



| Talks & Discussion | Workshop | Guided Tour | Performance

| Category

Guided Tour

Date & Time

Saturday June 13, 2026 | 13:00 - 14:30

Guided Tour Through the Palimpsest of the Public Tobacco Factory on Lenorman Street.

Maria Vlassopoulou & Peggy Dara | Library of the Hellenic Parliament, Kapnergostasio Hellenic Parliament

Description

The tour is an invitation to discover the architecture and history of the second Public Tobacco Factory of Athens. Throughout its nearly one-hundred-years life, this interwar building has participated in a number of significant events and accommodated developments which sealed the political, financial, social and cultural history of Greece – as well as the consequent transformation of its urban landscape. Our tour will focus on remarkable moments carved on its palimpsest, by groping the life stories of people who lived therein. At the same time, it will highlight the pioneering intention and vision of the Hellenic Parliament to rebrand this public, industrial building as a cultural hub, at the beginning of the 21st century.

Biography

Maria Vlassopoulou was born and lives in Piraeus. She is a historian, a graduate of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, holder of a DEA degree in History from the University of Sorbonne and a PhD in Modern Greek Studies from the University of Cambridge. She is currently conducting postdoctoral

research at the Department of Mediterranean Studies of the University of the Aegean. Since 2013, she has been Head of the Benakeios Library and Political Figures Collections Department, housed in the Tobacco Factory building. She has curated a series of outreach activities at both, the Hellenic Parliament

building and the Tobacco Factory, whose history she has brought to light through primary archival research.

Peggy Dara is a Certified Architect Engineer, NTUA (1994). Her NTUA Postgraduate Diploma Specialisation was in «Design-Space-Culture» (2000). She has participated in architectural

exhibitions (Biennale of Young Greek Artists, AAAP – Panhellenic architecture exhibition) and has been published in a number of books. Until 2002 she ran the architectural office dk architects with D. Karelis. Since then, she has been working at the Directorate for Technical Services of the Hellenic Parliament, Department of Buildings and Surrounding Areas.

Category

Performance

Date & Time

Saturday June 13, 2026 | 15:00 - 17:00

Saturday June 20, 2026 | 13:00 - 17:00

A dreamcatcher, broken in 2 parts and in two days.

Modular performance in progress.

Dimitris Ameladiotis | Visual Artist & Performer

Description

Around a dreamcatcher, I will tell you the story of Phaethon and the Sun through vocal improvisations, based in part on the version of the myth as conveyed by the poet *Ovid's Metamorphoses*.

a) Saturday 13 June 2026. Performance of the 1st part of the performance

b) Saturday 20 June 2026. Performance of the 2nd part of the performance

In the empty space between these two parts and the days of the modular performance, the dreamcatcher will hover in the void, patiently awaiting (through its inevitable movements) its incarnation and animation.

Biography

Dimitris Ameladiotis (1979) studied at the School of Fine Arts in Thessaloniki (BA degree), the Koninklijke Akademie in Gent (Erasmus program), and the Chelsea College of Art in London (PgDip & MA). He has taken part in events held by Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, MOMus-Museum of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki, MOMus-Museum Alex Mylona in Athens, MOMus-Experimental Center for the Arts in Thessaloniki, the Benaki Museum, the Onassis Foundation (STEGI), the DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art, the Tellogleion Foundation

for Arts of AUTH(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), the Goethe Institute, and others. He has presented solo shows and performances in project spaces and galleries. Also, he held lectures and workshops at the Department of Visual & Applied Arts of AUTH (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), the Department of Visual & Applied Arts of UOWM (University of Western Macedonia), the Benaki Museum, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, MOMus-Museum of Contemporary Art in co-operation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, etc.

Category

Performance

Date & Time

Saturday 13 & 20 June 2026 | 17:00 - 18:15

Resonances.

Performance score for two or more bodies.

Triantafyllenia Kosmidou | Occupational Therapist S.I., dancer, choreographer, performer.

Description

An improvised game of resonance between two or more people.

An attempt to feel, express, and symbolize the relationship between neurodivergent people and their caregivers, family members, friends, or companions.

How clearly is a neurodivergent person heard?

How are their sensations, reactions, needs, or silences translated?

And how do the people close to them feel, respond, or synchronize?

The work creates a shared space-time of expression for both sides:

a place of listening, different translations, waiting, proximity, and attunement.

Structure

One person is located inside the protected nest of the Echoes installation.

The other remains outside, at a short distance, moving around it or facing it.

The movements of the body inside Echoes activate sound and light.

The generated stimuli function as invitations, signals, or translations toward the person outside.

The external player responds through movement, pause, breath, voice, or proximity.

The response is not necessarily synchronized nor “correct.”

Duration

Repeated cycles, up to 20 minutes each.

Note

The score may be activated either by pairs of people with a real relationship of care or intimacy, or by strangers invited to temporarily co-inhabit a condition of interaction.

Biography

Triantafyllenia Kosmidou was born in Athens, where she currently lives and works. She studied Occupational Therapy, specializing in Sensory Integration, dance at the Rallou Manou Higher Professional Dance School, Thai massage, and Pilates. She works with children, adolescents, and adults, integrating her diverse professional and artistic backgrounds into her

practice. She serves as choreographer and movement director of the inclusive performance group To Nima (“The Thread”). In recent years, her work has focused on the intersection of writing, storytelling, and performance as creative and expressive practices.

Category

Keynote Lecture

Date & Time

Monday 15 June 2026 | 12:30 - 13:30

In discussion with

Dimitris Theodoropoulos | Architect, Artist

When We Design for Autism We Design for Everyone: Building an Ecosystem for a Neuro-Inclusive Future "The Autism Friendly X"

Magda Mostafa | StudioTM, UAE

Description

Universal Design posits an aspiration- that good design can create a world where all bodies, experiences, and identities can find their place and be equal members of our communities and the built environment they inhabit. This presentation proposes that the lived experience of those typically marginalised and minoritised identities may actually be the lens through which that aspiration can be achieved for everyone. It suggests that we can design more effectively for the statistical center when we understand the margins. This presentation positions Autism and Neuro-Distinction as just such a lens and proposes the hypothesis that when we design for autism we design for everyone.

This position is explored through two frameworks. The first is the presentation of a Lifespan Ecosystem model of a series of Autism Friendly and NeuroInclusive X's- typologies situated across the cross section of the very communities we strive to be universally designed- schools, hospitals, homes, museums, workplaces, and cities. It presents the Autism ASPECTSS Design Index as the framing construct of those architectures. The second is the research that underpins these typological design approaches. It presents the evidence base that supports the efficacy of these strategies on both the autistic and allistic (non-autistic) populations.

Together, these two frameworks can provide a possible provocation in support of the argument for the construct of Reverse Inclusion- a construct that posits that designing for autism first and then including the neurotypical need next may actually bring us closer to the Universal Design aspiration than traditional design strategies. It presents the position of Reverse Inclusion as perhaps a more authentically empathetic approach to design for all.

