



INTERCONTINENTAL®
CRETE

CRETE | MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES





Drawing inspiration from the historically rich Cretan landscape and the majestic natural rock formation that commands the center of the building, an enduring cavern takes form in the human imagination, concealing hybrid creatures of Cretan mythology. This mystical cavern, in particular, is conceived as an alternate realm blurring the lines between fantasy and reality, which brings to light the mysterious discovery of these otherworldly mythological entities for visitors.

ART CURATION



Nikomachi Karakostanoglou

Nikomachi was born and raised in Athens. She studied Business Administration at the Athens University of Economics and Business. She pursued her studies in London, where she attended the B.A. in Public Art at the Chelsea School of Art and the B.A. (Hons) in Fine Art: Sculpture at the Wimbledon School of Art. In 2011 she departs for Shanghai where she studies Chinese calligraphy, through which she explores new forms of capturing water and transparency. Since her return from Shanghai, she works exclusively on her drawings and sculptures, challenging herself with the scale of her artworks and with the materials she has been collecting during her journeys in Asia. In 2019 she attended an art residency at the desert of Atacama in Chile. In parallel with her artistic practice, she undertakes curatorial projects for luxury hotels, focusing mainly on Greek contemporary artists. She exhibits her work on several international galleries. She has recently installed her first ever digital work in public space at Plasmata II Ioannina, by Stegi / Onassis Foundation and a bronze public art work commissioned by the Onassis Foundation at the headquarters of the foundation in Athens.

LOBBY

The imposing sculpture by Petros Moris at the lobby entrance takes inspiration from Crete's mythological and geological heritage. Bringing together deconstructed forms of the Minotaur and the Sphinx (both important symbols of the ancient iconography of Crete), the work is suggested as a dynamic hybrid that oscillates between cultural understandings of power and fragility, the transformational character, and the ambiguous otherness of mythological beings. Its earthly materiality, informed by the geological systems present on the island, reflects the special geological elements of the hotel's architecture while bringing into dialogue the Earth's deep timescale with human history. This relationship is also highlighted upon the sculpture's "plinth", where the inscription "A KNΩΣI P" (adopted directly from a Minoan coin representing the famous Labyrinth) is suggested as an allegory about mystery and knowledge.





