Curated by Maurizio Borriello and Jacob Moe, Crafts of the Sea maps the rich maritime traditions of the Cyclades and explores today’s boatbuilding, fishing, and seafaring communities across the islands of Amorgos, Koufonisia, Paros, Santorini, and Syros through archival materials, contemporary photographic documentation, sound collages, and short documentaries.

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, advocating 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.

Archipelago Network, in collaboration with the Professional Fishing Association of Amorgos and the Goethe-Institut Athen, presents the exhibition series Crafts of the Sea in Amorgos and Athens in summer 2024. The exhibitions will take place from June 14 to 22 at the Athletic, Sailing, and Cultural Association of Amorgos and from July 4 to September 21 at the Goethe-Institut Athen.

Islands, linked by a shared sea. Currents, coastlines, boats, marine life, captains, fishers, and boatbuilders: a network of interacting forces, extending into the past and future.
Crafts of the Sea: Amorgos
June 14 - 22, 2024
Opening: June 14, 19:00
Athletic, Sailing, and Cultural Association of Amorgos
Katapola, Amorgos
Aegiali, Katapola, Agia Anna, Kalotaritissa: four main 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 as well as the new models for cultural and environmental action necessitated by radical transformations in social and environmental realities of the region.

The exhibition on Amorgos invites residents and visitors to explore the island’s maritime heritage via photographic archival installations by Jacob Moe and documentary photographs by Maurizio Borriello, which contextualize the marine environment of Amorgos as a palimpsest of knowledge and culture.

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

Crafts of the Sea: Athens
July 4 - September 21, 2024
Opening Reception & Screening I July 4, 20:30
Screening II September 11, 20:30
Goethe-Institut Athen, Athens
Amorgos, Koufonisia, Paros, Santorini and Syros. Five islands of the Cyclades interconnected by routes of trade, craft and 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 contermporary photographic, sonic, and audiovisual documentation.

Highlighting the concurrent value and precarity of the wooden boatbuilding, fishing and seafaring crafts in the region, this exhibition 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 historic locations such as the Tarsanas boatyard in Syros, Ai Giannis bay in Paros, the Armeni boatyard of Santorini, and the fishing ports of Amorgos and Koufonisia. The exhibition also features historic archival materials from the Historical Folklore Museum of Naoussa (Othon Kaparis Collection) in Paros and various private collections from Syros, Amorgos, and Santorini.

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.
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June 05, 2024

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.

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.

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