

Press Release

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 Through visual artworks, folk art objects, archival materials, books, manuscripts, maps, historical documents, and artifacts of applied arts, visitors are invited to trace the threads that weave the collection together.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 Aljys, Andreas Angelidakis, Yüksel Arslan, Richard Artschwager, Kader Attia, Minas Avramidis, Maja Bajević, Petrus Bertius, Selina Bracebridge, Vlassis Caniaris, Louis-François Cassas, Étienne Chabaud, 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 Cromeck, 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

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

Exhibition Credits

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

Special thanks to Philippos Tsangrides - Panagopoulos

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

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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: Roupén Kalfayan

The Long Road to Form a Collection

Language: Greek, Duration: 45 minutes

The current exhibition reflects the collaboration between Roupén 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.

Roupén 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

Parallel Programme Credits

Curation: Katerina Hadji

Coordination: Foteini Salvaridi

Communication: Dafni Diamanti

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