**Press Release**

**Parallel Programme, October 2025 – February 2026**

On the occasion of the five sections of the current exhibition, the Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection invites artists and curators to engage in a creative dialogue with the collection and the archive.

**08 October 2025, 19:00**

*I. Romanticism – Greek Antiquity*

**Screening: Daphné Hérétakis**

*What we ask of a statue is that it doesn't move.*

2024, 31 minutes, VO Greek, English subtitles

Athens is a city full of statues, shining monuments of past glories forever frozen in space. People take to the streets in hope of getting things moving, but when nothing changes, immobility sets in. Movement is still possible though; tarot cards, absurdist groups, rogue Caryatids, music, dancing, cinema. In the 1940s, poet Yorgos Makris dreamt of blowing up the Acropolis, can the pieces ever be put back together? If you were a statue, what kind of statue would you be?

Daphné Hérétakis is a filmmaker who lives and works between Athens and Paris.

**05 November 2025, 19:00**

*II. The Journey of Being*

**In Conversation:** **Steffi Stouri x Angelo Plessas**

*Rethinking Pilgrimage: Artists’ Residencies as New Geographies of Meaning*

Language: Greek, Duration: 45 minutes

Exploring artists’ residencies as contemporary pilgrimages, curator Steffi Stouri selects works from the Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection and invites artist Angelo Plessas for a conversation, reflecting on how residencies beyond institutionalised mobility can create new geographies of meaning, community, and creative transformation.

Steffi Stouri is an Athens-based researcher and curator.

Angelo Plessas is an artist who lives and works in Athens.

**10 December 2025, 19:00**

*III. Explorations and Expeditions*

**Talk: Irene Y. Panagopoulos**

*Inside the Shell*

Language: Greek, Duration: 45 minutes

Through rare maps, illustrations and natural objects from the Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection depot, the collector reveals her personal approach to collecting, while raising questions regarding the manner in which visual and material cultures have influenced memory and systems of knowledge from the Age of Discovery until today. She employs seashells as natural “treasures” which bridge the wonders of the natural world with scientific research.

Irene Y. Panagopoulos is a collector and cultural advocate based in Greece.

**14 January 2026, 19:00**

*IV. Conflicts and Displacements*

**Talk:** **Roupen Kalfayan**

*The Long Road to Form a Collection*

Language: Greek, Duration: 45 minutes

The current exhibition reflects the collaboration between Roupen Kalfayan and Irene Y. Panagopoulos in shaping her collection. The works date from the 16th century to the present and focus on the Eastern Mediterranean. The exhibition highlights the perpetual influence of Greek culture and addresses critical issues such as warfare, migration, and forced population displacements.

Roupen Kalfayan is an art dealer, who along with his brother Arsen, runs Kalfayan Galleries.

**18 February 2026, 19:00**

*V. Ideal Worlds*

**Performative Guided Tour: Phantom Investigations**

*With Closed Eyes – Steps Backwards*

Language: Greek, Duration: 45 minutes

Phantom Investigations revises the Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection, attempting the performative guided tour, *With Closed Eyes – Steps Backwards.* A dialogical event that aspires to highlight the dynamic of collecting as an open system for the mediation of connotations, shaping the ways we choose to relate to specific cultural representations beyond morphological stereotypes, stylistic sequences and value hierarchies.

Phantom Investigations (Ino Varvariti - Giannis Delagrammatikas) is a visual art research group based in Athens.

**Admission only with reservation at** [**iypcollection.com**](https://iypcollection.com/exhibitions/fernweh-or-nostalgia-for-unknown-places/)

**Exhibition, 12 June 2025 - 27 February 2026**

***Fernweh, or Nostalgia for Unknown Lands***

The group show ***Fernweh, or Nostalgia for Unknown Lands*** introduces the **Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection** space to the public. This inaugural exhibition unveils a representative selection from the collection’s multifaceted holdings, spanning from the 16th century to the present, and emphasizes its distinctly international perspective. It also foregrounds collecting as an intricate practice that involves research, documentation, archiving, preservation, and the protection of objects. At the same time, it attempts to decipher the underlying impulse behind the formation of the Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection, which appears to be a sustained desire for exploration, driven by a pursuit of understanding both the world and the self. This urge to discover the unfamiliar is aptly encapsulated in the German word *Fernweh* [fern (“far”) + weh (“pain”)], which can be rendered as "pain for distant places" or loosely translated as "nostalgia for unknown lands."

