

Athens, October 11, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Award of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) to Dimitris Daskalopoulos

Dimitris Daskalopoulos received an Honorary OBE award by his Majesty The King of the United Kingdom in recognition of his services to arts and philanthropy.

Dimitris Daskalopoulos, founder of the D.Daskalopoulos Collection and NEON, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting contemporary arts in Greece, firmly believes that art has the power to bring people together, enrich lives, act as a catalyst for change, and broaden cultural horizons.

In this framework, Mr Daskalopoulos has consistently supported arts in Greece and abroad for more than 25 years. This culminated in April 2022 with the donation of 350 works from the D.Daskalopoulos Collection to four major museums (EMST, Guggenheim, MCA Chicago, Tate).

Firm supporter of the British art scene and through the D.Daskalopoulos Collection (1994) and its open lending policy, he has supported exhibitions across the UK, also ensuring long-term loans, a number of joint acquisitions and promised gifts such as the work *Babel*, 2001 by Cildo Meireles at Tate. Mr Daskalopoulos was appointed a member of the Tate International Council in 2004 and is a founding member of the Whitechapel Gallery's Future Fund (2011). Thematic exhibitions of the D.Daskalopoulos Collection have been held at the Whitechapel Gallery, London, (2010) and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2012). He has been a steadfast supporter and sponsor of permanent curatorial and educational posts at all three institutions.

NEON exhibitions have included works and new commissions to British artists, including Antony Gormley on the archaeological site of Delos, Richard Long and Michael Landy in Athens, to a broad international audience. The NEON scholarship and curatorial exchange programmes in collaboration with the Whitechapel Gallery, the Courtauld Institute of Art, the Royal College of Art and London Metropolitan University, have enabled Greek students and curators to interact with their British counterparts and forge networks that will enhance the cultural relationship between the two countries for years to come.

Through the D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift, Tate received 110 works from 53 artists, including works by artists not previously represented in its collection and which are now able to be enjoyed by British and international visitors.

Mr Daskalopoulos's philanthropy in support of the creative arts and contribution to British civic society have recently been recognised in the naming of the D.Daskalopoulos Gallery at the Whitechapel Gallery (2022), and the award of an honorary doctorate from the Goldsmiths, University of London (2023).

See the announcement [here](#).

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is awarded on an annual basis by His Majesty King Charles III in recognition of a person's role, in any field, through achievement or service to the community. The Order of the British Empire was established on 4 June 1917 by King George V, during the First World War, with the aim of initially honouring the contribution of citizens and especially non-combatant volunteers. This was the first time women were accorded official recognition for public service. It was made permanent in 1922 as recognition for contribution to Arts, Sciences, Philanthropy and Public service.

The Order consists of five ranks. The ranks of Knight and Dame correspond to the two senior grades, while the others in descending order are Commander (CBE), Officer (OBE), and Member (MBE).

The order's insignia were designed by the artist Elinor Hall (1856–1926), who was made a Commander of the Order (CBE).

For more information please visit:

<https://ddcollection.org>

<https://neon.org.gr>

Press contacts:

Efi Lazaridou, Reliant Communications, elazaridou@reliant.gr +30 6932 296 850

Abigail Varian, Sutton, abigail@suttoncomms.com +44 (0) 7841 199 426