Biography

Magda Mostafa is Founding Partner and Principal of StudioTM, a design consultancy based in Dubai specialising in Autism and Neuro-Inclusive Design, as well as Professor of Design at the American University in Cairo and Guest Instructor and the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of the ASPECTSS® Design Index, the

world's first research-based design framework for autism. ASPECTSS was awarded the UIA Triennial Research Award in 2014 and Mostafa is the only laureate to be presented this award twice, awarded again in 2023 for her Autism Friendly University Design Guide. Through her consulting ASPECTSS has been used in architectures for autism and neurodiversity

across 5 continents and her work has been presented globally and was most recently exhibited at the 2021 and 2023 Venice Architecture Biennales. She collaborates globally with leading architectural practices on typologies ranging across residences, schools,

healthcare, sports and recreation as well as the urban city scale. This includes her work as Partner and Director of the Autism & Neuro-Inclusive Design Lab at JSA/MIXdesign in New York. Information about her work can be found at www.autism.archi and www.studio-tm.online

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Monday 15 June 2026 | 14:30 - 16:00

Moderated by

Marena Konstantinidi Manessi | PhD Candidate, School of Architecture, NTUA

Neurodivergent Experiences of Space and Place.

Stuart Neilson | Writer, Artist, & Statistician

Chryssa Dislis | WorkEqual.ie

Description

We explore how different neurotypes experience walking through shared public space. Using rich video and motion data, we map gaze direction, exposure to sound, light, and the presence of other people. The choices an autistic walker makes to select their preferred comfort levels of noise, light, and busy-ness affect the shared space they perceive, and hence their sense of place. Different neurotypes, walking in the same space, experiences different places, different senses of how noisy, busy, and inviting these spaces are, and different senses of belonging.

Biographies

Stuart Neilson is a writer, artist, and health statistician whose work is shaped by an autism diagnosis in 2009, at the age of 45. He helped found the innovative Diploma in Autism Studies at University College Cork, Ireland. His images explore autistic portrayals and reactions to sensory stimulus and motion, particularly in public spaces, and complement his written work. His work has been exhibited in Cork, Dublin, the Venice Biennale, Phoenix, New Haven and London. Stuart Neilson's publications include academic research, books and

contributions to anthologies of adult autistic lives.

Chryssa Dislis is a feminist engineer, senior manager, activist, and a director of WorkEqual.ie. Originally from Greece and now based in Ireland, she has a background in electrical engineering and a PhD in electronics, with experience in both academia and industry. Her activism and advocacy focus on equality, bodily autonomy, LGBTQ+ rights, and creating more inclusive workplaces.

Belonging as a Cultural Shift.

Wendy Ross | Center for Autism and Neurodiversity, Jefferson Health

Description

Belonging imparts a sense of co-creation, ownership, and thriving that extends well beyond accessibility or even inclusion. The interaction between spaces and ourselves is part of our story and life trajectory. This session will discuss the impact of the triangle of community, design, and healthcare collaborations and its importance in enhancing lived experiences in built environments. An exploration of an overview of a culture of belonging in individual projects and courses will mirror the evolution of the growth of interdependence of design, health, and the community at an American healthcare system and College of Architecture and the Built Environment

Biography

Wendy Ross, MD, FAAP, is a clinical professor and developmental pediatrician who serves as the inaugural director of Jefferson Health's Center for Autism and Neurodiversity. She began her career exploring the processes that make spaces and experiences welcoming of neurodivergent individuals. She was then able to expand her reach to the design of built environments when she joined Jefferson Health and met creators Loukia Tsafoulia and Severino

Alfonso. Her collaborative projects extend what is possible in terms of shifting perspectives from accessibility of those with physical disabilities to the belonging of everyone, including those with less visible challenges like neurodiversity. In brief, she strives to both literally and figuratively build empathy. Her work has shifted perspectives and policies, and been featured internationally through media outlets like CNN.

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Monday 15 June 2026 | 17:00 - 17:50

Moderated by

Filippa Christofalou | Design Educator, PhD Candidate, Teachers College, Columbia University

Making space for new voices: a conversation between Manolis Saridakis and Medie Megas reflecting on their long-standing collaboration.

Medie Megas | Choreographer, Onassis Stegi

Manolis Saridakis | Dancer, Choreographer, Onassis Stegi

Description

Manolis Saridakis is the first learning disabled and autistic choreographer in Greece. Medie Megas is a choreographer, dramaturge, teacher and Saridakis's close collaborator of the past twelve years. Together, they will speak about their journey in dance and the creation of the choreographic works: *Do Robots Have Emotions?* and *Cops and Robbers*, commissioned and produced by Onassis Stegi. They will reflect on the challenges they have encountered in the field of dance and disability, but above all the surprises and discoveries the field has offered them over the years.

By making space for new voices and diverse experiences, dance is enriched with new forms, narratives and perspectives, while breaking down conventions which have held it captive to normative assumptions and social stereotypes.

Biographies

Medie Megas graduated from the Greek National School of Dance (1998), has a Master of Arts in Contemporary Dance from Kent University aff. LCDS and works as a dancer, choreographer and educator. Since 2013 she has been active in the field of dance and disability and in the fight for equal access of disabled people to dance professions. She is in a close creative partnership with Manolis Saridakis, the first Greek learning disabled and autistic choreographer, currently developing their second work entitled Cops & Robbers. In 2024 she published Present Bodies: an introduction to dance theory and she is currently working for the European program SEED - Social and Ecological Engagement through Dance. www.mediemegas.gr

Manolis Saridakis is the first learning disabled and autistic choreographer in Greece. He trained in contemporary dance through the iDance, Europe Beyond Access and Unlimited Access programs of the Onassis Stegi and workshops by Liminal and ISON organisations. His first performance was entitled Do robots have feelings? (2022) and was presented at the Onassis Stegi, in Novi Sad (Serbia), in Limassol and Nicosia, Komotini, Syros and Athens. Currently, he and his long term collaborator Medie Megas, are preparing the performance Cops & Robbers.

Rallying with the Human and More - than - Human in Nonspeaking Autistic Expression, Artistic Mutual Facilitation, and Care.

Adam Wolfond & Estée Klar | Dis Assembly

Description

With my nonspeaking son, who types to communicate, Adam Wolfond, we move research creation by inventing with neurodiversity in artistic-collaborative practice that Wolfond refers to as “relational pacing” and the “rally.” In this presentation, we will show our artworks and discuss how they came about. We invent with neurodiversity, following Melanie Yergeau’s call to “behold autistic storying [autisethnography that queer the lines of rhetoric, humanity and agency...] as ways for reorienting autistic futures [...]” for projecting autistic desires, and autistic ideals” (Yergeau, 2018, pp. 25 & 26). We “think with sticks,” (Wolfond), rubber bath toys, tics, flaps, taps, space, pace and ecoproprioception. Rethinking “orientation,” a motional-relational attunement is perpetually aligning, requiring practices that put form and its neurotypical “legibility” into question.