THE ARTIST

Petros Moris

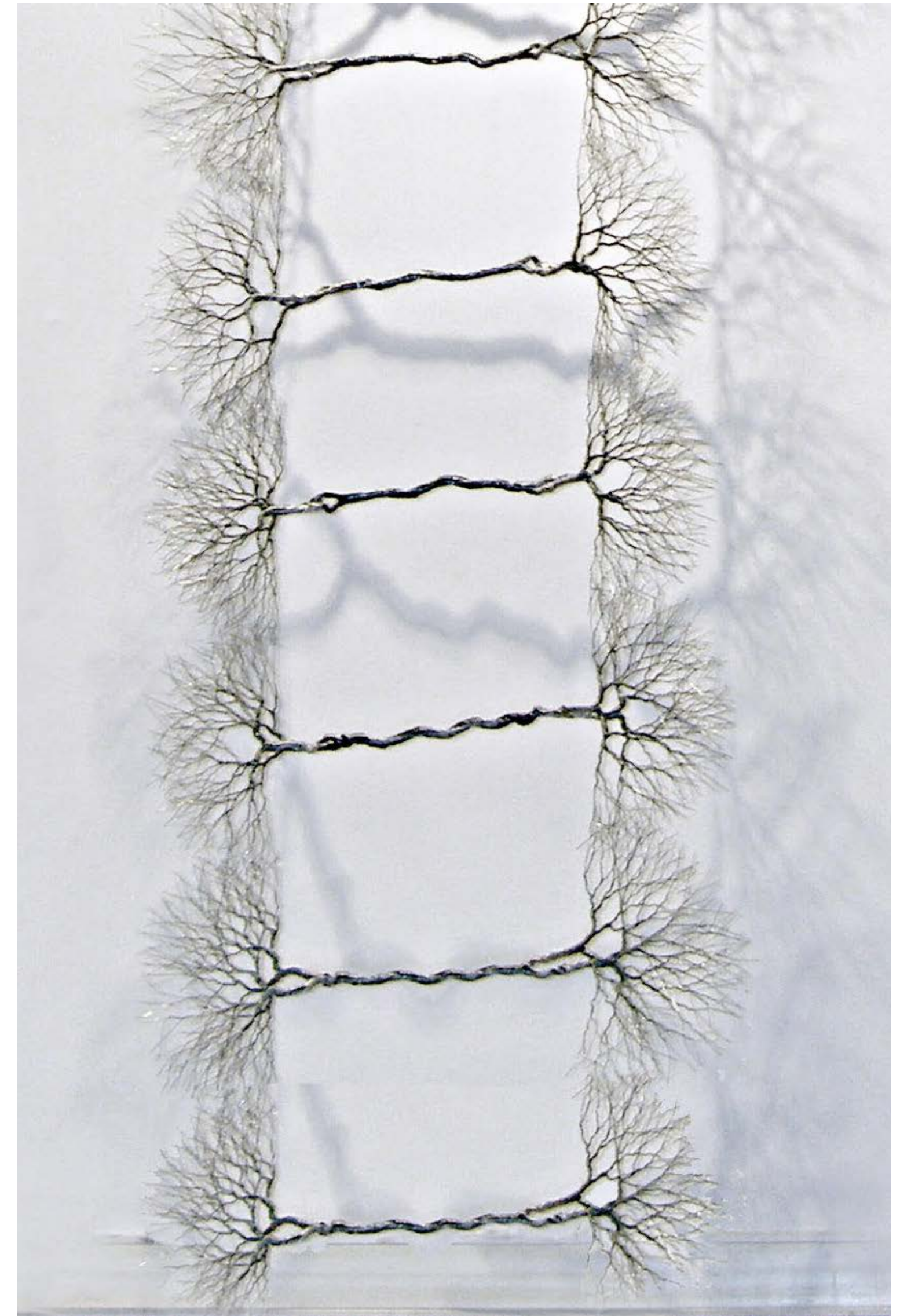
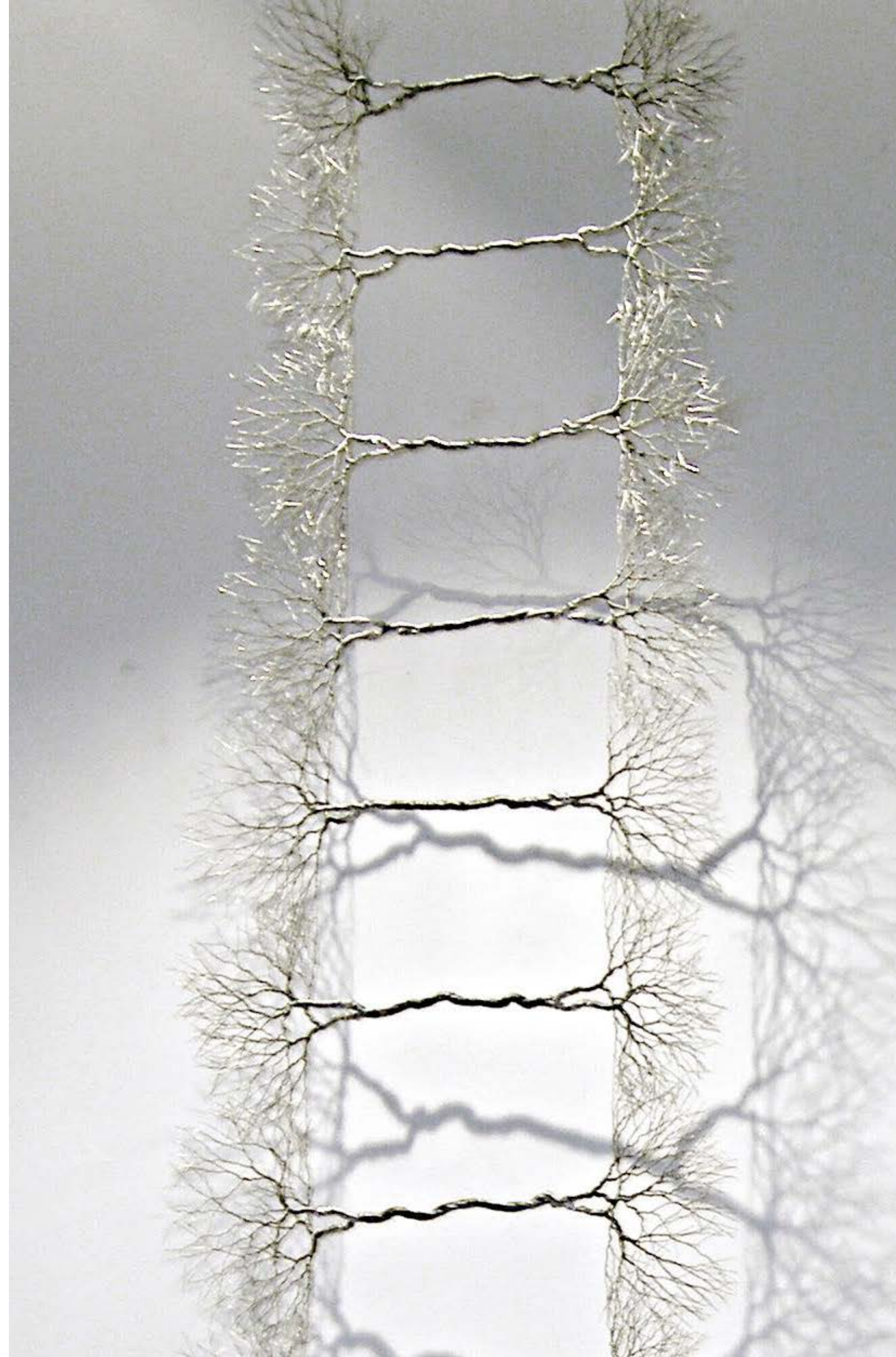
was born in 1986 in Lamia. He is an artist based in Athens. He has received a BFA from the Athens School of Fine Arts and an MFA from the Goldsmiths University of London. He has been nominated for the DESTE Prize 2015 and has been awarded the 1st Spyropoulos Prize 2012, the ARTWORKS 2018 Fellowship, the Onassis Foundation Scholarship (2017-19), and the Delfina Foundation Residency (2020 and 2022). He has presented solo exhibitions in galleries and art spaces including Radio Athènes (Athens), Galeria Duarte Sequiera (Braga), Project Native Informant (London), Lily Robert Gallery (Paris), Point Centre for Contemporary Art (Nicosia), Union Pacific (London), SPACE (London), and the Cyprus Embassy (Athens). He has participated in international group exhibitions including the Athens Biennale (FOKAS, Athens 2021), The Last Museum (KW X PCAI, Berlin 2021), the Singapore Biennale (National Gallery, Singapore 2019), the Thessaloniki Biennale (Aladja Imaret, Thessaloniki 2019), The Same River Twice (DESTE X New Museum at the Benaki Museum, Athens 2019), the 4th New Museum Triennial (New Museum, New York 2018) and The Equibrists (DESTE X New Museum at the Benaki Museum, Athens 2016). He has curated exhibitions and events at the Chisenhale Gallery, the Whitechapel Gallery, Circuits and Currents, and the Athens Biennale. He has been part of the art collective KERNEL, the online curatorial collaboration SIM, the curatorial project Radical Reading and runs the publication project AM Reading Club.



