

The Sotiris Felios Collection Residency Programme 2026 Guide Book

The Residency Programme for Academic and Curatorial Research of Contemporary Greek Art is a 6-week 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 thematics linked to The Sotiris Felios Collection and the community of Athens.



Art Historian in residence, Erika Dovey, during a visit to Alecos Levidis' atelier

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 COLLECTION

The Sotiris Felios Collection is a private art collection that originated in Greece in the 1980s. From its inception, well renowned Greek 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 and constructions 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.



Curator in Residence, Jeanne-Eugénie Gatineau, at Nikos Moschos' Studio

In the interest of making the collection accessible to a wider public, Sotiris Felios established The *other* Arcadia Foundation, which organises exhibitions of works from the collection both in Greece and internationally, produces accompanying catalogues, and collaborates with institutions to facilitate loans of artworks. Through sponsorships, the Foundation also supports publications and exhibitions by artists within the Sotiris Felios Collection network, as well as projects, works, and collections beyond this network that contribute meaningfully to the contemporary cultural landscape. All activities and outputs are operated on a non-profit basis. 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 11 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. At this venue, it develops collaborations with educational institutions and other cultural entities in Greece and abroad, fostering research, learning, and public engagement with Greece's ever-evolving artistic community. 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 16 Fokionos Negri, a nonprofit project space located in Kypseli, a vibrant and constantly evolving neighbourhood of Athens, known for the old-time grace of its distinctive bourgeois legacy.

Designed and constructed by architects Maria Kokkinou and Andreas Kourkoulas, the exhibition space occupies approximately 300 square meters in the basement of a 1960s apartment building that was originally a billiards room. Thoughtfully transformed, the venue balances functional versatility with aesthetic refinement to meet the demands of contemporary art exhibitions.

Structured as a not-for-profit initiative, 16 Fokionos Negri supports and promotes artistic endeavors by hosting exhibitions, educational programmes, cultural events, and fostering collaborations and exchanges with other cultural organizations. Through its diverse and innovative programming, the space has become a vital point of reference within Athens' contemporary art scene, attracting local and international artists, curators, and art lovers alike. Dedicated to showcasing contemporary art, it also places emphasis on supporting emerging artists and curators. Committed to expanding the accessibility and reach of contemporary Greek art, 16 Fokionos Negri maintains strong relationships with cultural institutions and universities such as the Athens School of Fine Arts and the University of Ioannina, further enriching its role as a hub for research, learning, and public engagement.



Curator in Residence, Jeanne-Eugénie Gatineau, at Irini Iliopoulou's Studio

More information about 16 Fokionos Negri, including current and past exhibitions, programmes, and events, can be found on its official website: 16fokionosnegri.gr/en

RESIDENCY PROGRAMME DETAILS

What we offer

- Round-trip airfare to and from Athens.
- Accommodation in a private apartment in the historic neighbourhood of Kypseli—one of Athens' oldest areas, known for its vibrant cultural scene, diversity, and creative energy. Residents stay alone in the apartment, which is within walking distance of the project space.
- 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 will be published to a professional standard in a collective volume in 2027, commemorating the five-year anniversary of the programme, as well as featured 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. A critical engagement with themes and research questions currently prominent in the contemporary art discourse, along with a reflective and critical perspective on institutions and collections today, will be especially appreciated. 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 three representatives from the Courtauld Institute and two externals appointed by The Sotiris Felios Collection. The residency is offered to students from the following courses:

- BA History of Art (Final year students only)
- Graduate Diploma
- MA History of Art
- MA Art and Business
- MA Curating
- MA Contemporary Art and the Moving Image
- MA in the Conservation of Easel Paintings
- MA in Conservation of Wall Paintings
- MA in Preventive Conservation
- MA in Art History and Conservation of Buddhist Heritage
- PhD candidate
- Courtauld alumni (Class of 2024-25)

DATES

Art History Programme

- Application Deadline: 16 April 2026
- Residency: June/July 2026

Curatorial Programme

- Application Deadline: 17 May 2026
- Residency: September/October 2026

Exact dates of the residency to be confirmed with the participants after interviews.

Successful applicants will be invited for an online interview with a panel of representatives nominated by the Sotiris Felios Collection and the Courtauld Institute of Art.

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 and meeting all deadlines.

APPLICATION

Please send your application as a single PDF file to residency@felioscollection.gr with the subject line "Residency Application 2026 – [Name]", including the following:

- 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)
- Curatorial Programme only: A selection of previous projects (include documentation of past projects, such as exhibitions, essays, publications, or other relevant work - no more than 2 pages)

CONTACT DETAILS

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Heather Dorgan, Courtauld Assistant

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Collection website

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

Exhibition space website

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

Social Media accounts

@felioscollection (Instagram)

@SotirisFeliosCollection (Facebook)

@felioscollection (Vimeo Channel)

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>



Art Historian in residence Erika Dovey, during a visit to the Alekos Fassianos Museum, June 2025