Biographies

Estee Klar, Dis-Assembly: a neurodiverse arts collective Estee Klar is a PhD in Critical Disability Studies and is the Director of Dis-Assembly, a neurodiverse arts collective in Toronto, Canada. She has been working in the field of neurodiversity since 2003, writing for the blog Joy of Autism, back then an unheard of concept, and later founded the Autism Acceptance

Project with other autistic people. Before CDS, she was a curator of art, later specializing in autistic artists. In addition to supporting her nonspeaking autistic son Adam Wolfond, she is interested in interdisciplinary, ecological arts, gardening, music and foraging.

Adam Wolfond, Dis-Assembly: a neurodiverse arts collective Adam Wolfond is an autistic poet and artist who uses a text-to-speech device to speak. He is the first nonspeaking autistic person to attend university in Canada and completed his MA in 2025. Wolfond has been featured at poets.org as their youngest poet to ever be published, and his work has been featured in The New York Times Magazine (2023). Wolfond has also exhibited his film and installation work in Toronto, Canada. He is the co-founder of Dis-Assembly in Toronto, an arts collective that practices techniques for

neurodiversity. Language is a way of movement, a continual disassembling, challenging the way of neurotypical grammars for more diversities to come. His work can be viewed at adamwolfond.com and also, dis-assembly.ca. His chapbooks of poetry, *In Way of Music Water Answers Toward Questions Other Than What Is Autism*, are available here at the studio. His book *The Wanting Way*, which we are celebrating this evening, is published by Milkweed Publishing Multiverse Series, and *In The Way of Water* will be published by Punctum University Press in 2023.

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Monday 15 June 2026 | 18:00 - 19:30

Moderated by

Eirini Tsachrelia | Architect & Educator

Recursive Worlds. Multimodal Ways of Knowing.

Severino Alfonso & Loukia Tsafoulia | Synesthetic Research & Design Lab

Description

This presentation situates contemporary design practice within the evolving relationship between design and the mind sciences. Combining brief historical analysis with practice, it argues that exchanges between design and the mind sciences remain central to contemporary investigations of cognition, providing both conceptual tools and material methodologies for understanding experience and cognition as processes unfolding within—and through—designed environments.

Drawing on examples from historical synthetic brain models, early human–machine interaction experiments, and projects from the Synesthetic Research & Design Lab, the presentation demonstrates a gradual shift away from rigid dualisms, such as mind versus body and reason versus emotion. In their place, embodied and enactive approaches emerge, understanding cognition as relational and activated through continuous interaction with the environment.

The talk argues that recursive exchanges between bodies, technologies, and space offer new methodologies for understanding experience as emergent, participatory, and co-constructed. It examines how responsive environments, multimedia art, sensory ethnography, and computational systems—operating as intertwined modalities—can enhance perceptual awareness, support alternative modes of sensing and knowing, and open new pathways for inclusive, embodied, and plural design practices.

Biographies

Severino Alfonso and **Loukia Tsafoulia**, are registered architects, educators and researchers whose creative work examines the interplay of information, materiality, human cognition and the senses.

As faculty at the College of Architecture & the Built Environment, Thomas Jefferson University, their shared interests — spanning theoretical inquiry and applied research — converge in the mission of the Synesthetic Research and Design Lab (SR&DL).

Their work is exhibited in international art and design venues such as the BASE Milan (2025), Trajan's Market Museum of the Imperial Fora in Rome, Italy (2022), the 2021 European Cultural Center, Venice Architecture Biennale (2021), the Municipal Theater of Piraeus in Athens, Greece (2021-2022), the IE Creativity Center in Segovia (2023), the London 3D print show, and the ICFF in New York. Most recent awards include the EDRA Art-Place, and an art residency with the S+T+ARTS ReSilence EU Horizon programme art residency, a writing fellowship with ROM for kunst og arkitektur/Metode, the Academic Advisory Council for Signage Research and Education Emerging Fellowship, and research fellowships with the Jefferson Institute for Smart & Healthy Cities. They co-organize the International Neurodiversity and the Built Environment symposia and contribute peer-reviewed publications advancing equity and belonging in the built environment.

Alfonso holds a Post-Professional MS in Advanced Architectural Design from the Graduate School of Planning and Preservation, Columbia University in NYC, and two MS in

Urban Design and Advanced Architecture respectively from the School of Architecture in Madrid (ETSAM). He is a SMARTlab Practice-Based PhD candidate at TJU, researching interactive art and therapeutic environments for autistic adolescents. Alfonso is currently a resident at the EU program VOICE: Valorising Artist-led Innovation through Citizen Engagement. Before joining TJU, he taught at Barnard + Columbia Architecture, Pratt Institute, Parsons School of Design, New York Institute of Technology, and the New York City College of Technology. He has worked with international architectural studios such as Carme Pinos, Angel Fernandez Alba, and Federico Soriano in Spain, Lomar Arkitekter in Sweden, and Per-forma Studio, KDF Architecture and Natalie Jeremijenko in the United States.

Tsafoulia received her diploma in Architecture Engineering from the National Polytechnic School of Athens. She also holds a Post-Professional MS in Advanced Architectural Design from the Graduate School of Planning and Preservation, Columbia University. Tsafoulia is the editor and author of the books “Transient Spaces” (2019) and “KatOikia, Housing Explorations at the Intersection of Pedagogy and Practice” (2023). Before joining Jefferson, she taught at Pratt Institute, Parsons School of Design, New York Institute of Technology, the Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York, and the New York City College of Technology. She has worked professionally with Studio Dror and LEESER Architecture in New York, K+T Architecture, and the NTU Urban Environment Lab in Athens, Greece.

Technology as a Creative Partner: Engineering the Invisible Infrastructure of Art

Ilias Kalisperakis & Spyros Stefanidis | up2metric

Description

Contemporary art installations increasingly demand capabilities that exist at the frontier of engineering: real-time human sensing, adaptive environments, generative media, and physical systems that respond to the body. Realizing these visions requires a form of collaboration between artists who imagine and technologists who make that imagination physically possible.

up2metric is an innovation studio in Athens, Greece that develops intelligent software for physical spaces. Within the framework of S+T+ARTS, the European Commission's initiative bridging Science, Technology, and the Arts, up2metric has worked alongside artists to translate conceptual ambitions into functioning, embodied experiences. This exhibition presents that collaboration in practice.

The centerpiece is "Echoes," an immersive installation by Severino Alfonso and Loukia Tsafoulia, developed during the EU Horizon ReSilence artistic residency. Alongside Echoes, we will discuss additional works, each illustrating how structured art-technology partnerships produce outcomes that neither discipline could reach alone.

Biographies

Dr. Ilias Kalisperakis is Co-founder and Product Coordination Lead of up2metric, an Athens-based innovation studio specialising in computer vision engineering. With a background spanning computer vision, photogrammetry, and extended reality (XR) technologies, Ilias leads the technical vision and R&D direction of the company since its founding in February 2016.

At up2metric, he oversees the development of advanced AR/VR tools, 3D reconstruction pipelines, and machine learning applications serving sectors such as precision agriculture, industrial inspection, and cultural heritage documentation. He has contributed to multiple European research and innovation projects under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, working alongside leading academic institutions and industrial partners across Europe.

