

Mystery 19 Visual Arts Initiator III – But Don't Tell Anyone

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF THE LEGACY PROGRAM

Mystery 19 Visual Arts Initiator

The main goal of the program is to introduce emerging artists to site specific and site responsive artistic practices, along with the support of an experienced curatorial team, in order to offer them the opportunity to experiment with small and medium-scale projects in the public space. The realization of artistic projects emphasises on the production process as a result of the relations that are shaped among the city, its citizens and the Greek and international artists. 2023 Eleusis collaborates with established curators and institutions that undertake the role of mentors and introduce resident artists to their artistic research journey in Elefsina. The partners of the program develop their practices around experiential methodologies and research processes and each partner provides the ingredients for a creative *zymosis*, while the conditions of their involvement in the project are formed by a process of collaboration and synergy among them. Each partner and participant brings along their own methodologies, which combined, create the grid of the residency program.

Within the framework of the Visual Arts Initiator program, 2023 Eleusis has collaborated with established institutions, artists and curators from Greece and abroad, 40m cube, Mosquito Coast Factory, Yellow Brick, Eight/To Οχτώ - critical institute for arts and politics and Snehta Residency while 12 artists have participated in its previous editions (2018 & 2021): Sophie Innmann (DE), Evi Kalogiropoulou (GR), Doruntina Kastrati (XK), Hortense Le Calvez (FR), Panos Prophetis and Despina Charitonidis (GR), Pagona Zali (GR), Timothy Laskaratos (GR), Emilia Lioudou (AT), Maria Nikiforaki (GR), Eleni Mylona (CH) and Kamila Szejnoch (PL).

Watch the video teaser of the 2nd edition of the Visual Arts Initiator program (2021), [here](#).

Watch the video teaser of the 1st edition of the Visual Arts Initiator program (2018), [here](#).

Mystery 19 Visual Arts Initiator III – But Don't Tell Anyone

The 3rd version is curated by the internationally acclaimed curator Joanna Warsza (PO). **Mystery**

19 Visual Arts Initiator III – But Don't Tell Anyone is a residency and exhibition on initiation and secrecy. When a person is entrusted with a secret, part of the excitement is the power it gives them to possibly (and discreetly, of course) share it further. The Eleusinian Mysteries rank as the most secret and, at once, the most democratic rites to have been performed in ancient Greece. Revealing any information about them was punishable by death. Thousands of people, including women, slaves, and non-Greek citizens, were initiated each year, swearing an oath of secrecy in order to partake in the mysteries of Demeter. These rites – which touched on the afterlife, the cult of agriculture and rebirth, spirituality, and psychedelic and communal experience over the course of almost two millennia – remain an unsolved enigma right down until today, and are still core to the identity of the town, which has since become a major Greek industrial hub. The residency programme is inviting five artists to spend time in Elefsina, where they will be initiated by five international artists. Taking the speculation that surrounds these extraordinary pagan rites as a starting point, the residency and its resulting exhibition – comprising five new commissions by the resident artist initiates and five existing works by their mentor “initiators,” all in dialogue with the archaeological site – are seeking to reinterpret the meaning of such notions as initiation and secrecy today, forging forth in various social, political, poetic, and cyber directions.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The artist-in-residence program in Elefsina is divided in two (2) phases and is addressed to five (5) artists, from Greece and abroad who wish to produce an in-situ piece of work, and are keen to interact with the local community and fellow artists, experience the city, in order to engage with the environment within a critical framework.

1st phase of artist residency [11.05.2023 – 20.05.2023]

The 1st phase of the program is to begin on May 11 and will be completed on May 20, 2023. During their stay, the participants will have the opportunity to connect with the local community, and interact with the curator Joanna Warsza and the other artists-mentors, who will provide a supportive program consisting of panel discussions, presentations, talks, walks, workshops.

2nd phase of artist residency and exhibition [01.10.2023 – 20.10.2023]

The 2nd phase of the program will begin on October 1 and will be completed on October 20, 2023. This is the period when the participants start the in-situ production of their project and the implementation of each production that occurs on specific sites in Elefsina. The final public presentation derives from a process of dramaturgical activation of the five new works by the resident artists and the five works from the mentor-artists. The artworks as fragments, will be consolidated on an axis of physical experience of the place, a route, co-created by all the contributors and curated by Joanna Warsza.

TERMS & CONDITIONS | APPLICATION FORM & SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility:

The program is addressed to five (5) individual artists who work in the field of visual arts in the public space (installation, video art, sound art, performance, sculpture, etc.), regardless of gender, previous experience, etc. Applications sent by group representatives, collectives, corporations, etc. will not be accepted. All artists who apply for the program are committed to be physically present during the aforementioned dates of both phases, as it is a prerequisite for submitting the application. Furthermore, all candidates should be available for further scheduled feedback & follow up sessions with the curator and the contributors between phase A and phase B.

Application Process:

The applications must be submitted **from March 23 to April 2, 2023 (23:59)** through the [online form](#). All the fields in the application form must be filled in Greek or English language and a detailed artist's cv and portfolio (up to 15 MB) must also be attached. It is also obligatory to accept the terms and conditions and the declaration of knowledge of the terms of processing of personal data during the time of submission and evaluation of candidacy. In case an artist is selected as one of the five artists-in-residence they must declare their full availability in order to attend and complete the program within the time frame described above. Completing and submitting this online form does not correspond nor guarantee acceptance and participation into the program.

Evaluation Process:

Applications are reviewed and selected by a committee composed by the partners: curator Joanna Warsza, 2023 Eleusis Directorate of Contemporary Art & Delta Pi.

All applicants will receive a reply via e-mail and must confirm their availability by 09/04/2023. Due to the large number of applications, it is not possible to send further clarifications in case of a negative reply.

Contact & Information:

For further information about the Residency, the Open Call and the online application, all candidates may contact Delta Pi exclusively via email at info@delta-pi.org

What does the Mystery19 Visual Arts Initiator III – But Don't Tell Anyone program provide to the participants?

The program covers all the costs below:

- Travel costs to and from Elefsina (a total of 4 transportations / 2 round-trips)
- Accommodation expenses & per diems for both intervals of the artist-in-residence program.

- 1000 € artistic fee (via employment or Invoice)
- up to 1000 € production costs for the creation of a new original piece of work.
- Material support and expertized human resources
- Curatorial support and artistic consulting by the institutional partners and the organisers
- Access to working spaces for the preparation / creation of the piece of work.
- Promotion on the official social media accounts, website and partners' newsletters.
- Audiovisual recording (documentation) of the program and the exhibition.

[APPLY HERE.](#)

Deadline: Apr 2, 2023

CONTRIBUTORS:

CONCEPT Mystery19 Visual Arts Initiator legacy programme: 2023 Eleusis

<https://2023eleusis.eu/en/>

CURATOR Mystery 19 Visual Arts Initiator III – But Don't Tell Anyone: Joanna Warsza (PO)

PRODUCTION: Delta Pi (GR) www.delta-pi.org.

A PRODUCTION OF 2023 ELEUSIS

SUPPORTED BY GOETHE-INSTITUT ATHEN