Anna Mykoniati

Biographical Profile

Anna Mykoniati (born in Oxford in 1980) is an art historian and exhibition curator with extensive experience in the development and delivery of exhibitions and cultural programmes, research and documentation of artworks, and the establishment of collaborations between cultural institutions in Greece and abroad. Since 2016, she has worked at the National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens (EMST) as Scientific Associate to the Director and Exhibition Curator. Previously, she worked at the State Museum of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki, contributing to major exhibition projects, including the Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art.

Her professional practice encompasses the curation of contemporary art exhibitions and the management of complex museum projects, as well as the development of public programmes, international collaborations and educational initiatives. She has worked with artists, curators, researchers and cultural institutions across different institutional and geographical contexts, contributing both to the development of exhibition concepts and content and to their organisational coordination and implementation.

Her curatorial and research interests focus on the relationships between contemporary art, historical and collective memory, cultural heritage, and the social and political conditions under which art is produced and received. A particular area of interest is the authenticity of artworks and historical documents, including the relationship between originals and copies, the construction of cultural value, and the mechanisms through which art acquires institutional recognition. Her work has also addressed questions of representation, space, ecology, gender and contemporary forms of cultural experience.

She holds a PhD in Art History from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her doctoral dissertation, *Forged Antiquities: Another Perspective on the Reception of Cultural Heritage in the Modern Greek State*, examines the relationship between historical knowledge, authenticity and the reception of the past in the formation of modern Greek cultural identity. She also holds an MA in Heritage Management from the University of Birmingham, awarded with Merit, and a BA in History and Archaeology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

She has taught the course *Cultural Management* in the Department of Digital Arts and Cinema at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Her academic and professional background combines art history and theory with curatorial practice and the management of cultural institutions, bringing together the interpretation of artworks and an understanding of the institutional, organisational and social conditions in which they are presented.

Professional Experience

National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens (ΕΜΣΤ), Athens | 2016–present
Scientific Associate to the Director and Exhibition Curator

At EMST, she contributes to the planning, curating, coordination and delivery of exhibitions; the development of collaborations with artists and cultural organisations; and the production of accompanying publications, public programmes and events. Her work has included contributing to the installation of the museum's permanent collection, the presentation of new acquisitions, the development of international exhibition partnerships, and the organisation of artistic and educational programmes.

State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki | 2006–2016
Exhibition Curator

She participated in the preparation and delivery of exhibitions and international events, with particular emphasis on the Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, research and educational programmes, and the presentation of collections. Her responsibilities included exhibition organisation, catalogue editing, production coordination, and collaboration with artists and institutions in Greece and abroad.

Earlier Professional Experience

In 2005–2006, she worked on educational programmes and guided tours at the State Museum of Contemporary Art and contributed to the cataloguing and digitisation of the Costakis Collection and Archive. In 2004, she undertook an internship in Marketing and Corporate Hospitality at Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery. She also volunteered at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, working on the cataloguing and management of archaeological finds.

Selected Curatorial and Exhibition Projects

The following selection illustrates the breadth of her professional practice, encompassing curating and co-curating, exhibition coordination, international collaborations and public programmes.

Exhibitions and Programmes at EMST

- **Why Look at Animals?** (2025–2026), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition coordination.
- **Seagarden** (2025–2026), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition coordination.
- **I even lost my shadow** (2025–2026), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Organisation and coordination of a public programme of screenings, discussions and performances.
- **Bertille Bak: Spotlight** (2024–2025), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition curation.
- **Eleni Pitaris Pangalou: The Unknown Drawings** (2024–2025), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition curation.

- **Malvina Panagiotidi: All Dreams Are Vexing** (2024), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition and catalogue curation.
- **Alexis Blake: Allegory of the Painted Woman** (2023), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Curation.
- **Modern Love: Love in the Age of Cold Intimacy** (2022–2023), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition coordination.
- **Dan Perjovschi: The Long Wall Report** (2023–2024), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Curation of an in situ installation.
- **Jennifer Nelson: Waste/Heritage – A Public Negotiation of the Repressed** (2022–2023), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition curation.
- **Unpacking My Library** (2018), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Co-curation of the exhibition and accompanying catalogue.
- **New Acquisitions 2014–2017** (2017–2018), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Co-curation of the exhibition and documentation of works for the catalogue.
- **Chinese Painting XIEYI** (2017), National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Exhibition coordination and editing of the Greek-language catalogue.