Spyros Stefanidis is a Software Engineer at up2metric, an Athens-based innovation studio specialising in computer vision engineering. A graduate of the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EKPA), he combines strong software engineering foundations with hands-on experience in embedded systems and hardware prototyping. Over three years at up2metric, Spyros has designed and built the backend systems that power the company's computer vision contributing across APIs, data pipelines, databases, and cloud infrastructure. He works primarily with Go and Python, using frameworks and tools such as Go kit, FastAPI, GORM, SQLAlchemy, Docker, and Docker Swarm. Has experience in embedded systems and hardware prototyping, including PCB design and Arduino development, bridging the gap between software and physical hardware. He also integrates and serves machine learning models in production using PyTorch, including LLM-powered applications built with LangChain.

Breathing Together: Embodiment and listening in ReSilence and the S+T+ARTS Framework

Nefeli Georgakopoulou | Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)

Description

The presentation will discuss how embodied listening practices and shared sensory experiences can contribute to more inclusive ways of engaging with our surroundings and with others, opening up new possibilities for participation, empathy, and collective sense-making.

Biography

Nefeli Georgakopoulou is an architect and holds a PhD from Paris 8 University in the field of Aesthetics, Science and Technology of the Arts, with a specialization in digital imagery and virtual reality. Since 2019, she has been a Research Associate at the Institute of Information and Communication Technologies (ITI) of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH). Her research and artistic practice focuses on materiality, immersive environments, human–computer interaction,

artificial intelligence, and multisensory experiences, explored through interactive installations, mixed reality applications, and emerging technologies. She has created interactive artworks and installations that have been presented at international festivals and exhibitions, including the Amber Festival (Istanbul), Píksel Festival (Bergen), Laval Virtual (Laval), the Athens Digital Arts Festival (Athens), and Futur en Seine (Paris), among others.

The Aesthetics of Access

Christos Papamichail | liminal

Description

Accessibility in culture is not only about adapting existing practices; it is being redefined as an integral part of the artistic process itself. The European project P.A.I.R. (Paving Accessible Inclusive Realities) explores how access and participation can be embedded from the very beginning in the design and production of cultural works. A key tool of this approach is the Creative Accessibility Methodology, a collaborative process in which accessibility is not added retrospectively but co-shapes the artistic work from the outset, influencing its structure, form, and creative decisions. In this way, it opens space for diverse modes of expression and participation. P.A.I.R. investigates what artistic practice becomes when access is approached as a holistic and participatory framework, through collaborative relationships between cultural organisations, disability communities, and representative organisations.

Biography

Christos Papamichail is a dramatist and actor, he graduated from the Department of Theatre Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and from the “Praxis 7” Drama School. He has participated in numerous artistic, educational, and collaborative projects as an artist, coordinator, assistant director, producer, and

trainer. In 2016, he founded the cultural organisation liminal, aiming to embed inclusion and accessibility within cultural practice, a field he continues to research and develop. Alongside leading the organisation, he works in project management and serves as a trainer, producer, and consultant on creative accessibility in Greece and across Europe.

Category

Tour

Date & Time

Tuesday 16 June 2026 | 09:30 - 12:00

Walking as Sensory Experience.
Narrative Approaches to Urban Experience.

Maria Vidali | Independent Architect

Description

To read the city sensorially is to allow its textures, silences, traces, and forgotten narratives to guide us toward another understanding of Athens. This experience begins with a walking route through the industrial landscape of 19th-century Athens — among the former silk mills, workshops, and urban layers of Metaxourgeio and Kerameikos — revealing hidden connections between labour, memory, architecture, and everyday life.

Through this one-hour sensory walk, participants are invited to observe the city differently: through sound, movement, touch, and collective storytelling. The route concludes at Kapnergostasio, where the second part of the experience unfolds. After a short break, participants spend one hour inside this industrial building, transforming the lived experience of the walk into words, reflections, and personal narratives on paper.

Here, writing becomes a way to root experience in memory — allowing the space to hold our collective narrative.

Biography

Maria Vidali is an architect and researcher specialising in how narrative shapes architectural thinking and education, with a particular focus on farming landscapes and their communities. Since 2007 she has run her own architectural practice. She has taught for nine years at the College Year in Athens and has collaborated with Schools of Architecture at the Universities of Patras, Thessaly, Ioannina, and West Attica. Her research and teaching focus on phenomenological approaches to place, narratives and metaphors that shape cultural identity, and pedagogical methods that foster students' engagement with local communities and natural environments. She has published in international conferences and edited volumes, developing a framework for participatory architectural education in landscapes and communities with vulnerable cultural and architectural identity.

Category

Tour

Date & Time

Tuesday 16 June 2026 | 18:00 - 18:45

NOT/YOUR.AVERAGE.TOUR
A Body-Based Walking Experience.
Filippa Christofalou | Teachers College, Columbia University

Description

How do we walk through spaces of art and culture? What do we become inside the walls of an institution?

NOT/YOUR.AVERAGE.TOUR, A body-based walking experience is an interactive, body-based walking experience born in Chicago and developed in New York, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Now at Kapnergostasio, this guided experience invites participants to move beyond just looking and into embodied engagement with the space, the artworks, and one another.

Through movement, sensory invitations, and collective exploration, the experience will unfold live through the presence, reactions, and contributions of the participants themselves. This is not a conventional tour centered only on talking, but an unfolding encounter with space, art, and the body.

Run time: ~40 min Optional conversation after the tour: ~30 min Ages 8+ | Registration encouraged
Ideation, Design, and Facilitation: Filippa Christofalou, Public Engagement Strategist, Museum Educator / Doctoral Candidate in Art Museum Education, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Biography

Filippa Christofalou (she/her), moves through art, science, and the body. A museum educator, doctoral candidate at Columbia University, and founder of [Nama](#), Filippa develops body-based learning frameworks that challenge institutional norms and disrupt the choreographed museum experience across cultural institutions in North America and Europe.

Category

Workshop

Date & Time

Wednesday 17 June 2026 | 11:00 - 14:00

Seeing, Experiencing, Expressing:

A Workshop on Audience-Created Ekphrastic Audio Description.

Maria Petasi, Emmanouel Rovithis & Vilelmini Sosoni | Ionian University

Description

This practical workshop invites participants to explore how Audio Description (AD) can move beyond standard description and become an embodied, interpretive, and collective act. Using ekphrasis as a starting point, the session will guide participants through listening, noticing, writing and recording short audio descriptions of the Embodiments Exhibition's Centerpiece. The recordings will consequently be used for creating a sound installation and for providing insight into the work's impact, aiming to highlight the polyphonic, subjective, yet uniting nature of experiencing art. The workshop is intended for a mixed audience of visitors, artists, researchers, cultural workers, accessibility practitioners, and students interested in inclusive cultural practices. It aligns with EmBodiments' focus on neurodiversity, multisensory access, belonging, and collaborative imagination.

Objectives

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the relation between ekphrasis and audio description as forms of mediation between visual, verbal, sensory, and affective experience.

- Identify the difference between informative audio description and more expressive, interpretive, audience-generated forms.
- Create short ekphrastic audio descriptions in response to artwork.
- Reflect on how language, rhythm, tone, and perspective shape access and inclusion.
- Experience audio description as a shared cultural practice rather than a purely technical task.