The greeting to this mythological crypt is the work - sculptural gatekeeper of the space, this imposing sculpture by Petros Moris, as a creature - a hybrid between the animal elements found in the Sphinx and the Minotaur, two entities of particular importance in the ancient history of Crete.

RECEPTION

The sculpture of Giorgos Gyparakis stretches vertically behind the reception, as one of the most vital elements of the building: like branches or lungs, they supply the space with life and vitality.

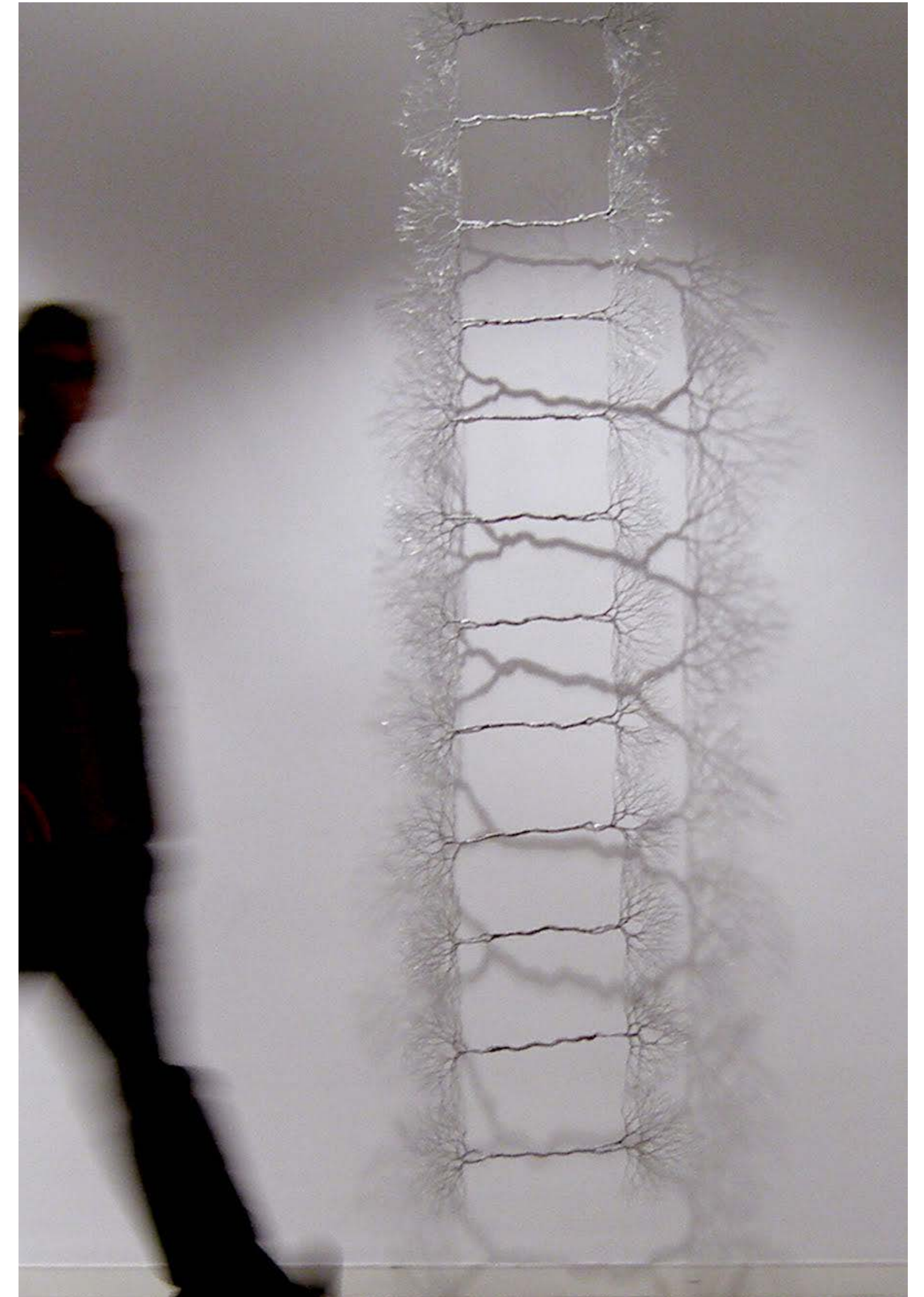




THE ARTIST

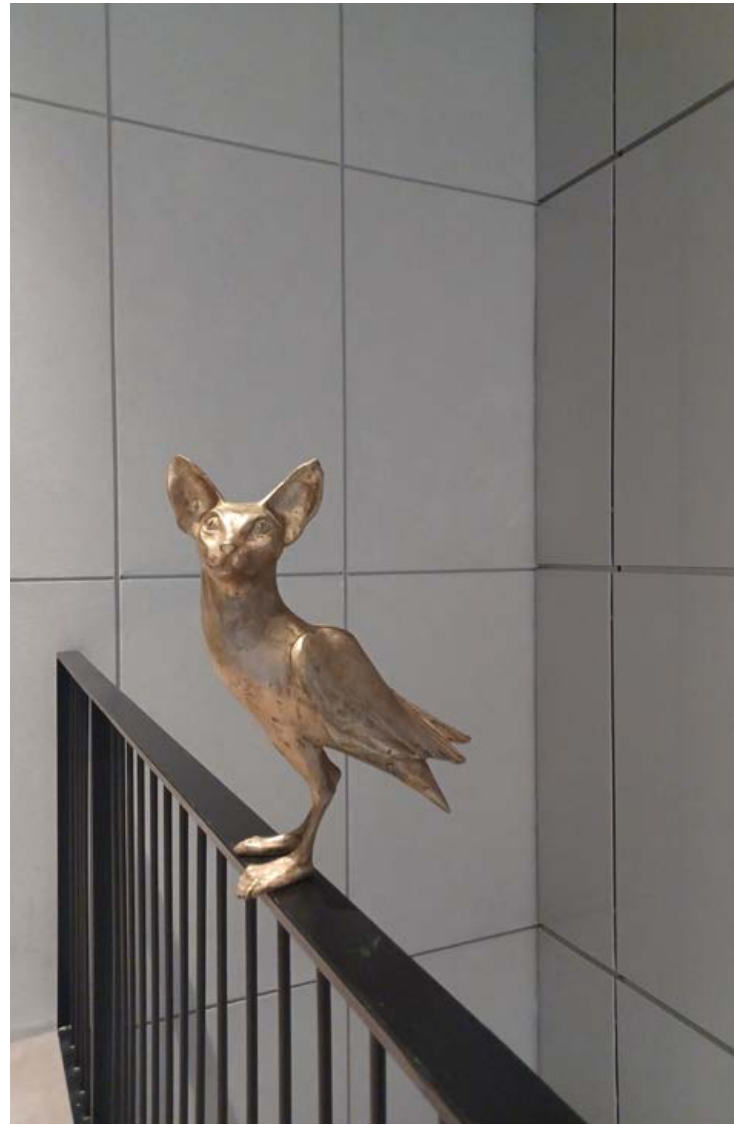
Giorgos Gyparakis

is a visual artist and educator based in Athens. He is Professor of Visual Arts at the School of Architecture (National Technical University of Athens). His initial studies include degrees in sculpture at the Aristotle University's School of Fine Arts and graphic design at the Vakalo School. Since the early 90s, he has participated, among others, in the XLVI Venice Biennial, the Triennale of Sculpture, Osaka Japan and the 5th Biennial of Young Artists in Marseilles. His work has been showcased in Greece and abroad in 8 solo exhibitions and in more than 100 group shows. He has also designed scenes, handmade idiosyncratic musical instruments and costumes for films, theatrical projects and performances. His recent practice investigates the commercialization of leisure, the ways the data of our entire culture are being coded continuously in algorithms and graphs, thus reducing the reality of life to values in time. His works are included in the permanent collections of institutions and museums such as the National Gallery and the National Museum of Contemporary Art.



CORRIDORS

Stelios Sarros' hybrid creatures, cast bronze sculptures placed on the handrails of the floors, await guests in the corridors of the rooms, eager to encounter.

