

Press Release: June 2021

HRH Prince Nikolaos represents Greece at the London Design Biennale: 1- 27th June

The artist presents 'Together', an enchanted, immersive scene of illuminated, embracing olive trees reflected in mirrors and surrounded by sounds of Greek nature, encouraging us to contemplate feelings of origin, connection and separation



London Design Biennale 2021 shows the world's leading design and design-led innovation, creativity and research. Under the theme 'Resonance', which considers the ripple effect of ground-breaking design concepts on the way we live and the choices we make, pavilions from across six continents will address global challenges and crises

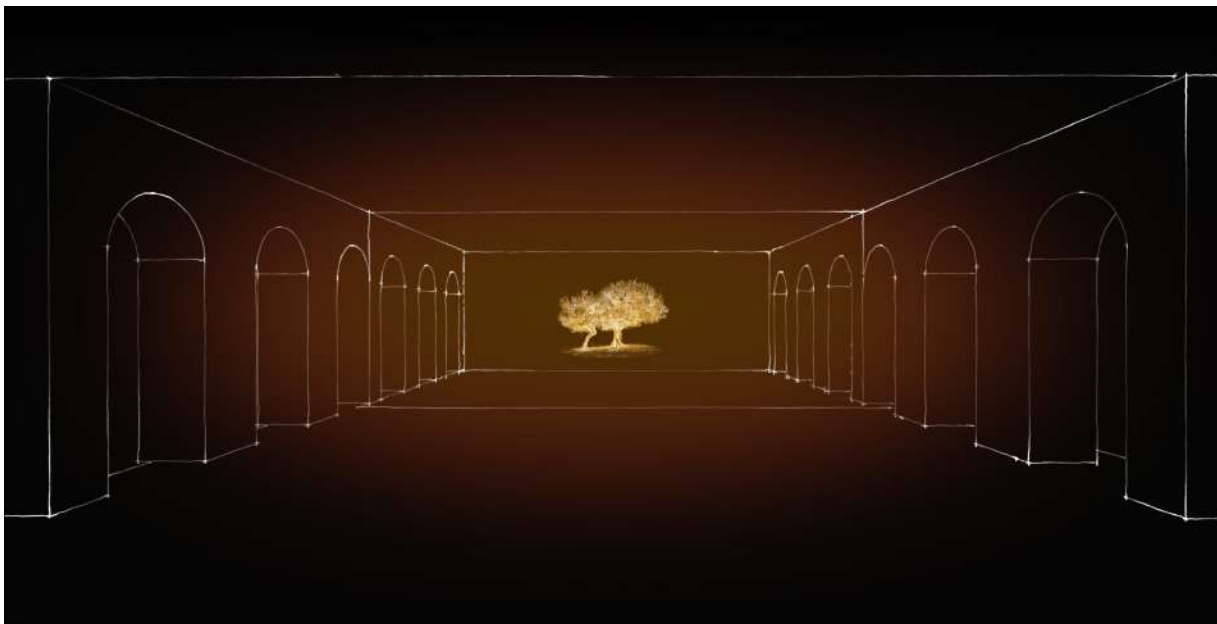
Athens-based Prince Nikolaos, who grew up in London, returns to the UK to exhibit his latest work, the Greek pavilion at the London Design Biennale. The artist presents 'Together', an enchanting, ancient tree scene that explores how we resonate through nature, how nature resonates through us, and that to be present today, we must reflect the past which projects our future.

A life-long, dedicated photographer, Prince Nikolaos specialises in capturing nature. Six years since his inaugural exhibition at Christie's and showing in several cities including Melbourne, Doha and Copenhagen, the artist is back in London to showcase work expanding beyond photography, using various mediums to convey his vision.

The immersive piece invites visitors to linger within a dimly lit installation featuring two illuminated, embracing olive trees reflected in mirrors and surrounded by sounds of Greek nature. Immersed in the setup, feeling the perennial strength and beauty of the embraced olive trees, visitors can contemplate feelings of origin, connection and separation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we view the physical world and our space within it, forcing us to re-evaluate and alter our human relationships, and encouraging us back to our origins for inspiration. Finding those ancestral foundations, this sense of belonging to the world and being part of a larger narrative, is like finding our centre of stability.

Searching for ways the past resonates with the present and future, Prince Nikolaos investigates the natural treasure emanating from Greek soil: the olive tree and its fruit, with its glorious golden hues. Not much has changed in the way we grow and harvest olive trees from ancient times until today. We have always known the health-protective qualities of olive oil, proving that nature has amply and generously given us everything we need. There are olive trees in Greece which are over 2,500 years old, participating in human history and standing guard, as witnesses, of everything that connects us with our past.



Uniting these concepts in a physical space, the artist created this immersive tree scene. Walking through the illuminated ancient trees is like walking through a pathway that connects our past, present and future. In the almost silent space created by the dimmed light, only emanating from the artwork and its reflection, one can feel the stillness that we felt during this time of forced separation and detachment, with a background noise of calming nature. This serves as a reminder to be still and listen to nature and our environment, as it resonates through space and eventually, through us.

