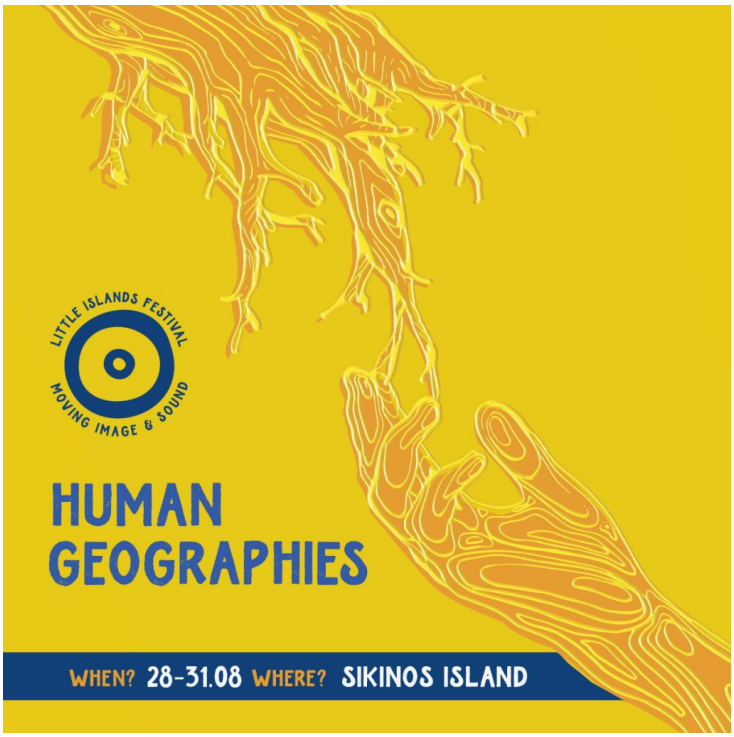
Little Islands Festival | Human Geographies





For yet another year, **Little Islands Festival** renews its August appointment with the public in an original and multi-thematic cultural four-day event that will take place in **Sikinos** from **28 to 31 August.**

In a traditional rural setting that seems unchanged in time, the **5th edition** under the title "**Human Geographies**" is a journey of exploring the profound and reciprocal relationship between **man and nature**, where the legacies of the past intersect with the **rural-urban** and **local-global** interdependencies of today.

Starting from the **Cycladic landscape** of Sikinos, every part of the island becomes a space for creation, discovery and knowledge in a unique and interactive cultural experience.

Site-specific research processes, **hybrid tours**, **outdoor film screenings** focusing on the environment and climate challenges, **live audiovisual performances**, **installations**, **VR projects**, **happenings**, **live music & DJ sets** compose a multitude of actions open to the public that invite artists, residents and visitors to become fellow travelers.

Higher academic institutions in Greece are also giving **dynamic participation** in the festival with project teams from the **University of Western Macedonia** and the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** developing **on-site projects** in interaction with the **monument of Episkopi** and exploring aspects of the biotic interactions between humans, history and the environment.



The-Infinite-Library, cpourtesy of Little Island Festival
A hint of the artistic programme of the 5th Little islands Festival.]
Exploratory Artistic Processes - In Search of Neiko

Project Team

George Katsaggelos: Professor of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Director of New Media Labs.

Yannis Ziogas: Dean - Professor, University of Western Macedonia, TEET Florina.

George Drossos: Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of Fine Arts, Department of Visual and Applied Arts.

Support & Research Team: 8 Students

Focusing on the **Episkopi of Sikinos** as a **symbol** of the island's **identity**, the project team of the University of Western Macedonia and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki present a series of sub-projects in the framework of the research project **"Seeking Neiko"**. Emphasizing **gender aspects** of the relationship with the natural and man-made environment, the project aims to revitalize the cultural heritage composing a **special palimpsest** through the conjunction of the past with the present.

Yannis Ziogas with his work **"A Neiko for Sikinos"** invites visitors and artists to participate in a **walking retrospective** of the paradoxical conditions of Neiko's burial but also of the role of women. The dialogue is dynamically extended through the projection mapping work **"Fireburnt cities"** by **Giorgos Drossos** and the projection of the photographic documentary **"Women of the World"** by **Giorgos Katsaggelos**. Impressions, conclusions through the new technologies of **artificial intelligence**, **augmented reality** and **QR code** will be presented by 8 students of AUTH and UWM during the festival.