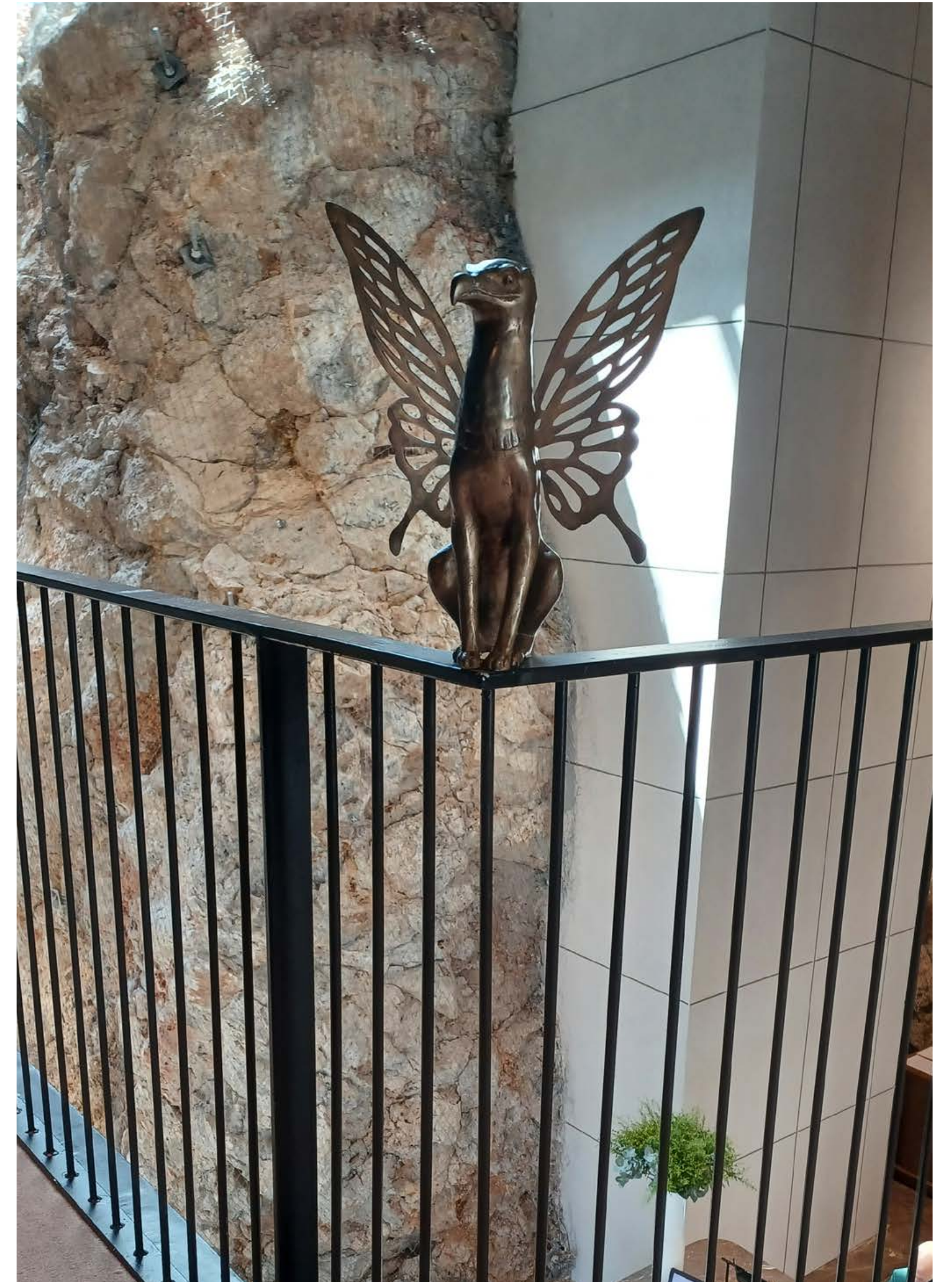
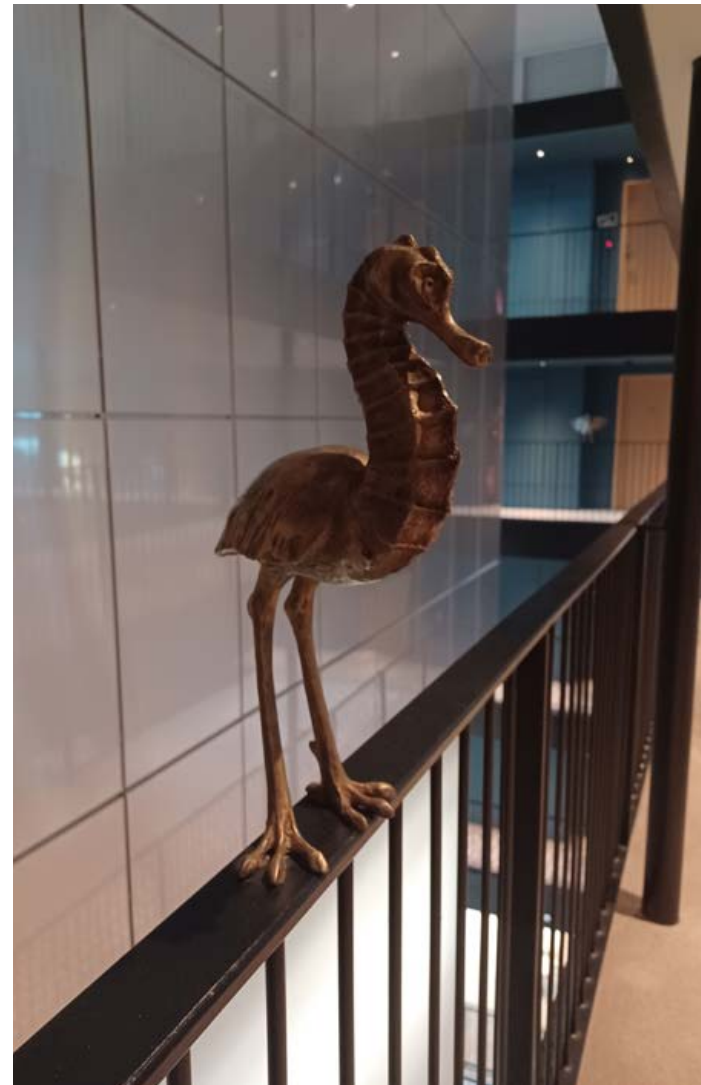