International Exhibitions and Collaborations

- **Thalassa: The Sea in Greek Art from Antiquity until Today** (2022), Shanghai Museum, China. Exhibition curation, in co-organisation with the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and the Shanghai Museum.
- **In the Beginning Was the Word** (2018–2019), National Museum of China, Beijing. Co-curation of an exhibition of works from the EMST collection and its catalogue.
- **Jan Fabre: Glass and Bones Sculptures 1977–2017** (2017), collateral programme of the 57th Venice Biennale. Exhibition coordination and organisation.
- **documenta 14** (2017), collaboration between EMST and the Fridericianum, Kassel. Coordination of the institutional collaboration.
- **Die getäuschte Wissenschaft. Ein Genie betrügt Europa** (2014), Department of Art History, University of Vienna. Exhibition and catalogue curation.
- **Crossings – Heterotopias: The Concept of Space in Contemporary Greek Art** (2011), Spazio Oberdan, Milan, as part of the *Milano Incontra la Grecia* festival. Co-curation of the exhibition and accompanying publication.
- **Heterotopias: Selections from the 1st Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art** (2008), Belgrade Cultural Centre. Exhibition curation.

Biennials, Independent Curatorial Projects and Other Exhibitions

- **Graceland: The Triumph of an Uncertain Journey** (2022–2023), 8th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art. Exhibition curation.
- **The Body and Other Stories** (2015), Centre of Contemporary Art of Thessaloniki. Exhibition co-curation.
- **Alkis Pierrakos / Lepanto – The Battle of Lepanto** (2014–2015), State Museum of Contemporary Art and Benaki Museum – Chatzikyriakos-Ghika Gallery. Exhibition coordination and catalogue editing.
- **Living History – Living Nature** (2014), Municipality of Almopia and State Museum of Contemporary Art. Curation of the workshop and exhibition.
- **Tempus Ritualis** (2014), Centre of Contemporary Art of Thessaloniki. Exhibition coordination.
- **The White House Biennial** (2013–2014), 4th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, White Tower. Curation of the presentation.
- **Mysteria** (2012), Centre of Contemporary Art of Thessaloniki. Exhibition curation.
- **Contextes / Συγκείμενα** (2011), French Institute of Thessaloniki, solo exhibition by Vasiliki Matta. Exhibition curation and accompanying publication.
- **Aftermath** (2010), 45th Dimitria Festival, Old Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, featuring works by Giorgos Efstathoulidis and Kornilios Grammenos. Exhibition and catalogue curation.
- **Islands Never Found / Isole Mai Trovate** (2010), State Museum of Contemporary Art. Assistant curator to Katerina Koskina.
- **2nd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art – International Artists' Workshop** (2009). Curation of the workshop, exhibition and catalogue.
- **e-MobiLArt** (2009), State Museum of Contemporary Art. Coordination of the exhibition, catalogue and associated symposium.
- **1st Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art** (2006–2007). Assistant curator to Jan-Erik Lundström.
- **Routes of the Russian Avant-Garde: Works from the Costakis Collection of the State Museum of Contemporary Art** (2007–2008), Foundation of Thracian Art and Tradition, Xanthi, and Archaeological Museum of Kavala. Exhibition co-curation and design and implementation of an educational programme.

Other projects include **Building a Babel Tower**, a solo exhibition by Giorgos Tserionis (DL Gallery, 2017); **The Dinner** (Thessaloniki Sports Museum, 2007); and **Biennale Routes** (Archaeological Museum of Kavala and Naousa Cultural Centre, 2007). She also served on the organising committee of the European Mobile Lab for Interactive Media Artists project (2007–2009). In addition, she contributed to the organisation and documentation of **Visual**

Arts Panorama in Greece 06 and **Visual Arts Panorama in Greece 07**, which surveyed artistic activity in Athens and Thessaloniki.

Teaching and Public Programmes

Education and the public dimension of the museum have been consistent elements of her professional practice. She has designed and delivered educational programmes, guided tours and workshops for diverse audiences, and coordinated discussions, screenings, performances and interdisciplinary events.

In 2023, she taught *Cultural Management* as an appointed lecturer in the Department of Digital Arts and Cinema at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. At EMST, her work has included public programmes such as **Tools and the Home: A Feminist Tour of the Collection Exhibition** and **Our Waste, Our Heritage**, a conversation with artist Jennifer Nelson (2022). She also coordinated **MicroDances Athens: An Ideal City**, in collaboration with the Greek National Opera (2021), as well as events within the Hellenic Ministry of Culture's **All of Greece, One Culture** programme (2020).

