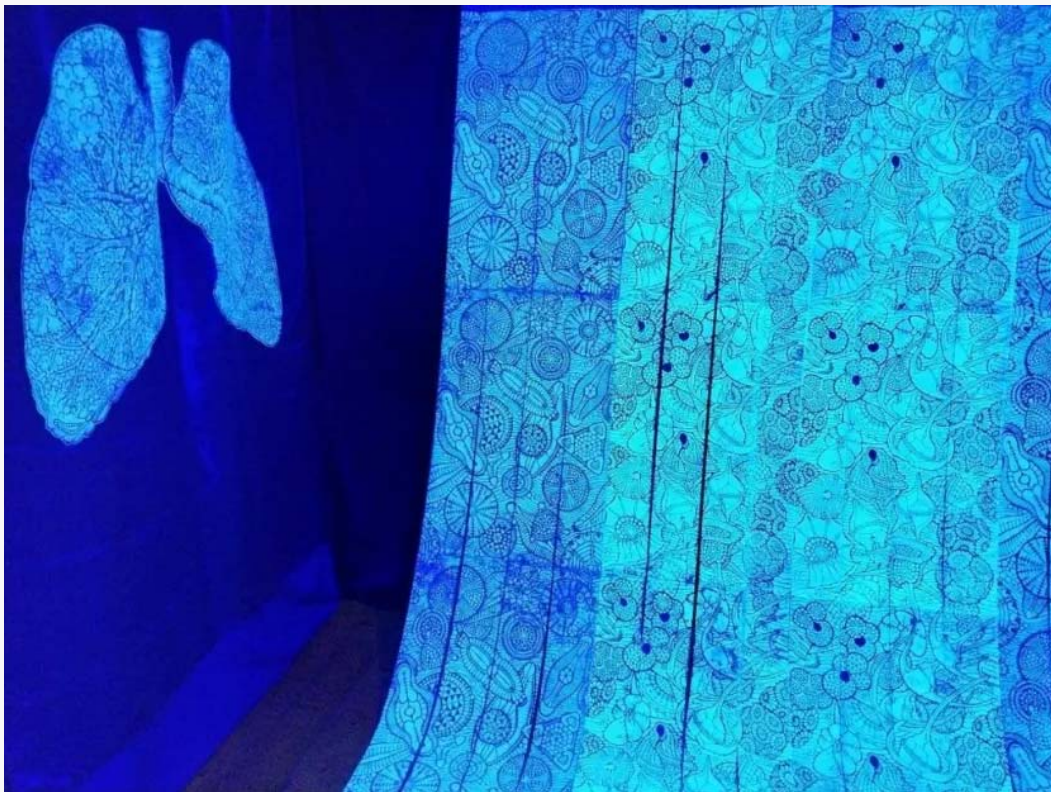
That is why a large number of leading expert scientists (geologists, climatologists, biologists and ecologists) consider the catastrophic scenario that the planet Earth has now entered a new geological era, which has long been described as the "Anthropocene" to be valid and well documented.). But what is the beneficial role of the oceans in the current anthropogenic crisis? This question is attempted to be clarified - aesthetically and scientifically - by the new group exhibition and lectures at the Heraklion Museum, edited by Nina Fragkopoulou, Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Ph.D. assistant professor at the Biology Department of the University of Patras.

"The breath of the ocean" a source of inspiration and knowledge

The group exhibition entitled "Ocean's Breath", which has already begun at the Heraklion Museum (Apostolou Pavlou 37, Thisio-Athens), draws inspiration from the enormous importance of the ocean for the planet. Its title refers to the oxygen that the ocean offers us, as one of our two breaths is mainly due to the photosynthetic activity of phytoplankton.

The twelve artists participating in the exhibition were inspired by the ocean to create a series of paintings, engravings, sculptures, photography and videos, in which various important themes are aesthetically highlighted, such as its color changing under the influence of various physical and biological factors, the oxygen that ensures us, marine biodiversity, overfishing, pollution, the climate crisis threatening the oceanic balance (melting ice, acidification), but also the immense beauty and peace it can offer us.

In the first part, from November 23, 2023 to January 7, 2024, the artists participate: Thalassini Douma, Eveline Kolijn, Yiannis Lasithiotakis, Angeliki Loi & Giorgos Stamatakis. In the second part, from January 10 to February 25, 2024, the participants are: Theodora Vassiliadou, Maria Korombili, Christos Lazarakis, Yiannis Makridis, Konstantinos Patsios, Spyridoula Politi & Virginia Filippoussi.



| Eveline Kolijn's work "Breath of the Ocean", 2023, linocut

In this exhibition, art meets the science of the sea and each work, beyond its visual role, turns into an opportunity for knowledge and reflection. And to enhance the cognitive-informative character of the exhibition, the works are accompanied by speeches by distinguished scientists and by an educational program for school students, which aims, through a constructive dialogue between art and science, to bring the public closer to the issues that related to ocean ecology and its protection.



| The work of Konstantinos Patsios "The fish that didn't like the water", 2023, painting and collage on canvas

As stated in the theoretical text written for the exhibition by Katerina Pizania, doctor of sociology of art: "The exhibition "Breath of the Ocean" is part of the productive collaborations of art and science. Exploring the current ecological perspective, artists raise awareness of environmental issues through the creation of powerful works that pay tribute to the ocean, highlight the devastating consequences of human impact, and demonstrate nature's ability to heal itself. The exhibited works are a series of oceanographies-mirrors on which we can project/expose our feelings. Feelings and thoughts on contemporary ecological issues".

The next two lectures at the Heraklion Museum (Apostolou Pavlou 37, Thisio-Athens) will take place on Monday 29/1/2024, from 19.00 to 20.30:

- "Oceans and climate change", speaker Giorgos Papatheodorou, professor of Geology and dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Patras.
- "Oceans: organisms and anthropogenic effects", speaker Vangelis Tzanatos, assistant professor at the Department of Biology of the University of Patras.

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