The concept of *Fernweh* serves as a poetic axis of the exhibition around which the exhibits and their stories, whether real or imagined, unfold. Through visual artworks, folk art objects, archival materials, books, manuscripts, maps, historical documents, and artifacts of applied arts, visitors are invited to trace the threads that weave the collection together. The exhibition is structured into five distinct sections and its spatial arrangement evokes the form of a book, with the storage panels for the artworks functioning as the pages of different chapters, or as a system of intertextual references.

The sections are the following:

**I. Romanticism - Greek Antiquity**

The idealized quest for the beautiful and the sublime, and the projection of Greece as the “cradle of Western civilization” viewed through the lens of Romanticism, the Philhellenic movement, and contemporary interpretations.​

**II. The Journey of Being**

The spiritual and existential dimensions of both physical and metaphysical journeys, seen as a deep-seated need for introspection, autonomy and personal growth.

**III. Explorations and Expeditions**

Human curiosity as a foundational impetus for the advancement of science, geography, and culture, spanning from the Age of Discovery to the present.

**IV. Conflicts and Displacements**

The darker aspects of travel: war, displacement, refugee flows, and the continual renegotiation of identity within shifting social and cultural landscapes.

**V. Ideal Worlds**

Envisioning and striving for a better world—utopias and imagined escapes towards ideal realms; a section devoted to hope, longing, creativity, and the critique of prevailing systems.

**Curated by:** Katerina Hadji​

**Featuring:** Alexis Akrithakis, Francis Alÿs, Andreas Angelidakis, Yüksel Arslan, Richard Artschwager, Kader Attia, Minas Avramidis, Maja Bajević, Petrus Bertius, Selina Bracebridge, Vlassis Caniaris, Louis-François Cassas, Étienne Chambaud, Salvador Dalí, Paul Alfred de Curzon, Alphonse de Neuville, Silvina Der-Meguerditchian, Stelios Faitakis, Ormond Gigli, Pegeen Vail Guggenheim, José Gutiérrez de la Vega, Nikolaos Gyzis, Ernst Haas, Nikos Hadjikyriakos-Ghika, Thomas Hartley Cromek, William Heather, Lito Kattou, Christoph Keller, Bouchra Khalili, Rallis Kopsidis, Maria Loizidou, Kostas Malamos, Alain Manesson Mallet, Takis Marthas, Sidsel Meineche Hansen, Ron Nagle, Adrian Paci, Giorgos Paralis, Callirhoe Parren, Angelo Plessas, Georgios Prokopiou, Polykleitos Rengos, Chryssa Romanos, David Sampethai, Charles Sandison, Wilhelm Sasnal, François-Louis Schmied, Sister Corita, Edward Steichen, Thomas Struth, Rosemarie Trockel, Panos Tsagaris, Yiannis Tsarouchis, Spyros Vassiliou, Eleni Vernadaki, Alix Vernet, Vincentius Demetrius Volicius, Johann Jakob Wolfensberger, Francesca Woodman, Constantin Xenakis, Raed Yassin and anonymous artists.

**Information**

**Exhibition duration**: 12 June 2025 - 27 February 2026

**Opening hours:** Wednesday: 11:00 - 19:00, Thursday & Friday: 11:00 - 17:00

**Admission only with reservation at** [**iypcollection.com**](https://iypcollection.com/exhibitions/fernweh-or-nostalgia-for-unknown-places/)

**Address**: 157, Konstantinou Karamanli Avenue (entrance via 146, Vasileos Pavlou Avenue), Voula, 166 73​

**Credits**

**Exhibition**
Production Coordination: Katerina Hadji
Communication: Dafni Diamanti, Mare Spanoudaki
Graphic Design: The Birthdays Design
Text Editing: EG Figure of Speech (Geli Mademli & Eleanna Papathanasiadi)
Art Conservation: Vassilis Argyratos, Foteini Fragkaki
Artwork Transportation & Installation: Move Art
Artwork Insurance: DAES
Photography: Nikos Alexopoulos, Alexandra Masmanidi

**Parallel Programme**
Curation: Katerina Hadji
Coordination: Foteini Salvaridi
Communication: Dafni Diamanti
Graphic Design: The Birthdays Design
Technical Support: Antonis Gatzogiannis, Makis Faros
Photography: Pinelopi Gerasimou

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