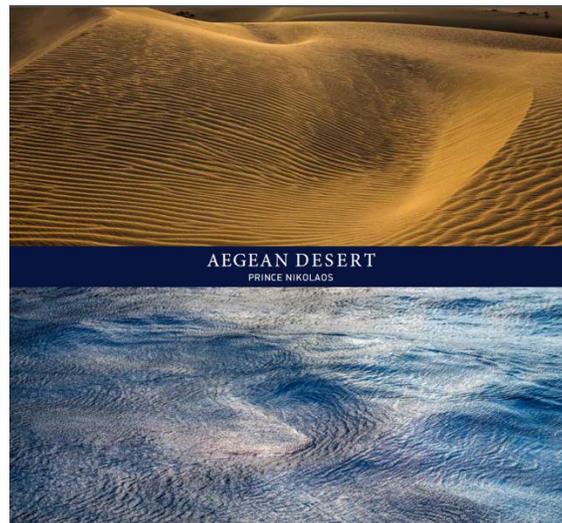


PRESS RELEASE

AEGEAN DESERT – H.R.H. PRINCE NIKOLAOS

Closing Reception of Photography Exhibition

Katara Cultural Village Foundation, Doha – Qatar



November 20, 2019 - January 15, 2020

The closing reception of H.R.H. Prince Nikolaos' latest photography exhibition *Aegean Desert* took place on Tuesday, January 14th 2020, at Katara Cultural Village Foundation, in Doha. This reception was accompanied by a live musical performance of Dana Alfardan's work. This was specially curated for the exhibition and performed live by the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra.

Prince Nikolaos, a champion of Greece and an avid traveler, is inspired by nature. During one of his trips to Doha, he met HE Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani, one of the world's leading art figures, who invited him to photograph and discover the Qatari desert. During his travels, he identified features reminiscent of his homeland Greece, which is the key source of his creativity. As a result, he attempted to highlight, through his lens, the parallels between the desert and the sea, elements that are so different and yet so similar. Upon his return to Greece, he began traveling and taking photographs of the Aegean Sea that related to his memories of Qatar. These images, on the one hand, accentuate the beauty and uniqueness of the desert and the sea, while on the other, underline the contrast of these elements. These photographs engage the viewer in a mental journey through a visual interplay of scenery and perception, creating an unexpected dialogue. This is how the idea for the exhibition 'Aegean Desert' was born, which constitutes the first institutional cultural initiative between Greece and Qatar.

The artist leads the visitor to transcend the geographical boundaries of a photography exhibition. He creates two art installations in Athens and in Doha, presenting images of the Aegean Sea and the Qatari desert side by side.

The works are displayed in specially designed spaces based on the aesthetics of each country. In Athens the photographs, which are printed on aluminium, are exhibited inside a Bedouin winter tent, or *bait-al-shaar*, which was created specifically for this exhibition in the courtyard of the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art, Athens. The floor is covered with carpets and contains a traditional Arab seating, or *majlis*.

The exhibitions are enriched with music by the renowned composers Evanthia Reboutsika and Dana Alfardan, highlighting the dialogue of cultures through art. In a world where images prevail, the artist seeks to establish an interactive relationship with the viewers and challenges them to see, hear, feel and thus participate in the creative process.

Both exhibitions are curated by Marilena Koutsoukou.

Prince Nikolaos has been active in the field of artistic photography since 2013. In November 2015, he exhibited his works for the first time at Christie's auction house 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 he held his first solo show at the Hellenic Museum in Melbourne, Australia titled 'Phos: A Journey of Light'. In November 2018, he was invited by Sotheby's Jewelry Auctions to present ten photographs from the 'Phos' collection. 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 March 2019, he held his second solo show titled 'Celestial Choreography' in Rundetaarn, one of the most iconic buildings in Copenhagen, to great critical acclaim.

VISITING INFORMATION

Cultural Village Foundation – Katara

Building 47, Gallery 2

Duration: 20/11/2019 - 15/01/2020

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