

Archipelago Network ————— Press Release

Press release #11

June 18, 2024

Crafts of the Sea: Exhibition in Athens

4 July – 21 September 2024

Screening I & Opening Reception: July 4, 20:30

Screening II: September 11, 20:30

Goethe-Institut Athen
14-16 Omirou, Athens

Curation: Maurizio Borriello and Jacob Moe
Production: Archipelago Network

in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Athen

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

*Amorgos, Koufonisia, Paros, Santorini, and Syros. Five islands interconnected
by the Aegean sea and Cycladic culture.*

For the first time in Athens, Archipelago Network presents the rich and multifaceted maritime traditions of the Cyclades through the multimedia exhibition *Crafts of the Sea*, held from July 4 to September 21 at the Goethe-Institut Athen. The exhibition traces interconnections between these maritime communities of past and present, through archival material and contemporary photographic, sonic, and audiovisual documentation.

Today, the Aegean Islands are at a tipping point: degradation of natural resources and destruction of cultural heritage, both compounded by uncontrolled touristic development, pose imminent threats to the region. Government-sponsored subsidies initiated to prevent overfishing have led to the destruction of the majority of traditional wooden boats since the 2000s; at the same time, coastal fishing communities are dwindling, while the spread of alien fish species, warming sea temperatures, and overfishing has caused a dramatic decline in fish stocks. As society and environment undergo these accelerating changes, new models for cultural and environmental action are needed.

Highlighting the concurrent value and precarity of wooden boatbuilding, fishing, and seafaring communities in the region, the exhibition *Crafts of the Sea* in Athens invites the public to reorient their senses towards a future seen with, and from, the sea. Visitors will encounter a universe of objects, landscapes, boats and portraits spanning locations such as the "Tarsanas" boatyard in Syros, Ai-Giannis bay in Paros, the Armeni boatyard of Santorini, and the fishing harbors of Amorgos and Koufonisia. The exhibition also features historic materials from the Historical Folklore Museum of Naoussa (Othon Kaparis Collection) in Paros and various private collections from Syros, Amorgos, and Santorini.

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Audiovisual and photographic archival installations conceived by documentarist Jacob Moe highlight the mutable character of the historical archive, while documentary photographs by ethnographer and boatbuilder Maurizio Borriello reframe the boatyards and marine environments of the Cyclades as future resources of resources of technical and experiential intelligence.

As part of the exhibition, a two-part screening series takes place on July 4 and September 11, presenting archival, ethnographic, and narrative short films resonating with maritime communities in Greece and beyond.

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

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 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 a 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.

Social Media:

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For all media inquiries, please contact Archipelago Network at comms@archipelagonetwork.org.