THE ARTIST

Stelios Sarros

was born in Larissa. He studied sculpture at the Athens School of Fine Arts, under the tutelage of Dimitris Kalamaras and Vassilis Papaioannou. He lives in Athens and is a member of the Greek Chamber of Artists. He has presented a solo exhibition and has participated in group exhibitions in Greece and abroad. His works are exhibited at the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Athens City Hall, in public spaces and within private collections. He has worked in theatre, advertising and teaches drawing and sculpture in art workshops.



KNOSSOS RESTAURANT

Elli Sofianopoulou's sculptures, like otherworldly creatures of the abyss of the sea, like amorphous corals, seem like an inseparable part of this cosmogonist cave.

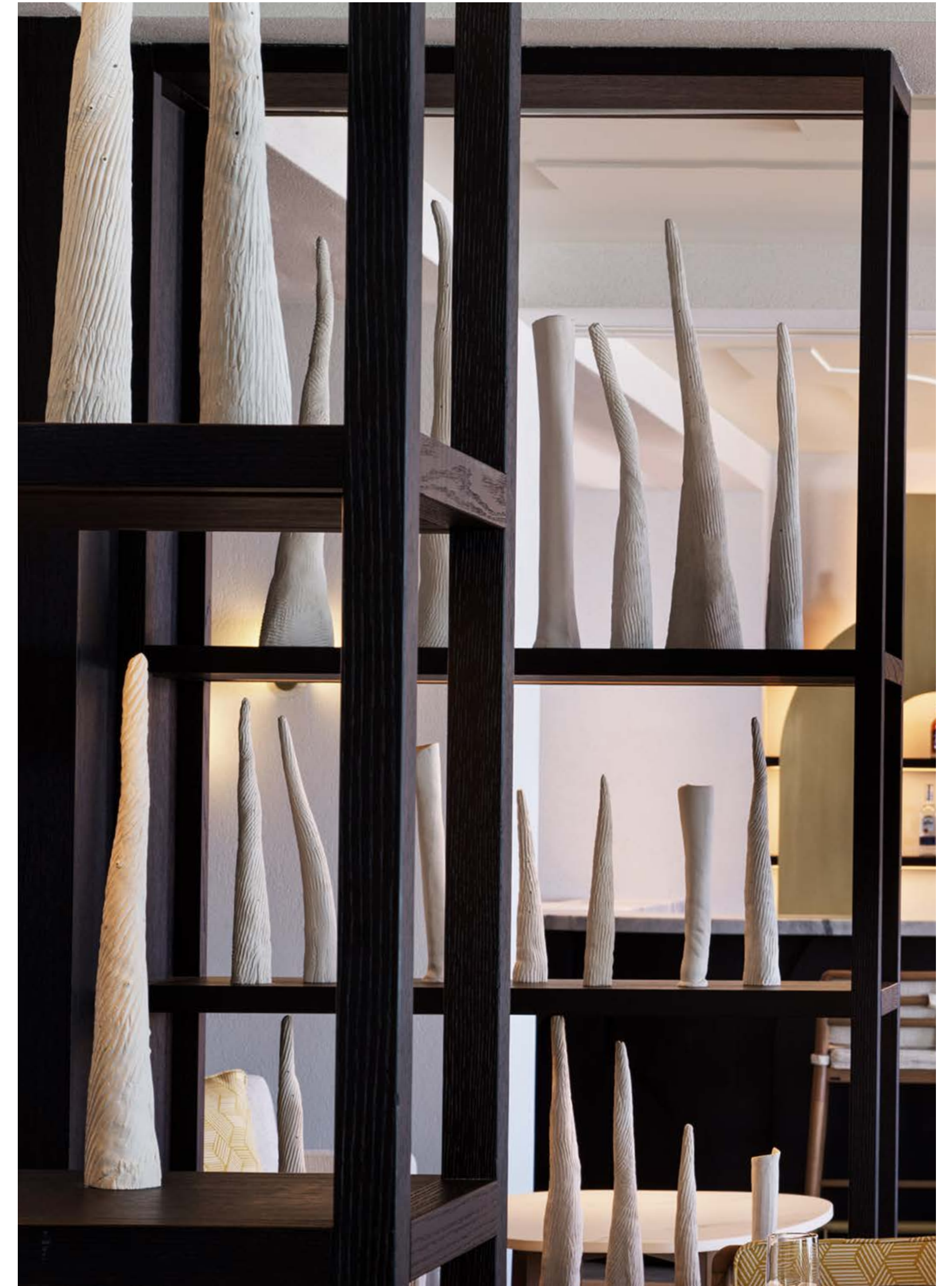




THE ARTIST

Elli Sofianopoulou

creates ceramics, in her studio in a leafy suburb of Athens, Greece. Her line includes artworks as well as stoneware objects of everyday use. Elli works with ceramics and porcelain. She loves clean lines and takes her inspiration from organic forms. The objects she creates stand out due to their combination of elegance, beauty, strength and fine craftsmanship. Her work has been exhibited in several galleries across Greece.



