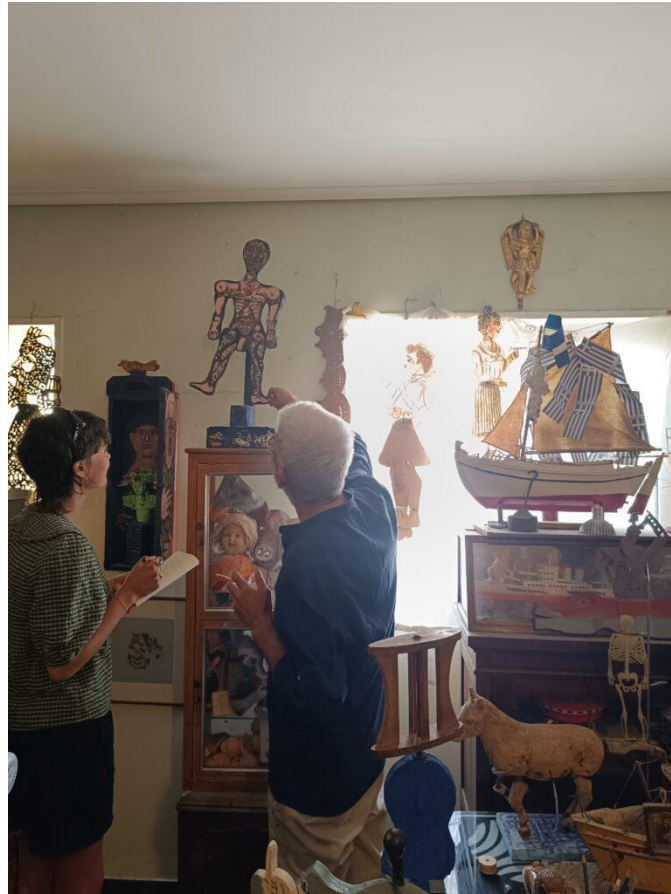


# The Courtauld

## The Residency Programme for Academic and Curatorial Research of Contemporary Greek Art 2025



Art Historian in residence Chloe Redston at the studio of the artist Tasos Mantzavinos, 2024

The Residency Programme for Academic and Curatorial Research of Contemporary Greek Art is a 6-week fully-funded residency in Athens, taking place twice a year, offering current Courtauld PhD candidates, MA students, 3rd-year BA students, and the most recent cohort of graduates the opportunity to develop their practice as art historians and curators, through engaging in academic research and the development of curatorial projects of their own.

Building on a broad network of art professionals from Athens-based institutions and leading practitioners living and working in Greece, the Residency Programme aims to create support channels for emerging curators and art historians, who want to expand academic research around contemporary figurative art and its connection to the international art scene, as well as develop their curatorial practice through engaging in a self-initiated project that builds on themes linked to The Sotiris Felios Collection and the community of Athens.

Residents are invited to spend six weeks in Athens, while developing research related to their proposal through learning about the Collection, meeting the artists associated with it and art professionals from leading museums and galleries.

The programme is supported by The *other* Arcadia Foundation.