Workshop structure

1. Opening and framing

The session begins with a short introduction to audio description, ekphrasis, and the idea of access as a cultural practice rather than a fixed technical solution. Participants are introduced to the core question: How can description become a form of participation, not only explanation?

2. Listening and noticing

Participants are invited to slow down and observe the artifact. They are asked to notice not only visible details, but also atmosphere, rhythm, materiality, implied movement, tension, and emotional tone. This stage helps shift attention from “what is shown” to “what is being felt, evoked, or narrated”.

3. Ekphrastic writing exercise

Working individually, participants write a first draft of a short audio description of the exhibit using ekphrastic approaches.

4. Recording audio descriptions

Working individually, participants record their audio descriptions using their mobile devices and share their recordings as creative material for exchanging experiences and ideas.

5. Reflection

A discussion could follow where participants will reflect on their experience sharing their thoughts and interacting with each other

Duration: 3 hours

Biographies

Maria Petasi is a translator, researcher, and postgraduate student at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting at Ionian University. She specializes in audiovisual translation with a focus on accessibility services, including audio description and subtitling for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing. Her research interests focus on accessibility in the arts and inclusive language in translation practice. As a graduate of the School of English at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, she works professionally in translation from English to Greek and vice versa, across a wide range of content, from literary and academic texts to technical and promotional material.

Emmanuel Rovithis serves as Laboratory Teaching Personnel at the Department of Audiovisual Arts of the Ionian University, teaching courses related to Art Education, Music

Programming, Sound Art, and Gamification. He holds a PhD in Electronic Music Composition and an MA in Music Composition. His research is focused on Audio Games, Audio Augmented Reality, and Gamification. As a music composer and sound designer for theater and cinema Dr. Rovithis has collaborated with prominent directors and choreographers and his music has been performed globally. As an instructional designer he has delivered educational software and workshops on behalf of various educational organizations.

Vilemini Sosoni holds a PhD in Translation and Text Linguistics from the University of Surrey and is Associate Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting at the Ionian University where she also serves as Associate Head. She is the Director of the Research Laboratory for Specialised Translation

and Language Technologies (STraLaT) and a member of the University's Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Committee. She also has extensive professional experience having worked as a professional translator, editor, content creator and audiovisual services

provider. She has participated in several EU-funded projects and has published extensively in the areas of the Translation of Institutional Texts, Machine Translation and Audiovisual Translation and Accessibility, including Audio Description and SDH.

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Wednesday 17 June 2026 | 17:00 - 18:00

Moderated by

Elina Poulou | Architect, PhD Candidate, NTUA

Embodied Participation in Different Contexts of Artistic Co-Creation.

Michalis Moschoutis & Christina Spanou | Greek National Opera

Description

How can embodied responses be recognised and evaluated across different educational contexts? When can silence, stillness, or closed eyes become forms of active engagement? And to what extent do the characteristics of a target group shape the artistic and educational practices that contribute more meaningfully to active participation? Drawing from the design and implementation of educational and participatory art projects across diverse environments, this presentation explores the significance of non-verbal forms of response that often escape observation and evaluation. The presentation approaches participatory art practices as fields of embodied knowledge, where sound, movement, and space function as means of shaping relationships and collective experiences.

Biographies

Michalis Moschoutis is a musician, educator, and curator specializing in new music, sound art, and socially engaged artistic practice. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and a Master's degree in Education from the University of Glasgow.

From 2013 to 2022, he curated twelve new music festivals for the Onassis Cultural Foundation, commissioning interdisciplinary and site-specific works. His educational practice includes workshops and participatory performances for children, young people, and people with disabilities, as well as music teaching and co-authoring educational publications. Since 2022, he has been working

at the Learning & Participation Department of the Greek National Opera.

Christina Spanou is a visual artist, set and costume designer, and art educator. Since 2019, she has collaborated with the Learning & Participation Department of the Greek National Opera in the development of educational programs and the production coordination of artistic and participatory projects for children, teenagers, and communities. She studied music at Philippos Nakas Conservatory and painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts, where she also completed her MFA in 2020.

Her artistic practice moves between performance, installation, and participatory

works, focusing on issues of gender, everyday practices, and social interaction. She is a member of The Flower Girls collective and has

presented works and collaborations in contemporary art and performing arts festivals and institutions.

From Mediating Narrative to Spatial Intervention.

Maria-Christina Giannoulatou & Maria Zamenopoulou | Benaki Museum

Description

Inclusion as both an intention and a structured practice at the Benaki Museum dates back to 2012. Since then, the objectives of the Education Department have continuously evolved, shifted, adapted, and transformed in response to the needs of different audiences.

For the past three years, a multidisciplinary team has been collaborating on a new initiative: an ongoing invitation addressed to children and young people on the autism spectrum and their families. As part of this effort, a dedicated reception and interaction space has been designed and will soon be installed at the Benaki Museum of Greek Culture.

For the first time, a facility integrated within the museum environment will function as an autonomous educational setting, enabling individual engagement, understanding, and expression without the need for direct facilitation by museum staff. The aim is to foster the free and effortless involvement of all family members with the museum experience.

Its content has been carefully analysed and reconfigured to address the diverse needs of neurodivergent visitors, offering a rich variety of multisensory stimuli. Through this initiative, we aspire to introduce a new model of equitable coexistence and participation within cultural institutions.

Biographies

Maria-Christina Destouni Yannoulatou studied Literature at the Capodistrian University of Athens and at the Sorbonne (Paris IV) in Paris. In 1990 she started working at the Benaki Museum, in the Department of Education, and has been its Head since 2005. Her professional priorities include the opening of the Museum to new audiences, the inclusion of citizens with disabilities through specially designed programs, as well as the building of long term connections based on the multiple topics offered by the museum collection.

Maria Zamenopoulou holds degrees in Archaeology and Education. Since 1999, she has been working in the Education Department of the Benaki Museum, where she designs and implements educational programmes for children and adults. Her special interests include the design of accessibility programmes and the engagement of vulnerable groups in museum audiences.

NEON — Our Space is the City.

A Network of Contemporary Art Exhibitions in the Urban Environment.

Fanis Kafantaris | NEON

Description

Our Space Is the City. This is the central motto of NEON. The city is where we meet. It should be a place where we can come together at any time, anywhere.

NEON Organization was founded in 2013 by collector and entrepreneur Dimitris Daskalopoulos, with Elina Kountouri serving as its Director. NEON works to bring contemporary culture closer to everyone. It is committed to broadening the appreciation, understanding, and creation of contemporary art in Greece.

Committed to its founding principle of operating without a permanent exhibition venue, NEON has realized numerous contemporary art exhibitions and programs in existing buildings and public spaces through collaborations with both public and private institutions. In doing so, a dynamic network that extends beyond the realm of ideas and artistic production is formed in spatial terms within the physical fabric of the city. It engages with the urban environment, interacts with it, and fosters new relationships within a framework that is openly accessible to the public.

<https://neon.org.gr/en/about/>

Biography

Fanis Kafantaris is an architect and Head of the Architectural Design Department at NEON, a position he has held since 2017. He studied at the School of Architecture of the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), where he also completed a postgraduate specialization in Architectural Theory and Design.

