

Archipelago Network ————— Press Release

Press release #1

February 15, 2022

Archipelago Network

Archipelago Network is an initiative for the preservation, documentation, and promotion of audiovisual heritage on Greece's Cycladic islands. The organization's scope is to propose an alternative form of preserving the rich cultural heritage of the island communities of the Cyclades in a way that conveys the specificity of their locales. Its mission involves two central components: the creation and development of a digital audiovisual archival collection, available online on the organization's open-access website, and the hosting of an international research residency.

The organization, established in 2019 with a founding grant by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), commenced its operation by developing a strategic plan for implementing its multi-layered program of activities, outlining its upcoming research priorities and operational methodology. In parallel to this, it has developed a network of contacts and connections with residents and organizations active on Cyclades in possession of endangered archival collections representative of the diverse histories, forms of knowledge and contemporary culture on these islands.

Archipelago Network now inaugurates its public activities through two pilot projects on Syros, inviting four researchers from the fields of architecture, anthropology, and the visual arts to engage with the local archival materials, and develop their research collaboratively with residents and associations on the island:

"Traditional Boatbuilding on Syros Today" pilot project

In fall 2021, Archipelago Network began an archival module concerning traditional boatbuilding on Syros, including the digitization of audiovisual materials from private and public local archival collections, and the production of five video-portraits depicting the boatbuilders and boatyards who keep this tradition alive on the island to this day.

Meanwhile, Iris Lykourioti, a researcher in the field of architecture, and Maurizio Borriello, a researcher in the field of anthropology, were invited to participate in on-site

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fieldwork in October 2021 in order to investigate the contemporary imprint and particularities of traditional boatbuilding on Syros, as a unique form of craftsmanship in the Aegean. After their visits to the active traditional boatyards, study of the digitized collections of audiovisual materials, and conversations with the boatbuilders themselves, both invited researchers produced original visual essays and documentation, published on Archipelago Network's website: archipelagonetwork.org/projects

"Anthemis" pilot project

In the framework of "Anthemis," the artist duo Hypercomf visited the island of Syros and commenced on-site research on local biodiversity in collaboration with Syriot botanists and environmental groups. Based on the resulting material, the duo produced a digital herbarium which you may discover on Archipelago Network's website: archipelagonetwork.org/projects

At the same time, Hypercomf designed a versatile portable "toolkit" providing a custom-built set of equipment for individuals who wish to contribute to the digital herbarium by documenting and registering new meteorological and audiovisual data. This toolkit will be accessible for residents and visitors of Syros to use in the near future.

Supporters

Archipelago Network's two pilot projects, "Traditional Boatbuilding on Syros Today" and "Anthemis," were realized with the support and under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The founding of Archipelago Network and its first activities have been realized with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) as part of its efforts to enable access to knowledge and culture.

Acknowledgements

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Aegean in Syros, Arxeion Taxis, and the Friends of the Museum of Aegean Boatbuilding and Maritime Crafts.

Team

Archipelago Network was founded in 2019 by Jacob Moe, who initiated the organization's activities with a vision for the preservation of audiovisual heritage, culture and knowledge in the Cyclades. From 2019 until 2021, Kosmas Nikolaou participated as a founding member, advising the organization on its development and its initial pilot programs. Since 2019, Stavros Koutalas has participated as a founding member, advising the organization on legal matters. Since 2019, Eleanna Papathanasiadi serves as general coordinator of the organization.

The organization collaborates with a range of specialized external collaborators in the fields of cultural heritage preservation, audiovisual services and copyright law in both Syros and Athens. Its inaugural advisory board is composed of Evangelos Athanassiou (strategic business consultant), Mark Mazower (historian), Rick Prelinger (archivist), Toby Lee (anthropologist), and Gelina Harlafti (historian).

News and updates

Stay tuned for updates, as the content of the website will continue to be enriched with news of the organization, and

supplemented with audiovisual material related to organization's activities in the Cyclades.

A link to a downloadable packet of press images can be found here:

archipelagonetwork.org/press-materials

For information, please contact Archipelago Network at info@archipelagonetwork.org.

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archipelagonetwork.org

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#SyrosTraditionalBoatbuildingProject #AnthemisProject

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