



1st Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics 2024

Under the patronage of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Ms. Katerina Sakellariopoulou

07.06 – 26.10.2024

20 Artists – 20 Original Works

Preview: 6.6 2024 | Opening: 7.6 2024 | Closing: 26.10 2024

Museum of Prehistoric Thera, Santorini

Organized by: Big Blue Dot

“Clay Echoes: Unearthing Hidden Narratives”

In the land of Thera, from the land of Prehistoric Thera.

Every ceramic piece tells a story – of its creator, its materials, its origins. A story of human hands mingling with humble clay, guiding it through careful, precise movements into unexpected forms. A story of a gaze that measures, judges, and caresses the material. A story of an artist who tenderly leans over the forming soil, engaging in monologues, pausing to reflect, appreciate, admire, and listen – an artist who crafts a new narrative, along with her/his material, together.

The ancient Greek word for pottery, for the potter’s clay and earth, is “Κέραμος/Κέραμος.” And BCK 2024, the inaugural Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics in Greece, paying homage to the material’s local history and roots, appropriately integrates “Κέραμος” in its name, by lending its initial “K” to the word “Ceramics.” The organization highlights a double need. On the one hand, that of supporting Greek Ceramics and, on the other hand, promoting it to a wider audience. It aims to create stimuli for new aesthetic trends, promote research, and strengthen communication between creators and the public.



Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics

Who We Are

The Biennale of Contemporary Keramics by Big Blue Dot is wandering and decentralized by conviction. Like a traveling blue dot, it is not centered in the Athenian metropolis. Instead, it is held each time on a different island, drawing inspiration from each place, its mythological and historical past, its archaeological landmarks, presenting an exhibition and a program with parallel events, projects, exhibitions, and workshops for both artists and the local community.

What We Do

BCK's wandering leads to a new narrative – the ceramics are each time the narrator of the cultural heritage of a particular place.

It organizes educational programs offering knowledge, new experiences, and stimuli to local communities; it contributes to the development of cultural tourism and enhances the local economy and art. The Organizing Committee, in collaboration with artistic bodies and groups, institutes, museums, and educational organizations, explores and develops new ways to promote the cultural heritage of Greece through contemporary ceramic art. Every two years the event will be renewed, highlighting and culturally enhancing a new part of Greece and our history.

New places, new narratives.

Vision

With its main objective being the promotion and recognition of contemporary Greek ceramic art and ceramists on a global level, BCK is envisaged to become one of the most important biennial cultural events in Greece.

Mission

Its mission is to fill the gap that exists in contemporary ceramic art in our country and to be a major Biennale, equivalent to those held abroad. BCK aspires to act as a catalyst for Greek culture and for the promotion of established or emerging Greek and foreign ceramists, connecting domestic artistic production with the international scene.

Organizer

BCK 2024 is realized by Big Blue Dot, a non-profit company based in Kefalonia, which was founded in order to organize the Biennale of Contemporary Keramics and promote Greek ceramics worldwide.

Location & Meeting Place

The inaugural location for the first Biennale of Contemporary Keramics 2024 is the island of Santorini. The meeting place is the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which, having the prehistoric settlement of Akrotiri as a point of reference, presents the life and culture of Thera during the prehistoric period, as depicted through various exhibits, mainly clay vessels and wall paintings.

Akrotiri was a major urban center and port of the Aegean during the Middle and Late Bronze Age (2000–1700 BCE). It was a populous city with admirable social organization, public streets, and high-rise buildings. Impressive frescoes – the oldest examples of monumental painting in Greece – decorated almost all building complexes and, through their narratives, they provide today valuable information about the society of Akrotiri. Moreover, imported objects prove the relations and communication of the inhabitants of Akrotiri with the Dodecanese, Cyprus, mainland Greece, but also Egypt, and Syria.

Five thousand ceramic vessels of various types and sizes, tools, figurines, ritual objects, and furniture were discovered in the area, testifying to the great development of the settlement. The earth preserved remnants within it, which were later revealed and now narrate aspects of daily life in prehistoric Thera.

Santorini's global influence today makes it an ideal first destination for BCK and an excellent "medium" for spreading local artistic activity worldwide. The island already has the necessary infrastructure to transport works, host visitors and artists, and is easily accessible by boat and plane.

Dates & Duration

With a duration of five months, from June to October 2024, visitors will have the opportunity to admire the main exhibition, as well as attend workshops, lectures, and visit parallel exhibitions at the Santorini Art Factory (SAF).