He works as an architect and has curated and participated in visual arts exhibitions, while also

engaging extensively in academic research in the field of urban studies at NTUA.

At NEON, he has developed architectural designs for a number of exhibition spaces and projects, including *Michael Rakowitz & Ancient Cultures* at the Acropolis Museum, *Portals* and *Dream On* at the former Public Tobacco Factory in Athens, and Antony Gormley's exhibition at the archaeological site of Delos, among others.

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Wednesday 17 June 2026 | 18:15 - 19:30

Moderated by

Polina Kosmadaki | Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Benaki Museum - member of Life is for All

Sensory Politics: Towards a Neuro-Inclusive Future for the Arts.

Magda Mostafa | StudioTM, UAE

Description

Adapted from "Refuge as Prospect: A Sensory Landscape" first presented at A Soc in the Eye curated by Andreas Angelidakis at the Institut Funder Bakke, Denmark

History, beauty, art, heritage- all these powerful values dissolve, dissipate, become transparent in the absence of equitable access.

Art in its instruction, production and consumption is a deeply multi-sensory act- and within that act lies its power but also its challenge for the Neurodivergent mind. This mind- and its embodied relationship to the physical space of art- may pendulate between sensory seeking and sensory avoiding. Without, however, the senso-spatio-socio physical infrastructure to enact this pendulation, places of art may remain inaccessible to the neurodivergent experience. They may become islands of beauty and self-expression out of reach for the Neurodivergent experience by virtue of the very power they embody- the power of the deeply- and often overwhelming- multi-sensoriality.

This construct applies to the NeuroDivergent and NeuroDistinct experience across spectator, artist, curator and consumer of art. This presentation explores these experiences across scales through case studies from the work of StudioTM and positions them within the broader context of the Lifespan Ecosystem Model of a proposed Neuro-Inclusive Future.

Biography

Magda Mostafa is Founding Partner and Principal of StudioTM, a design consultancy based in Dubai specialising in Autism and Neuro-Inclusive Design, as well as Professor of Design at the American University in Cairo and Guest Instructor and the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of the ASPECTSS® Design Index, the world's first research-based design framework for autism. ASPECTSS was awarded the UIA Triennial Research Award in 2014 and Mostafa is the only laureate to be presented this award twice, awarded again in 2023 for her Autism Friendly University Design Guide. Through her consulting ASPECTSS has been used in

architectures for autism and neurodiversity across 5 continents and her work has been presented globally and was most recently exhibited at the 2021 and 2023 Venice Architecture Biennales. She collaborates globally with leading architectural practices on typologies ranging across residences, schools, healthcare, sports and recreation as well as the urban city scale. This includes her work as Partner and Director of the Autism & Neuro-Inclusive Design Lab at JSA/MIXdesign in New York. Information about her work can be found at www.autism.archi and www.studio-tm.online

Body Constructs.

Evangelos Kotsioris | MoMA. The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Description

Drawing from the recent exhibition Body Constructs at Museum of Modern Art, this talk examines how modern architects and designers imagined not only new buildings and objects, but also the bodies meant to inhabit them. In the 1940s and '50s, disciplines such as anthropometrics and ergonomics

informed standardized figures like Le Corbusier's Modulor and Henry Dreyfuss's Joe and Josephine, intended to support universally applicable design. By the 1960s and '70s, however, disability rights activism, second-wave feminism, and environmental thinking challenged the assumption that such normative constructs could encompass the full range of bodily experience. The talk traces these competing yet intertwined tendencies, revealing the body as a contested site through which to reconsider modernism's assumptions about gender, race, disability, and the politics of design.

Biography

Evangelos Kotsioris is Director of the Emilio Ambasz Institute for the Joint Study of the Built and the Natural Environment and Curator in the Department of Architecture and Design at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York. His research focuses on the ecological, social, and experiential dimensions of architecture. Recent exhibitions he has organized include *The Many Lives of the Nakagin Capsule Tower*

(2025), *Down to Earth* (2025), *Body Constructs* (2024), and *Architecture Now: New York, New Publics* (2023).

His publications include the monograph *Kisho Kurokawa: Nakagin Capsule Tower* (The Museum of Modern Art, 2025) and the edited volume *Radical Pedagogies* (MIT Press, 2022).

The Materiality of Access and Inclusion in Arts Organizations.

Christos Carras | Kyklos Centre for Arts and Cultures

Description

Access and inclusion are too often treated as compliance checkboxes or communications language — peripheral issues rather than material ones, in the sense that sustainability frameworks give that word. Drawing on experience at the Onassis Stegi and on the development of KYKLOS — a new Piraeus arts centre focused on art from Africa, Oceania, and the Global South — this presentation argues that inclusion has to be both material (core to strategy and operations) and materially embedded (in infrastructure, programming, and the protocols that shape day-to-day decisions). The legal obligations are a floor, not a ceiling; the harder, more interesting question is what an institution looks like when openness is a structural property rather than a fix.

Biography

Christos Carras (born London, 1962) studied philosophy at Cambridge and holds a PhD from Paris I – Sorbonne (1989). He has worked in the cultural sector since 2000, including as Executive Director of the Onassis Cultural Centre (Onassis Stegi) from 2009 to 2022. He is

currently Executive Director of the Dinos and Lia Martinos Foundation, developing the KYKLOS Centre for Arts and Cultures in Piraeus. An active researcher and writer on cultural policy, he was lead author of Dianeosis's 2023 study of the Greek cultural sector and editor of the *Handbook of Cultural Work* (Bloomsbury, 2024)

Category

Workshop

Date & Time

Thursday, June 18, 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00

Mind Your Mind!

Katerina Eleftheriadi, Efthymia Lamprou, Lydia Liapi, Chrysavgi Panagiotou, Ourania Takhmatzidou & Aggeliki Ventouri | MultiTimeLab, Panteion University

Description

Come and experience the magical world of multisensory perception! What exists around us is not necessarily what we perceive. The world we live in is a creation of the mind—a mind that combines, assumes, and sometimes invents what we think we see, hear, or taste. That’s why cherry juice can taste like orange juice and an elephant can seem softer than a hamster!

Biographies

O. Tachmatzidou, E. Lamprou, L. Liapi, and C. Panagiotou are PhD candidates in Panteion University studying multisensory and temporal processing. **K. Eleftheriadi** and **A. Ventouri** are

masters and bachelor, respectively, students who study temporal processing. They are members of MultiTimeLab and they enjoy communicating cognitive science!

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Thursday, June 18, 2026 | 17:00 - 18:00

Moderated by

Elina Loukou | Architect ARB TEE

More Than the Sum of Your Senses.

Argyro Vataki | MultiTimeLab, Panteion University

Description

You do not experience the world through nine separate sensory channels, but rather you experience it all at once, as one unified whole. Food tastes better when it smells right and you can understand someone perfectly in a noisy street only when you can see their lips. These are not quirks, they are features. Your brain follows a set of elegant rules to blend your senses together, and when it gets it right, you perceive, learn, and act better than any single sense could ever allow. Join us to explore the science of how your senses talk to each other and why that conversation shapes everything about how you experience life.