# The Courtauld

## THE COLLECTION

The Sotiris Felios Collection is a private art collection that originated in Greece in the 1980s. From its inception, well renowned lawyer Sotiris Felios chose to orient himself towards the exploration of Greek figurative painting, particularly as it evolved during that period. The collection primarily focuses on the human being, showcasing works that emphasise realistic rendering and the profound complexities of human experience. All the works of art are the collector's personal choice. Over the following decades, the collection grew to include more than 1,200 works by contemporary artists, the majority of whom live and work in Greece. It includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, reliefs, constructions, and drawings by 138 artists, such as painters Yannis Moralis, Chronis Botsoglou, Christos Bokoros, Giorgos Rorris, Tassos Mantzavinos, Alecos Levidis, Kalliopi Asargiotaki, Michalis Manoussakis, Kostas Papanikolaou, Maria Filopoulou, Edouard Sacaillan, Maria Giannakaki, Anna-Maria Tsakali, and Emmanouil Bitsakis, as well as sculptors Takis, George Lappas, Natalia Mela, Pantelis Chandris, Michalis Kallimopoulos, Vally Nomidou and Andreas Lolis – to name but a few. In addition, its Library and Archives include over 3,000 artist monographs, exhibition catalogues, rare publications and periodicals, and extensive individual files. In the interest of making the collection accessible to the wider public, Sotiris Felios established "The *other* Arcadia" Foundation, which organises exhibitions of the collection's works both domestically and internationally, produces accompanying catalogues, and collaborates with institutions to facilitate loans of the artworks. Within this framework of collaborations, in 2022, has collaborated with The Courtauld Institute of Art in London to inaugurate the Residency Programme for Academic and Curatorial Research of Contemporary Greek Art—a six-week fully funded residency in Athens that invites curators and art historians, currently studying or recently graduated from The Courtauld, to expand the research around contemporary figurative art. Moreover, since 2021, "The *other* Arcadia" Foundation" has partnered with Google Arts & Culture, bringing over 350 artworks and 10 virtual exhibitions from The Sotiris Felios Collection to a global audience. The Sotiris Felios Collection is also a member of the BMW Art Guide by Independent Collector. In addition to the Foundation's activities, the collector has created 16 Fokionos Negri, a nonprofit project space in Athens to join the collaborative efforts of networks and exchanges with other cultural and educational organisations, fostering dialogue with the ever-evolving artistic community of Greece. The Sotiris Felios Collection does not present its works in a permanent, institutional manner. Instead, it embraces a nomadic approach, engaging in creative collaborations and partnerships worldwide. This dynamic model constantly pushes the boundaries of what an art collection can be, encouraging new interpretations and frameworks.

## THE SPACE

In 2009 Sotiris Felios created the "16 Fokionos Negri" project space in Kypseli, an Athens neighborhood that is constantly evolving, with the old-time grace of its distinctive bourgeois legacy.

Designed and constructed in 2009 by architects Maria Kokkinou and Andreas Kourkoulas, the exhibition space spans approximately 300 square meters. Located in the basement of a 1960s apartment block, which was originally a billiards room, 16 Fokionos Negri was carefully transformed into a versatile space that combines both functional and aesthetic qualities to serve the needs of contemporary art exhibitions. The initiative is structured as a not-for-profit entity, with a mission to support and promote artistic endeavors.

The venue serves as a welcoming hub for hosting and implementing art exhibitions, educational programmes, organizing cultural events, and fostering collaboration networks, partnerships, and exchanges with other cultural organizations. Through its diverse and innovative programming, 16 Fokionos Negri has established itself as a vital point of reference in Athens' contemporary art scene, attracting local and international artists,

curators, and art lovers alike. The space is dedicated not only to showcasing contemporary art but also to supporting emerging artists and curators. In its ongoing efforts to expand the accessibility and reach of contemporary Greek art, 16 Fokionos Negri has forged strong relationships with other cultural institutions and universities, such as the Athens School of Fine Arts and the University of Ioannina.

## RESIDENCY PROGRAMME DETAILS

### What we offer

- Round-trip airfare to and from Athens.
- Accommodation in a private apartment in the historic neighborhood of Kypseli—one of Athens' oldest areas, known for its vibrant cultural scene, diversity, and creative energy.
- A 700€ daily allowance/stipend to cover daily expenses
- Networking opportunities with leading art professionals.
- A bespoke programme of studio visits, art openings, and meetings with art practitioners.
- A tailored reading list curated specifically to support each resident's research proposal
- Ongoing guidance and research support throughout the residency

### What we expect

From the moment residents arrive, they will be immersed in the vibrant and unique art scene of Athens, while also experiencing the striking diversity of the local community in which the Residency is based.

