

PARALLEL PROGRAMME

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 objects from the depot of the Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection, the collector reveals her personal approach to collecting, while simultaneously inviting the audience to reflect on how visual and material cultures shape memory and systems of knowledge—from the Age of Discoveries to the present day. Seashells, as narrative objects, carry stories and illuminate Irene Y. Panagopoulos' distinctive perspective on collecting: the pursuit of discovery lies at the heart of this practice. As a metaphor, the seashells function like "treasures," connecting the marvels of nature with scientific inquiry and highlighting the interplay between observation, imagination, and knowledge.



Irene Y. Panagopoulos is a collector and cultural advocate based in Greece. Born in London and trained in fine arts, she has been developing, since 2006, a multifaceted art collection which highlights women creators, the Greek diaspora artists, and cross-cultural exchanges in the Mediterranean region. Irene Y. Panagopoulos actively supports major art and cultural institutions such as the British Museum, Tate and Delfina Foundation – where she is a Trustee and was a resident in 2018. She also serves as a Trustee on the boards of the Dia Art Foundation, the National Gallery of Greece, and Northeastern University in Boston. Over the years, she has contributed to numerous contemporary art initiatives, including exhibitions at the Museum of Cycladic Art, the National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST) in Athens, the Greek Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, the Athens Biennale and Documenta. Her ongoing contributions to cultural preservation and deep-rooted commitment to artistic dialogue, are reflected in the spirit of the recently established Irene Y. Panagopoulos Collection Space.