Biography

Argiro Vatakis is an experimental psychologist, an associate professor for the Psychology

Department at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences and director of the

Multisensory and Temporal Processing Laboratory (MultiTimeLab). She is the Editor-in-Chief for the journal *Timing & Time Perception*, Associate Editor for *Psychology & Neuroscience*, and Academic Editor for *PLOS ONE*. She is also the co-founder of Timing Research Forum (TRF), an open society for promoting multidisciplinary research on timing and time perception. She holds a BA in Psychology from California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA and a PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Oxford, U.K., where she completed her doctoral research on the investigation of the factors modulating temporal perception for complex speech,

musical, and object action events. She has also conducted research on implied visual motion from form using fMRI at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics, Tuebingen, Germany and on trimodal (auditory, visual, and tactile) simultaneity perception using fMRI at the Department for Biological Psychology, Institute for Psychology II, Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg, Germany. She chaired the COST ISCH Action TD0904 Time in mental activity (TIMELY), a network of more than 300 European and international researchers investigating timing and time perception.

The Development of Multisensory Perception in Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Lydia Liapi | Panteion University

Description

The brain continuously combines visual and auditory information in order to create a coherent experience of the world around us. This talk explores audiovisual integration in autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through well-known multisensory illusions and eye-tracking research. The presentation will discuss developmental differences between ASD and typically developing individuals in the processing of audiovisual information, multisensory integration, and visual attention. By examining both perceptual experience and the way visual attention is directed, the talk aims to highlight how differences in sensory processing may influence the way ASD individuals perceive and interact with their environment.

Biography

Lydia Liapi is a PhD candidate in Psychology at Panteion University. Her research focuses on multisensory perception in autism spectrum disorder, with particular emphasis on developmental differences in temporal

processing and sensory integration between ASD and typically developing individuals. More broadly, she is interested in multisensory perception, time perception, and the relationship between cognition, audiovisual media, and everyday sensory experience.

Sociolinguistic Representations of Autism in Public Discourse.

Maria Kamilaki | Hellenic Parliament Library – Kapnergostasio

Description

Within the framework of Critical Discourse Analysis, the presentation outlines dominant linguistic representations of autism in public discourse, with an emphasis on the recent shift from more paternalistic/manipulative approaches toward more person-oriented/inclusive ones. The analysis will draw on parliamentary data, reflecting the institutional approaches to autism and neurodiversity in Greece, as well as articles from the daily & periodical press, and selected publications from the Hellenic Parliament Library Collection, which echoes views widely held in public opinion.

Biography

Maria Kamilaki holds a PhD in Linguistics (University of Athens), and postgraduate degrees (MSc) in Cultural Management and Applied Linguistics. She has recently finished her postdoctoral research at the Department of Mediterranean Studies, University of the Aegean, titled "From language attitudes to language policies: Discussing the language

question in the Hellenic Parliament". She serves as Acting Director General for Electronic Administration, Library, and Publications of the Hellenic Parliament. She is also working as a professor-advisor in the Hellenic Open University, and an expert for the National Center for Public Administration and Local Government.

Category

Workshop

Date & Time

Friday, June 19, 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00

Collective Breaths & Soundscapes.

Katerina Damani & Antonis Primikyris | Museum of Cycladic Art

Description

Utilizing breath as a starting point for multisensory exploration, participants are invited to collectively create soundscapes in their own unique ways. Drawing inspiration from the Cycladic figurines and their characteristic hand placement below the chest, the group will practice diaphragmatic breathing to encourage relaxation, concentration, and a fuller, more resonant production of sound.

Participants will then work with elements such as rhythm and vocal intensity to create soundscapes inspired by the world of the sea. Using the voice beyond language — through non-verbal sounds and improvisation — allows us to express ourselves freely, without the constraints of speech, while also enabling equal participation regardless of age, expressive skills, or sensory disabilities.

The experience will be further enriched with natural materials such as water, stones, and leaves, which function not only as sources of sound but also as multisensory stimuli, creating an environment of exploration and experimentation.

Biographies

Katerina Damani is a music educator and soprano. She studied at the Department of Music Studies of the Ionian University, where she obtained an integrated master's degree in Music Pedagogy and Music Psychology. She also holds a degree in Classical Singing and a diploma in Music and Performing Arts. Since 2014, she has been designing and implementing music education programs for geriatric care facilities, schools, municipalities, and cultural institutions. Since 2023, she has collaborated with the Educational and Social Programs of the

Greek National Opera on the programs "Prima Volta" and "Tiki-tak, tiki-tak" for adults aged 65+, as well as "Rosa das rosas" for primary school children. She has also collaborated with the Museum of Cycladic Art and the Alekos Fassianos Museum. Alongside her educational work, she has led training programs for arts educators and participated in concerts and music-theatre performances.

Antonis Primikyris is an actor and theatre educator. He studied Acting at the Drama School

of the National Theatre of Northern Greece, Architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and completed postgraduate studies in Theatre and Society at the University of the Peloponnese, as well as in Visual Arts at the University of Ioannina. He has worked as an actor with major theatrical institutions, including the National Theatre of Greece, the Athens Epidaurus Festival, and Onassis Stegi, collaborating with acclaimed directors such as Vassilis Papavasileiou, Dimitris Karantzas, and Roula Pateraki, among others. In collaboration

with Positive Voice, he participated in empowerment initiatives for socially vulnerable groups — including migrants, intravenous drug users, and prison inmates — using theatre and the arts as tools for expression and inclusion. Between 2024 and 2026, he worked with the Social and Educational Programs of the Greek National Opera, designing and implementing educational programs for adults aged 65+. He has also collaborated with the Museum of Cycladic Art and the Alekos Fassianos Museum.

Category

Workshop

Date & Time

Friday, June 19, 2026 | 12:30 - 13:30

Wayfinding Beyond Signage: Experiential Space Navigation Approaches.

Severino Alfonso & Loukia Tsafoulia | Synesthetic Research & Design Lab, Thomas Jefferson University

Description

How do you know you're on the right path? This workshop invites participants to explore wayfinding through an experiential lens by documenting the cues that guide them through everyday environments. Using photos, short videos, sketches, or maps, participants will trace their journey to Kapnergostasio (or other daily paths) and capture the moments, signals, and sensations that helped them orient themselves—whether designed signage, landmarks, patterns, or intuitive feelings.

Together, we will reflect on what captured their attention, how these cues made them feel, and how navigation differs across individuals and modes of transportation. The workshop combines creative practice, collective inquiry, and experimental research, culminating in a collaborative visual narrative

Participants are invited to arrive prepared to document their journey to the venue (phone or camera recommended) and ready to reflect on their navigation experience. Using short videos, and/or photos, written notes, sketches or any other medium to try to document your “trip” to Kapnergostasio. This session is open to all, with a focus on uncovering diverse ways of sensing, interpreting, and moving through space—informing more inclusive approaches to wayfinding and design.