ART IN THE ROOMS

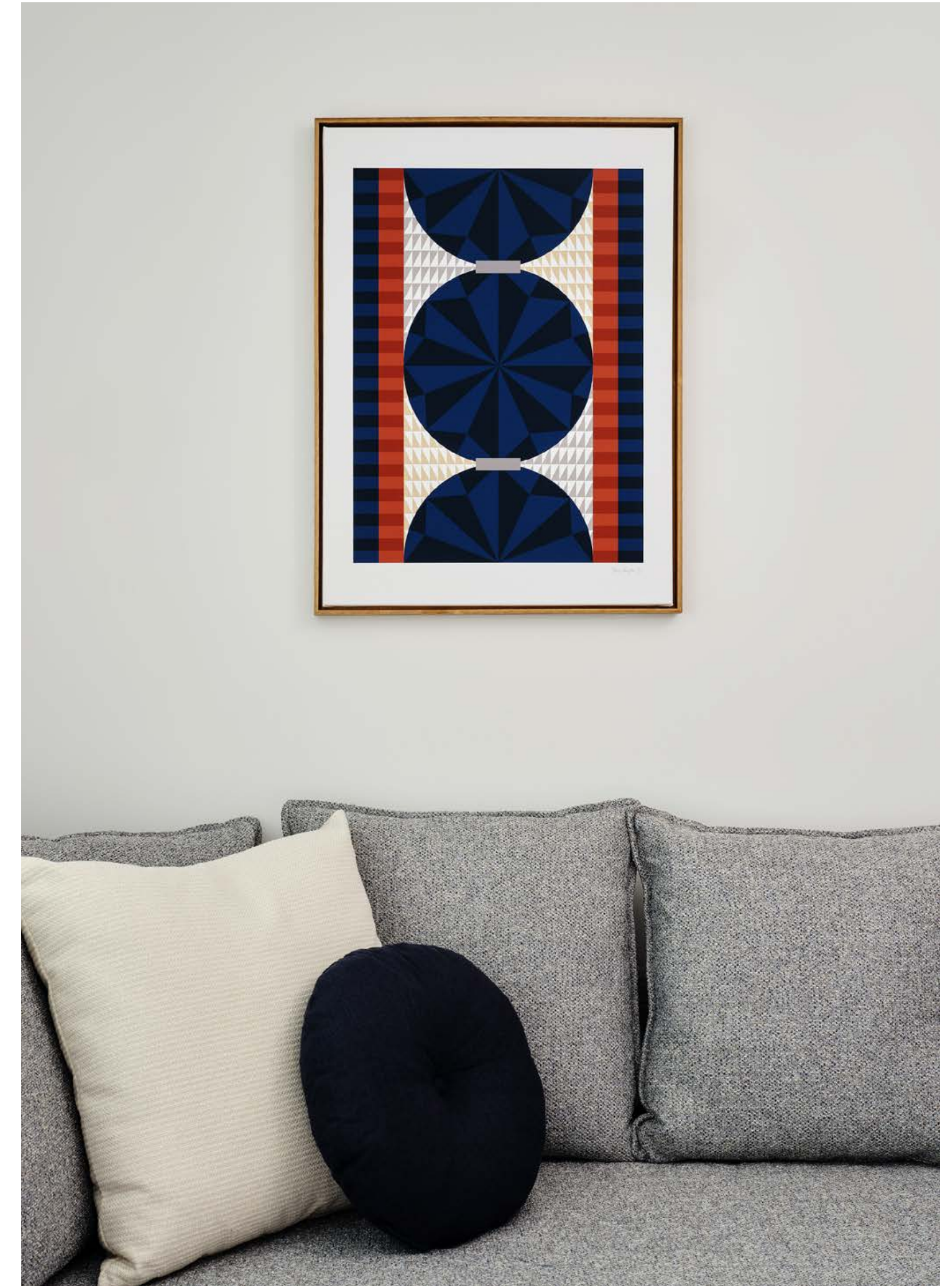




THE ARTIST

Irene Vergitsi

after studying BA (HONS) Fashion Promotion & Illustration at University for the Creative Arts (UCA, Epsom), and in parallel taking specialist courses in Painted & Printed Textiles and Costume Design at Central St. Martins (UAL), in 2004 she had her first solo exhibition. In 2006 she took part in the Athens Cowparade with the cow “Spidercow”, worked at Attica Dept. Store as a Full-Time Designer & Project Manager for 2 years (2006-2008) and since 2006 she has been working as a freelance designer under the name ‘IV’ collaborating with various Greek and International brands, and individual clients.



