

Daedaleia

The Daedaleia exhibition is presented by the ARS V group, consisting of Maria Grigoriadi, Vicky Kamenou, Stella Kukulaki, Kostas Pagomenos and Thanos Vidakis, at the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, this significant space in which Crete reveals her archaeological treasures to visitors. ARS V, with 17 modern figurative/plastic fragmentary testimonies, ingenious, inventive and original works, launch the dialogue with Master Craftsman Daedalus and his Labyrinth, powerfully and dynamically crossing their art with his. The group's works record and survey the myth and the past, shaking off its dust and smoothing out its wrinkles, weighing it up in the present day, ignoring the superfluous and the redundant. These are works that explode out of the dark, transforming it into light and seeking communication with tangible time, dreams and memory. Imaginative creations which, built on their ancestor's legacy, urgently hasten to catch the now before it becomes yesterday.

ARS V and its members create their own personal fiction around the technological progress and the cultural development that accompanied the political peak of Minoan Crete, "working ingeniously" like modern Daedali in a multitude of inventive ways, struggling with materials, colour and mass, transforming them into recorders of vision, labyrinths of thoughts and imaginings. They present a new aesthetic proposal featuring paradoxical equilibria that match and marry different works, through contrasts that move, enchant, surprise and amaze the viewer, inviting them to go above and beyond for the subject depicted, making the viewer yet another character who must transcend any possible message in their turn and construct their own spatiotemporal arc.

ARS V would like to thank Dr Stella Mandalaki, Director of the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, for her invaluable contribution to the planning of the Daedaleia exhibition and for allowing it to be hosted in the Museum. We are also grateful to Katerina Athanasaki and Eirini Nikolakopoulou. Thanks are also due to the scientific and technical staff of the Heraklion Archaeological Museum for ensuring that the exhibition is presented in the best possible way.

Aggeliki Zacharatou, educator
ARS V coordinator and contact person

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One of the most fascinating aspects of museum communication with the public is the development of a fertile dialogue between ancient art and modern artistic creation. Through this process, ancient forms are transmuted into new shapes, the horizons of artistic inspiration are expanded, new models of high aesthetic, symbolic and ideological value are revealed, which are capable of expressing modern questions in the light of diachronicity. Meanings and aesthetic approaches from antiquity are also disseminated to the wider public through the artist's personal experience as it emerges from his or her works. At the same time, ancient art is renewed, as its semantic load is redefined and its content made more familiar and immediate.

The accomplished modern artists of the ARS V group have been invited to interpret the ingenious inventions of the legendary Daedalus in their personal artistic language. This is the challenge of the museological narrative of the major Heraklion Archaeological Museum temporary exhibition "Daedalus. On the Trail of the Mythical Craftsman", which is inspired by the mythical inventions of the emblematic craftsman and highlights innovative technological achievements from the peak of Minoan civilization and the early historical era. The result of this dialogue is displayed to the viewer, activating new interpretive challenges.

Accompanying the ARS V art exhibition during the temporary exhibition "Daedalus. On the Trail of the Mythical Craftsman" are educational activities mainly aimed at the teaching community, given that three of the group's artists are educators themselves.

We would like to thank the artists for their willingness to participate in the whole project with works inspired by the museological narrative of the temporary exhibition. We would also like to thank the group coordinator Mrs Aggeliki Zacharatou, for her support and excellent cooperation.

Dr Stella Mandalaki
Director of Archaeological Museum of Heraklion

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exhibition
by the
artists'
group
ARS V



THANOS VIDAKIS
MARIA GRIGORIADI
VICKY KAMENOU
STELLA KUKULAKI
KOSTAS PAGOMENOS



Exhibition duration
27.9.2019 – 10.1.2020



THANOS VIDAKIS

FOUR REFERENCES TO THE MINOAN CHROMATICS



Construction materials for Daedalus studio.
Light and darkness – Black and white.
Full and empty – Positive and negative.
Colours as elements.
The birthplace of the Artist.

Watercolours
50 x 70
2018-19

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MARIA GRIGORIADI

PLAGGONA



The Artist escapes from the Labyrinth of his own torment when an artwork is produced. And then he feels as if he is flying.

Cernit, mixed media, plexiglas
11 x 7 x 10 / 21 x 21 x 21
2019

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VICKY KAMENOU

KORE

The artist as a modern Daedalus



...we could find commonalities between modern artists and Daedalus, as the artist must combine multiple skills, such as imagination, ingenuity, technical problem-solving, aesthetics, boldness, determination etc. And Daedalus certainly possessed and applied all the above...

Papier mâché, cardboard, cloth,
acrylic paint
150 x 53 x 25
2019

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STELLA KUKULAKI

LABIRINTO INTERIORE



Through artificial labyrinths, the evolutionary stages of a human are represented by turns that they themselves have created artfully throughout the past centuries. The present and the past go hand in hand wearing different facets each time, which through abstraction create geometrical movements as part of the play of the urban landscape, combining personal and collective adventures taking place in locus amoenus and locus horridus.

Oil on canvas
70 x 100
2010

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KOSTAS PAGOMENOS

VOICES OF STONE



Pagomenos, insisting on recycling materials, shapes his own Daedalus, a tragic figure, fallen, who is lost while trapped somewhere between his arrogance for perfection and the compromises of voracious reality.

Natural materials, wood, plexiglas,
light, sound and motor system
72 x 72 x 85
2006

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