The Greek Pavilion is supported by: Château Giscours; COSTA NAVARINO RESIDENCES; MRP Development; Sparta Gold by Hellenic Fine Oils; BREATHE. A Mindful Mental Health Movement

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Public opening dates: 1 – 27 June **Press preview:** 1 June

Location: Somerset House, The Strand, London

Book Tickets: <https://www.somersetshouse.org.uk/whats-on/london-design-biennale-2021>

Follow the project: @skylightchaser @marilenakik #togetherldb21

Website: princenikolaos.gr

About the Artist - HRH Prince Nikolaos

HRH Prince Nikolaos was born on 1 October 1969, in Rome, Italy. His parents, TM King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie, had moved there in 1967. In 1975 the family settled in London, where Prince Nikolaos was home educated for six years. He then attended the Hellenic College of London. In 1988 he began his studies in international relations at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, focusing on Diplomacy and National Security. During his sophomore year, he took a sabbatical to join the British Army on a Short Service Limited Commission, serving as 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Upon his college graduation (1993), Prince Nikolaos moved into TV production for Fox News in New York. He returned to London in 1995 to work in the foreign exchange options department of NatWest Markets. From 1997 to 2003 he worked in King Constantine's Family Office. Since then he has been active in business consulting.

An avid photographer for all his life, Prince Nikolaos has passionately dedicated himself to photography since 2013. In November 2015 he exhibited his work for the first time at Christie's in London. In March 2016 his photography was featured at The New York Times 'Art for Tomorrow' conference in Doha, Qatar. A selection of his photographs were also published in the book 'A Taste of Greece', published by teNeues. In June 2018, Prince Nikolaos had his first solo museum exhibition, titled 'Phos: A Journey of Light', at the Hellenic Museum in Melbourne, Australia. The artist was then commissioned by LA Organic, to produce a work, after the recommendation of Philippe Starck studio, which is currently exhibited at La Almazara, Spain.

In November 2018, the artist was invited by Sotheby's Jewelry to show 10 photographs from his series 'Phos' to a select audience. Sotheby's experts have dubbed prince Nikolaos' photographs 'Jewels from Greece'. In March of 2019, his collection titled 'Celestial Choreography', was exhibited in Rundetaarn, one of the most iconic buildings of Copenhagen, to great critical acclaim. In October and November of the same year, his dual exhibition 'Aegean Desert' opened up in Athens, Greece and Doha, Qatar, respectively. The exhibition, pairing images from the sea with images of the desert presented within site-specific art installations, was the first institutional collaboration between Benaki Museum of Islamic Art in Athens and Katara - Cultural Village Foundation in Doha.

HRH Prince Nikolaos sits on the Board of Knightsbridge Schools International, established in 2008 to develop and operate a network of international schools around the world. He is an active member and Advisor to the Board of Axion Hellas, a Greek non-profit volunteer organization supporting local communities in remote parts of the country. Prince Nikolaos and his wife Princess Tatiana (née Tatiana Blatnik) married in 2010. Three years later, they moved to Athens, Greece, where they currently reside.

About the Curator - Marilena Koutsoukou

Marilena Koutsoukou was born in Athens, Greece. She obtained a double BA in Economics and International Relations from Tufts University, USA, and a MA in Museum and Gallery Practice from UCL.

She has organised and curated many international cultural projects, as well as group and solo exhibitions, including in Athens, Mykonos, Doha, Copenhagen and Melbourne. She has collaborated extensively with HRH Prince Nikolaos and has curated all his solo shows. Her last curatorial project, the photography exhibition of HRH Prince Nikolaos titled 'Aegean Desert' was the first institutional collaboration between Greece and Qatar, as it was presented at Benaki Museum of Islamic Art in Athens and Katara Cultural Village in Doha.

She is passionate about Public Art and has participated in the Public Art Forum in Doha, organised by Qatar Museums, Qatar Foundation and the British Council, as a Speaker. She is also the Head of the Arts and Culture Cluster and a founding member of the Female Start Up Founders Cluster of the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) Women in Greece. She is also a Young Patron of the Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens.

Her boutique art platform Muse/Lab focuses on creating unique cultural bridges through the blend of diverse artistic styles.

About London Design Biennale

Established in 2016 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Biennale promotes international collaboration and the global role of design. The 2018 Biennale welcomed the world's most exciting and ambitious designers, innovators and cultural bodies to the capital.

The third edition of London Design Biennale will take place from 1-27 June 2021, curated by Artistic Director Es Devlin. Taking over the entirety of Somerset House, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court and River Terrace, participants will respond to the theme, Resonance, which considers the ripple effect of ground-breaking design concepts on the way we live, and the choices we make.

London Design Biennale's International Advisory Committee and Jury includes: Ms Paola Antonelli, Ms Victoria Broackes, Mr Aric Chen, Ms Es Devlin, Ms Nipa Doshi, Mr Ben Evans CBE, Mr James Lingwood MBE, Professor Jeremy Myerson, Mr Jonathan Reekie CBE, Dr. Christopher Turner, Ms Suhair Khan, Sir John Sorrell CBE, Ms Marva Griffin Wilshire and Mr Waldick Jatoba.

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About Somerset House

"Somerset House is London's working arts centre and home to the UK's largest creative community. Built on historic foundations, we are situated in the very heart of the capital. Dedicated to backing progress, championing openness, nurturing creativity and empowering ideas, our cultural programme is ambitious in scope. We insist on relevance, but aren't afraid of irreverence, and are as keen on entertainment as enrichment. We embrace the biggest issues of our times and are committed to oxygenating new work by emerging artists. Where else can you spend an hour ice-skating while listening to a specially commissioned sound piece by a cutting edge artist? It is this creative tension – the way we harness our heritage, put the too- often overlooked on our central stage and use our neo-classical backdrop to showcase ground-breaking contemporary culture – that inspires our programme. Old and new, history and disruption, art and entertainment, high-tech and homemade, combined with the fact that we are home to a constantly shape-shifting working creative community: this is our point of difference. It is what we are proud of. And it is what makes the experience of visiting or working in Somerset House inspiring and energising, urgent and exciting."

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