### Art History Programme

Applicants with an art history background are invited to submit proposals for a research project that will culminate into a written essay. The resident will have the opportunity to spend time with artists of their choice, visit their studio and receive mentoring from leading art professionals, while developing a new body of research linked to contemporary figurative art and the Athenian art scene through an international lens. We expect residents to actively engage in the scheduled programme of visits and to produce a written summary (up to 500 words) of the research conducted based on their initial proposal by the end of the residency. The final research text (3,000-4,000 words) should be submitted by September 30th. It would be published to a professional standard in an international prestigious art journal or magazine, as well as in the Greek art press. Before submission the essay will be reviewed by the selection panel.

### Curatorial Programme

Applicants with a background in curating are invited to submit proposals for a new site-responsive project (exhibition, publication, series of talks, workshops etc) that will be presented in Athens at the end of their residency. Curators are encouraged in their application to draw ideas from The Sotiris Felios Collection and the city of Athens, proposing projects that align with the mission of the residency to increase awareness of Greek figurative contemporary art and the research and education happening in the region. We expect residents to develop a site-responsive project and to plan, curate, and implement a public project at our project space that builds on themes related to The Sotiris Felios Collection and the community of Athens. This could take the form of a presentation, lecture performance, exhibition, and/or public program. Residents are also expected to follow the tailored programme of visits, which will support the development of their project, and to collaborate with the team on its production. The curator will also be asked to give a curators' talk. They will receive production support to help facilitate the final project.

## ADMISSION PROCESS

Residents will be selected through a written application and interview, with the admission panel consisting of two representatives from Courtauld Institute and two appointed by The Sotiris Felios Collection. The residency is offered to students from the following courses:

- BA History of Art (3<sup>rd</sup> year students)
- MA Curating the Art Museum
- MA History of Art
- PhD candidates
- Courtauld alumni (2023-2024)

## DATES

- June/July 2025 (art history programme)
- September/October 2025 (curatorial programme)

(Exact dates of the residency to be confirmed with the participants)

### **Submission deadline: 22th April 2025**

*We are currently accepting applications for June/July 2024 (Art History Programme)*

**Successful applicants will be notified and invited for an interview, which will take place online on May 12, 2025.**

## CONDITIONS

- Agree to reside in Athens for the full duration of the residency with minimal external commitments
- Commit to an intensive schedule of research, meetings and studio visits
- Commit to fully developing the project proposed

## APPLICATION

Please send your application as a single PDF file to [residency@felioscollection.gr](mailto:residency@felioscollection.gr) with the subject line: "Residency Application – [Name]"

- Completed and signed application form
- Curriculum Vitae (no more than 2 pages)
- Completed and signed reference form
- 500-word proposal on the research you are willing to undertake within the Sotiris Felios Collection
- 300-word text outlining your motivation for participating in this residency, explaining how it would benefit your long-term academic or curatorial practice.
- a writing sample of up to 3,000 words (we suggest you submit formally assessed work submitted as part of your degree or post-graduate studies)
- A selection of previous projects (include documentation of past projects, such as exhibitions, essays, publications, or other relevant work - no more than 2 pages)



Curator in residence Elisa Ferroni with the artist Antonis Staveris, 2024

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Dora Vasilakou, Managing Director**

[residency@felioscollection.gr](mailto:residency@felioscollection.gr)

[info@felioscollection.gr](mailto:info@felioscollection.gr)

**Collection website**

<https://felioscollection.gr/en/>

**Exhibition space website**

<https://16fokionosnegri.gr/en/>

**Google Arts & Culture**

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-sotiris-felios-collection>

**BMW Art Partner**

<https://bmw-art-guide.com/categories/collections/the-sotiris-felios-collection>

**Social Media accounts**

@felioscollection (Instagram)

@SotirisFeliosCollection (Facebook)

@felioscollection (Vimeo Channel)