UNDERGROUND TUNNEL

The cross-shaped fold in the center of Yannis Skaltsas' series of monochrome wall paintings transforms the curved surfaces of his works into carriers of light and shadow. These monochrome works could be seen as Pantone samples, suitable for decorating architectural surfaces. Skaltsas' squares share the same anatomical structure but exhibit varying colors. They exude the allure of a pop object, constantly challenging the distinction between pictorial surface and functional object. The central cross is also subversive; it appears as an incomplete form with asymmetrical protuberances and recesses which only habit can interpret as a singular cruciform symbol. This unstable cross within the squares alludes to the presence of numerous cross-like symbols from universal mythology (ranging from Greek Fortune, Kronos, and Hades to Roman Fortune), while simultaneously disrupting our visual familiarity with them. Rather than emphasizing cosmic harmony, it introduces disquieting asymmetry, thereby bridging the closed/cyclical time of myth to the dialectic of history and the adventure of matter.

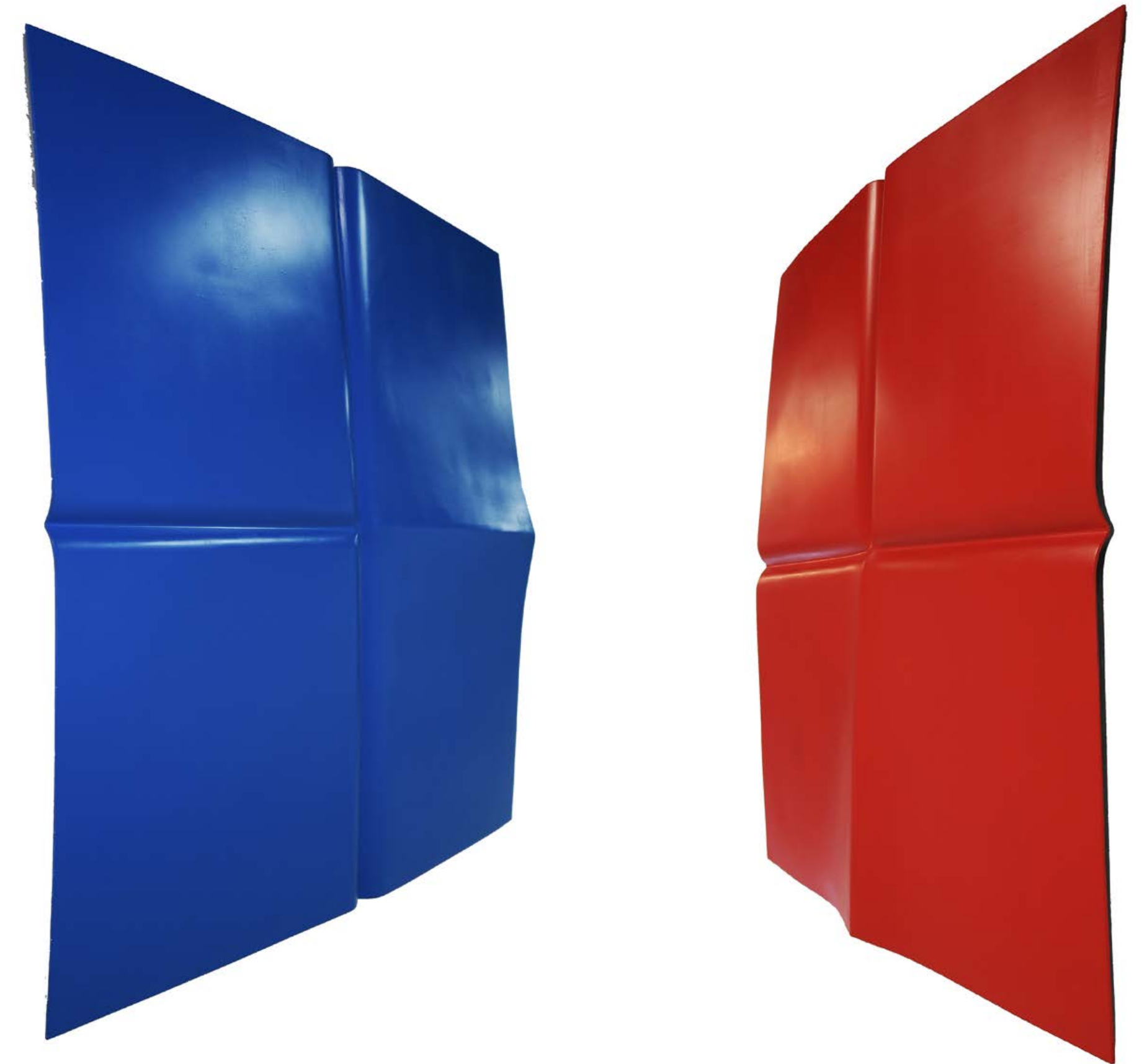




THE ARTIST

Yiannis Skaltsas

was born in 1968 and studied at the Athens School of Fine Arts, School of Visual Arts, New York and Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich. He has held solo exhibitions and participated in more than 100 group exhibitions in Greece and abroad. He is a Professor of Painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts.



The series of monochrome wall pieces by Yiannis Skaltsas transforms the path to the sea into a game of color and light, with the unstable cross in the center of the squares inspired by symbols from global mythology.



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