

## Press release #10

June 11, 2024

### Crafts of the Sea: Exhibition in Amorgos

**June 14 – 22, 2024**

Opening: June 14, 19:00  
Athletic, Sailing, and Cultural Association of Amorgos  
Katapola, Amorgos

Curation: Maurizio Borriello and Jacob Moe  
Production: Archipelago Network

in collaboration with the Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos

with the support of the Costas M. Lemos Foundation, Goethe-Institut Athen,  
and Archipelago Network's benefactors' circle

*Aegiali, Katapola, Agia Anna, Kalotaritissa: four hubs of fishing activity  
across the island of Amorgos.*

In conjunction with the annual "Fishers' Feast" in Katapola, Archipelago Network inaugurates the *Crafts of the Sea* exhibition, which takes place from June 14 to 22 at the Athletic, Sailing, and Cultural Association of Amorgos. The exhibition focuses on the island's long tradition of fishing activity and the current challenges faced by its seafaring communities. Today, Amorgos, like the rest of the Cycladic islands, is at a critical juncture: a dramatic decline in fish stocks due to overfishing, coastal

pollution, degradation of natural resources, and the destruction of cultural heritage, compounded by uncontrolled touristic development, all pose imminent threats to the region. Meanwhile, government-sponsored subsidies initiated to prevent overfishing have led to the destruction of the majority of traditional Greek wooden fishing boats since the 2000s.

As society and environment undergo accelerated changes, new models for cultural and environmental action are needed. The remaining fishers of Amorgos have already proposed and adopted a different plan of action, whereby they cease fishing in April and May, the main period of fish spawning, and instead use their boats to clean beaches inaccessible from land.

The exhibition *Crafts of the Sea* in Amorgos invites residents and visitors to explore the island's maritime heritage and envision a sustainable future via photographic archival installations by Jacob Moe and documentary photographs by Maurizio Borriello, which reframe the marine environments of the Cyclades as future resources of knowledge.

On June 16, in collaboration with the Amorgos Cinema Club in VROUTSI village, a screening program will be presented featuring a series of documentary shorts about fishing practices and boatbuilding activity in Amorgos and beyond.

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*Crafts of the Sea* is an exhibition series held in Amorgos and Athens. Curated by Maurizio Borriello and Jacob Moe, it is presented by Archipelago Network in collaboration with the Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos and the Goethe-Institut Athen, with the support of the Costas M. Lemos Foundation, the Goethe-Institut Athen, and Archipelago Network's benefactors' circle.

Through a grassroots approach to sourcing and preserving community heritage, the *Crafts of the Sea* exhibition series celebrates less tangible and monumental forms of maritime culture and contemporary boatbuilding, fishing and seafaring communities of Amorgos, Koufonisia Paros, Santorini and Syros. Via archival material, documentary photography, sound collages, and documentary shorts, *Crafts of the Sea* advocates for their continued relevance and existence in the years to come.

Both the historical archival material and the contemporary audiovisual documentation are the result of on-site research conducted by Archipelago Network throughout 2023-24 as part of the *Maritime Trades of the Cyclades* project, also presented on the organization's online platform as an [interactive digital map](#).

### Curators' Bios

**Dr. Maurizio Borriello** is a maritime ethnographer, shipwright, and documentary photo-/videographer. He has worked at various maritime museums and ship preservation centers in Norway restoring wooden ships recognized as historical maritime treasures by the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, and has conducted extensive field research in shipyards in South-East Asia, India, and the Mediterranean. His doctoral research focused on developing a sustainable wooden boatbuilding method by combining modern technologies with techniques documented during his comparative ethnographic study. He is currently working as boatbuilding instructor at Albaola Itsas Kultur Faktoria. He holds an MA in Asian and African Languages and has received a PhD from the University of Naples l'Orientale.

**Jacob Moe** is a documentarian and archivist. He is founder and principal investigator of Archipelago Network, an initiative for research and documentation of audiovisual heritage and knowledge on the Cyclades islands. As a film and radio producer, he has led fieldwork and community-based media projects in the Aegean islands and Brazil, addressing local material culture, traditional crafts, and indigenous media. He holds a BA in Political Science from Pomona College and an MFA in Social Documentation from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and has been awarded fellowships for independent research at the University of São Paulo and Academy of Athens, among others.

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### About Archipelago Network

The Aegean islands are havens of diasporic culture, traditional knowledge, and biodiversity. Yet today, accelerating forces such as overtourism and the global climate crisis exert local pressures on these coastal communities, threatening knowledge systems and environmental equilibriums. In this context, Archipelago Network takes up the Cyclades islands as laboratories for field research, residencies, publications, online projects, and public programs. The initiative works at the intersection of visual practices, cultural life, and the natural environment, providing open access to its digital collections while contributing to the development of local and regional memory through documentation and outreach activities.

To stay updated with the latest news from the field and upcoming events, follow the social networks of the Archipelago Network or visit [archipelagonetwork.org](https://archipelagonetwork.org).

Social Media:

Instagram: [@archipelago\\_net](https://www.instagram.com/archipelago_net)

Facebook: [@archipelagonet](https://www.facebook.com/archipelagonet)

LinkedIn: [Archipelago\\_Network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Archipelago_Network)

Vimeo: [@archipelagonetwork](https://vimeo.com/archipelagonetwork)

Mixcloud: [@archipelagonetwork](https://www.mixcloud.com/archipelagonetwork)

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