Academic Publications and Writing

Her research and writing encompass studies of authenticity and forgery, cultural heritage, contemporary Greek art, memory, space and ecology, alongside exhibition catalogue essays and critical reviews. Her work has been published in Greek, English and German.

Selected Academic Publications

- "Painting in Contemporary Art between the Market and Museums", *Octopus*, issue 3, *Oblique Echoes: Art, Economy, Citizenship, Institutions*, EMST, 2026.
- "Artistic Echoes of Responsibility: Reflections on Jennifer Nelson's Work at EMST", in *Jennifer Nelson: Waste (Heritage) – A Public Negotiation of the Repressed*, National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens, Athens, 2026, pp. 147–150.
- "Graceland: The Triumph of an Uncertain Journey", in *8th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art*, MOMus, 2023, pp. 104–127.
- "The Sea as a Hyperobject in Contemporary Greek Art", in *Thalassa: The Sea in Greek Art from Antiquity until Today*, Shanghai Museum, 2022, pp. 40–47 (Greek and Chinese).
- "Tanagra Figurines: When Art Copies Art", in A. Koukouvou (ed.), *Copying the Past: Stories of Imitation and Inspiration*, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, 2023, pp. 200–211.
- "Oscillations of Memory in Art: Two Examples from the EMST Collection", in *ENTER EMST*, guide to the permanent collection of EMST, Athens, 2020, pp. 34–36.
- "Is Fake the New Original?", *kunsttexte.de*, 2018.

- “Biographische Bemerkungen zu Konstantinos Simonides”, in A. E. Müller, L. Diamantopoulou, C. Gastgeber and A. Katsiakiori-Rankl (eds.), *Die getäuschte Wissenschaft. Ein Genie betrügt Europa – Konstantinos Simonides*, Vienna University Press / Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Vienna, 2017, pp. 87–108.
- *Forged Antiquities: Another Perspective on the Reception of Cultural Heritage in the Modern Greek State*, doctoral dissertation, Thessaloniki, 2014.
- “The Terror of Happiness: Somos felices aquí”, *Thessalonikeon Polis*, issue 46, December 2013.

Exhibition Catalogue Essays and Critical Writing

- “Writing and Painting Serve One Purpose: To Reveal Inner Goodness”, in *In the Beginning Was the Word: Concepts – Images – Writing*, EMST, Beijing, 2018, pp. 26–31.
- *Die getäuschte Wissenschaft. Ein Genie betrügt Europa*, University of Vienna, 2014, pp. 32–33.
- *To Err Is Human, to Forgive Divine*, in *2310. 10 Curators – 10 Projects*, Thessaloniki, 2016, pp. 38–39.
- *Old Crossings: Make It New*, in the context of the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, 2011, pp. 33–34.
- *Aftermath / Giorgos Efstathoulidis, Kornilios Gramm enos*, exhibition catalogue, Thessaloniki, 2010.
- *Same Place – Different Times*, 2nd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, International Young Artists’ Workshop, Thessaloniki, 2010, pp. 18–24.
- *Mary Kyriazopoulou: Retrospective*, Thessaloniki, 2008.
- *Collage, Cut. Paste*, Thessaloniki, 2008.
- *1st Thessaloniki Biennale*, Thessaloniki, 2007.
- “Spaces of Alienation”, in *Visual Arts Panorama in Greece 2006: Crossing the Boundaries*, Athens, 2006.
- “Food in Art: Genre Scenes”, *Provlita*, issue 001, spring 2006.

Forthcoming Publications

- “Why You Should Not Become a Contemporary Art Curator – and Why Some of Us Still Persist”.
- “Raffaello Ceccoli or Raphael Tsekolis: A Foreigner at the Beginnings of Painting in the Greek State”.

Education

2012 – PhD in Art History, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of History and Archaeology. Dissertation: *Forged Antiquities: Another Perspective on the Reception of Cultural Heritage in the Modern Greek State*. Supervisor: Professor Antonis Kotidis. Awarded *Excellent unanimously*.

2004 – MA in Heritage Management, University of Birmingham, Ironbridge Institute. Awarded with Merit.

2002 – BA in History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Final grade: 8.92/10 (*Excellent*).

2001 – Socrates–Erasmus student exchange programme, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy.

Languages

English, French and Italian.