Severino Alfonso and **Loukia Tsafoulia** are architects, educators, and researchers whose work explores the intersection of information, materiality, cognition, and the senses. As faculty at Thomas Jefferson University, they lead the

Synesthetic Research and Design Lab (SR&DL), integrating theory and applied research. Their work has been exhibited internationally (e.g., Milan, Rome, Venice, Athens, Segovia, London, New York) and has received awards and fellowships including EDRA Art-Place and

S+T+ARTS ReSilence. They also organize symposia on neurodiversity and contribute to scholarship on equity in the built environment.

Alfonso holds advanced degrees from Columbia University and ETSAM Madrid and is a PhD candidate researching interactive art and

therapeutic environments for autistic adolescents. He has taught at multiple New York institutions and worked with international firms across Europe and the U.S. **Tsafoulia**, a graduate of the National Technical University of Athens and Columbia University. She has taught at leading design schools in New York

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Friday, June 19, 2026 | 17:00 - 18:00

Moderated by

Athina Papadopoulou | Assistant Professor, Health and Design, New York Institute of Technology

Neurodivergent Femininities:

From Embodied Experience to Masking and Everyday Sensory Experience.

Ioannis Voskopoulos | Neuroaffirming Psychologist, TNA Space

Sofia Marra | Psychologist, TNA Space

Katerina Tsomi | Psychologist, Play Therapist

Description

Psychologist and founder of TNA SPACE, Ioannis Voskopoulos, whose practice is grounded in a neuroaffirmative approach, moderates a dialogue-based panel in which individuals representing neurodivergent expressions of femininity share experiences and reflections on embodied existence, personal masking, sensory experience, identity, creativity, and authenticity.

Sofia Marra will discuss autistic masking, particularly among women, as well as issues of belonging, inclusion, and sensory processing. Drawing from both her own lived experience and the experiences shared with her by other autistic individuals, she will reflect on the complexities of navigating a predominantly neurotypical world.

Katerina Tsomi explores how the ritual of dance—through costumes, structured movements, measured steps, and, equally, through surrendering to the body, the senses, movement, and music—can create a framework that supports the free emergence of the neurodivergent body and the playful exploration of everyday sensory experience, provided that perfectionism does not intervene.

The session will conclude with questions and discussion grounded in lived experience.

Biographies

Ioannis Voskopoulos is a psychologist with a neuroaffirmative approach and the founder of TNA SPACE in Athens. His work focuses on the lived experience of autism, identity, embodied existence, community building, and the

implementation of neuroaffirmative practices. Through Artistics, he seeks to create opportunities for autistic and neurodivergent voices to be heard, recognised, and represented through creative expression.

Sofia Marra graduated from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She has completed numerous seminars, workshops, and a masterclass on neurodiversity and autism, and currently works as a one-to-one support practitioner for an autistic child. She is also autistic herself.

Katerina Tsomi is a psychologist, child psychologist, and play therapist. She has undergone extensive experiential training in Person-Centred Psychotherapy and Play Therapy over many years. She is also a certified StoryPlay® trainer and maintains a private practice in Athens. Katerina is herself neurodivergent and the mother of two neurodivergent boys.

Category

Talk | Discussion

Date & Time

Friday, June 19, 2026 | 18:15 - 19:30

Moderated by

Dora Chatzi Rodopoulou | Dr. Architect and Engineer, Adjunct Lecturer, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

The Lost Generation of Autistic People.

Katerina Malakate | Writer & Autism Activist

Description

I was diagnosed as autistic and ADHD at the age of 45. My talk draws on lived experience and explores what it is like to grow up as an undiagnosed neurodivergent person. I will reflect on how receiving a diagnosis can transform one's understanding of oneself and how neurodivergence has shaped the course of my life—from academic and professional choices to personal relationships and identity.

I will discuss why seeking an assessment can be important even in adulthood, and why so many neurodivergent individuals remained undiagnosed during childhood in the 1980s and 1990s—the so-called “lost generation” of autistic people. The talk will also address the profound sense of relief, as well as the anger and grief for years spent without recognition or support, that such a realization can bring.

Biography

Katerina Malakate was born in Athens in 1978. She studied Pharmacy at both undergraduate and postgraduate level at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is an author, and her most recent novel is *Without a Face* (*Choris Prosopo*, Metaichmio, 2020). She also holds a postgraduate degree in Creative Writing.

In parallel with her literary work, she founded the literary blog *Diavazontas* (“Reading”) and

coordinates the online book community of the same name, which has more than 160,000 members. She is also the owner of the Booktalks bookstore and serves as Treasurer of PEN Greece.

Having received a late diagnosis of autism and ADHD, she has since become an advocate for the visibility and recognition of neurodivergent people.

***Rights Are for Everybody:
Neurodivergence and Intersectionality at Work.***

Chryssa Dislis | WorkEqual.ie

Description

This is a talk about neurodivergence, work, and justice. It comes from my experience as a feminist, activist, engineer, migrant, and parent, and from years of seeing how much talent is lost when workplaces make life harder than it needs to be. I will talk about how neurodivergent people can be fully included in the workplace, and why we can only fully understand inclusion when we also consider gender, race, class, migration, and LGBTQ+ rights. Inclusion is intersectional. I practice this through my work as a volunteer supporting women returning to employment, as a member of the senior management team in my workplace, and as an activist. This is not only about inclusion as a workplace policy, but about dignity, self-determination, and creating work environments where more people can be themselves and work happily and productively.

***Neurodiversity and Inclusion in the Social Fabric and the Workplace:
From Acceptance to Empowerment.***

Vasileios Giannakopoulos | University General Hospital of Patras (PGNP) / Metropolitan College

Description

This presentation explores how neurodiversity redefines an individual's position within the social and professional sphere. Approaching the issue from two perspectives, we first examine the broader social contexts that shape acceptance around disability. Then, we shift to the micro-environment of the workplace, analyzing the importance of career counseling and labor market integration. We propose strategies so that workplaces do not merely "accommodate" neurodivergent individuals, but become adaptive environments that celebrate difference. Through a 15-minute presentation, we pose a central provocation for the panel: How do we translate theoretical inclusion into applied workplace practice?

Biography

Vasilis Giannakopoulos is a Lecturer of Social Sciences at the Metropolitan College of Patras, teaching in the undergraduate programs of Early Childhood Education, Sports Sciences-Physical Education, and Physiotherapy. He supervises undergraduate and postgraduate theses and is a certified professor in the Ministry of Education's College Registry. Additionally, he is a PhD

Candidate in the Department of Medicine and holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Patras School of Medicine. In the healthcare sector, he has been working for the past 20 years at the University General Hospital of Patras, having served in various positions of responsibility.

Category

Workshop

Date & Time

Saturday, June 20, 2026 | 11:00 - 13:00

Micronarrative Writing Masterclass.

Katerina Malakate | Writer & Autism Activist

Description

A creative writing workshop designed around the distinctive sensory experiences and creative potential of neurodivergent cognition.

In the first part of the workshop, participants will explore the expressive potential of flash fiction and the role of sensory stimuli in writing and artistic creation. In the second part, they will experiment with writing their own flash fiction pieces on site, which will then be shared and discussed collectively with the group.

