

Athens, 20 May 2024

PRESS RELEASE

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

Special ceremony held at the Residence of the British Ambassador to Greece

Dimitris Daskalopoulos received The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) award in recognition of his services to the arts and philanthropy, during a special ceremony held at the Residence of the British Ambassador to Greece.

The Honorary OBE was awarded to Dimitris Daskalopoulos by His Majesty's Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic **Mr. Matthew Lodge**, who stated *"The UK honours system celebrates the people who go above and beyond to change the world around them for the better. Which leads me neatly to the reason why we are all gathered here this evening on this happy occasion: to celebrate Dimitris Daskalopoulos's investiture as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.*

A prominent and respected figure in the business world, known for his leadership and contributions to various industries. But also, a philanthropist and a man of the arts and culture. His charitable initiatives and generosity have had significant social impact in culture and the arts."

Dr Maria Balshaw CBE, Director of Tate, noted *"The D.Daskalopoulos Collection Gift tells us a lot about the man who bestowed it. It speaks of his whole-hearted faith in the public museum and the people who run them. He recognises the unique position of the museum - of our ability to display extraordinary works of art to the broadest possible audience, and, in his words, to hold works in dialogue with the art of the future. He has transformed a private collection into a public resource."*

Sir Nicholas Serota CH, Chair of Arts Council England mentioned *"Over thirty years Dimitris Daskalopoulos created one of the exceptional collections in Europe or America. His generosity in placing this collection for long term public benefit in museums in Athens, Chicago, New York and London is unprecedented."*

Mr Daskalopoulos has consistently supported arts in Greece and abroad for more than 30 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).

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.

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).

For more information please visit:

<https://ddcollection.org>

<https://neon.org.gr>

The Sovereign has the sole right of conferring titles of honour on deserving people from all walks of life, in public recognition of their merit, service or bravery. The United Kingdom's [honours system recognises](#) and rewards people for their achievements, contributions, and service to society. The awards are usually announced on New Year's Day and the King's official birthday. Further information available on <https://www.royal.uk/the-king-and-honours>

Press contacts:

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