Seeking Neiko University of Western Macedonia. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, courtesy of Little Islands Festival
Audiovisual Performance + VR Experience]
On the borders of installation and performance, **?On Connection?** by **Valentina Berthelon** and **Flora Päär** (Italy/ Mexico/ Germany) explores and revitalizes **myths**, **symbols** and **rituals** through sounds, virtual reality, visual effects and digital narratives. Creating a **sacred spacetime**, the audience is invited through waiting, silence and observation into an **immersive journey** of exploration and revelation of the network of symbiosis and interaction of the human-nature relationship.



Courtesy of Little Islands Festival
Audiovisual Installations]
The installations compose a **walking experience** that connects technology, the Cycladic landscape and nature. Czech creators **Mika Johnson** and **Ján Tompkins'** immersive VR installation **"The Infinite Library"** reimagines the future of libraries as **interactive spaces** that integrate human stories into a larger narrative of the birth of the planet and the evolution of all life forms.

In collaboration with Istorima Archive, a stone-built paraport of the settlement interacts with narratives of people and places on **social** and **environmental issues**, turning the art of Podcast into an **outdoor audio experience**. Memory and matter come to life through **oral history** and place the listener at the center of a **spatio-temporal wander** through alternative perspectives and experiences on timeless and universal concerns.



Courtesy of Little Islands Festival

Film Screenings]

Filmmaking invests the main programme of the Festival with works by Greek and foreign directors and serves as a means of informing, raising awareness and challenging the public's perception of social and environmental issues facing modern societies. The **cinematic panorama** is composed of newly produced films (documentaries, short films, animation) that deal with local environmental issues. The feature documentary **?Being an Islander?** by **Dimitris Bouras** will be the closing film of the 5th edition. The programme also includes open talks with the filmmakers.



Federika aka Flora Paar On Connection, courtesy of Little Islands Festival

Happenings]

Crisis or Croesus. Is there really a crisis or is this all the result of a persistent profit tactic that puts the environment and the well-being of the people on our planet above all else? What can I as an **individual** and **citizen** do about this issue practically?

Angeliki Pardalidou in direct interaction with the audience invites us to **visualize** and **decide** what would be the **ideal situation** on the issue. What kind of world we really want to live in, if everything could be magically changed the way we would like it to be.



Dimitrios Bouras Being an Islander, courtesy of Little Island Festival

Alternative Tours]

Project ESC: Explore, Scan, Connect is an innovative way of touring created by the artistic duo Aristotle George Zogas and Donatella Nika **(DnA)**, as part of the LIF Residency 2022 artistic residency and research program. Start a walk across the island, take the **traditional path** from the old Primary School to Alopronia, explore the country passing through the **windmills** to the **Monastery of Zoodochos Pigi** and back to **Episkopi**, map your route, scan the QR codes, put on your headphones and follow the dozens of narratives that await you.

Live Music & DJ sets]

Sound Surfaces, Fabio Luis Amaral / Duat, Brazil, Greece 2023. **Live electroniques sounds** produced by the natural environment, **rhythmic progressive patterns**, **analogue** and **digital compositions** in an **in situ** listening and interaction with the **perpetual ritual of nature**... the sun setting?

Simun. George Daris, Athanasios Polyzos, Angelos Angelou, Greece 2023.

Simun is a partnership of diverse musical personalities with each one of them bringing their own experience. As the burning rushing wind (Simun) carries huge amounts of sand from Africa and the Arabian Peninsula to Europe, Simun carries with it their own style, **melodies** and **songs** from the **East**, **Smyrna**, the **Balkans** and the **Greek tradition.**

Admission to all screenings and events is free of charge.

More information about the detailed programme of LIF 2023 and this year's theme "Human Geographies" will be announced at https://littleislandsfest.com/

#LIF23 #greekfestival #HumanGeographies #Sikinos #Cyclades

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Strategic operator of the Little Islands Festival: Creative Islands & New Media

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Creative Partners: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Western Macedonia.