Exhibition

Inspired by the archaeological site of Akrotiri in the south of the island, where the ruins of a prehistoric city of great cultural importance have been uncovered, the Museum of Prehistoric Thera will host twenty original works by twenty artists from Greece and abroad. Through an open call, artists were invited to be inspired by the findings from prehistoric Akrotiri, research, and present their works with clay as the dominant material. The works were selected by an international committee of experts and will be exhibited in the place that was the source of inspiration.

Artists

The response from artists and the submissions we received from every corner of the globe were amazing. Each artist created a unique narrative and. The International Jury selected twenty artists, who shared their vision with BCK and, through their works, celebrate the beauty of ceramics.

The artists selected are:

Stella Baraklianou | Helena Boddenberg | Mirka Drapaniotou | Ule Ewelt | Ion Fukazawa | Amyel Garnaoui | em irvin | Iosifina Kosma | Konstantinos Ladianos | Simon Manoha | Natalia Manta | Angeliki Papadopoulou | Desa Philippi | Yoav Reches | Nikos Sepetzoglou | Theo Triantafyllidis | Christos Tsoumplekas | Giorgos Vavatsis | Yena Young | Zois Giannis

Baraklianou Stella
Boddenberg Helena
Drapaniotou Mirka
Ewelt Ule
Fukazawa Ion
Garnaoui Amyel
Irvin Em
Kosma Iosifina
Ladianos Konstantinos
Manoha Simon
Manta Natalia
Papadopoulou Angeliki
Philippi Desa
Reches Yoav
Sepetzoglou Nikos
Triantafyllidis Theo
Tsoumplekas Christos
Vavatsis Giorgos
Young Yena
Zois Giannis



Tsoumplekas Christos_Bull_Photo by Minos Skoulas



Ewelt Ule_Thirion



Boddenberg Helena_Earthen Fibres_detail



Kosma Iosifina_Blossoms of Thera_Credits by Giorgos Vitsaropoulos



Natalia Manta_FOR EVER_Photo by_DimitraTzanou

The International Jury

The International Jury was formed by:

Theodora Chorafas (Ceramist) | Florian Daguet-Bresson (Curator, Art Dealer) | Konstantina Daskalantonaki (Curator) | Marina Fokidis (Curator, Writer, Educator) | Frangoula Georma (Archaeologist, Ministry of Culture) | Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotaki (Artistic Consultant) | David Jones (Ceramist, Theorist) | Loukia Thomopoulou (Artistic Director BCK)

Exhibition Curation

Konstantina Daskalantonaki | Loukia Thomopoulou | Marina Fokidis | co-curated by Maya Efstathiou, Curator of the Museum of Prehistoric Thera

Exhibition Design

Aris Petro Architect

Exhibition Signage

DpS Athens

Awards

1st prize: €3,000 and solo show

2nd prize: €2,000 and solo show

3rd prize: €1,000 and participation in a group show

Honorary Awards

For their contribution to ceramic art, BCK will award two distinguished Greek artists.

Catalog

BCK 2024 will be accompanied by a printed version.

Parallel Events

Lectures, seminars, exhibitions, presentations, and workshops, both in physical and digital form, with a focus on interaction with the local community and the artists. These actions enrich education, foster interaction, and promote a sense of community.

BCK Exhibition Spaces

Museum of Prehistoric Thera, Santorini

Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades

Fira, 84700, Thera

t. (+30) 2286025405 / email: amthi@culture.gr

Visiting Hours: 08:30–15:30, Wednesday to Monday (Tuesday closed)

Santorini Arts Factory (SAF)

Tomato Industrial Museum “D. Nomikos”

Vlychada, Santorini

Tel: +30 228608514

Visiting Hours: 10:00–18:00, Tuesday–Sunday (Monday Closed)



Production

Big Blue Dot, Civil Non-Profit Company

Co-production

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Thera Municipality

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Collaborations

Ephorate of Antiquities of Cyclades | Demetrios Athanasoulis, Director
Museum of Prehistoric Thera | Maya Efstathiou, Curator
Santorini Arts Factory (SAF) | Tomato Industrial Museum “D. Nomikos”
Christos Doumas, Professor of Archaeology
Frangoula Georma, Archaeologist

In the context of

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For more information, high-resolution photographs, and full press coverage, please contact Ero Pastrikou at info@eropastrikou.gr or Tina Pappa at tpappa2018@gmail.com

BCK 2024

Follow on Instagram: [instagram.com/bckceramics/](https://www.instagram.com/bckceramics/)

W: bigbluedot.art

E: info@bigbluedot.art



T: (+30) 694 537 1512
A: Erectheiou 22, 117 42 Athens, Gr.
W: bigbluedot.art