

## **AUDIOVISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL AT THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL (MEGARON)**

The Department of Audio & Visual Arts and the Electroacoustic Music Research and Applications Laboratory (EPHMEE) of the Department of Music Studies will present the 11<sup>th</sup> Audiovisual Arts Festival at the Athens Concert Hall (Megaron) on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2017. The Festival, held every year since 2006, has become a meeting point for the audiovisual arts in the digital age.

The two-day event includes a dense program of exhibitions, screenings, concerts, workshops, lectures and masterclasses. The Department of Audio & Visual Arts will present its course over the time retrospectively in a digital art show by exhibiting selected works of graduate, postgraduate and PhD students and professors. At the same time, the event will host works by the internationally renowned artists Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Barry Purves and Theodore Ushev. The program is complemented by including in it workshops, masterclasses and lectures by prominent guests with a focus on the art, technology and aesthetics of video art and animation (***Art & Digital Culture***).

The **exhibition** will show interactive audio-visual installations, animation and video art works, projection mappings, acoustic environments, interactive and audio games, comic and photography exhibitions.

The **workshops** will be open to the public and will focus on 2D & 3D animation, the interactive audio-visual platforms, projection mapping and research on digital hybrid materials.

In the **masterclass and lectures programme**, the renowned visual artist, Eija-Liisa Ahtila, will be our honorary guest who will introduce the audience to the relation of her work with film in the era of digital technology. The celebrated animators, Barry Purves and Theodore Ushev, invited in collaboration with BE THERE! Corfu Animation Festival, will analyze their art, their techniques and their approach to technology. Dan Lejerskar, EON-Reality Chairman, will talk about "The Evolution of the Augmented

Reality Market & the Human - Computer - Interaction Problem" and Professor Nikolaos Kanellopoulos will make a presentation on "From Antikythera Mechanism to Quantum Computer: Augmented Reality and Art". The director of BE THERE! and PhD student of the Department, Vassilis Kroustallis, will focus on the relation of animation to politics and Dr. Michael Meimaris will talk about "Human[e]ducation for a "good enough" screen".

The **Electroacoustic Music Research and Applications Laboratory (EPHMEE)** will present electroacoustic music concerts in a specially designed multichannel sound diffusion system that offers the audience a unique listening experience. The program, under the title "ACOUSMATA 2017", includes five concerts with works by composers of Electroacoustic Music. Volkmar Klein and Thomas Gorbach will be the guest of these concerts.

The two-day event is a joint production of the Faculty of Music and Audiovisual Arts of the Ionian University and the Athens Concert Hall, in the framework of **Megaron Bridges Cycle** and in collaboration with Animasyros Festival and BETHHERE! Corfu Animation Festival.

The **Faculty of Music & Audiovisual Arts** (founded in 2013) of the **Ionian University** consists of the Department of Audio & Visual Arts and the Department of Music Studies. The **Department of Audio & Visual Arts** (founded in 2004) provides both undergraduate and postgraduate studies for New Media artists researchers. The **Department of Music Studies** (1992) offers a study programme with focus on professional composers, performers, music teachers and music technicians.

The **Electroacoustic Music Research and Applications Laboratory (EPHMEE)**, founded in 2003) of the Department of Music Studies is a research unit which supports the Music Technology program of the Department of Music Studies. The EPHMEE produces original work in the wider fields of Music and Audio Art with the use of electronic technology.

**Eija-Liisa Ahtila** is one of the most celebrated visual artists and filmmakers. Ahtila has herself described her work as “human dramas”. Her work focuses on existential issues and film language, and more recently, on more profound theoretical and philosophical issues, concerning human existence and culture. Among others, her work has been shown in individual and retrospective exhibitions in Tate Modern, in MoMA, in Guggenheim, in Bilbao, in Jeu de Paume, in Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, in Kiasma in Helsinki, in Moderna Museet in Stockholm, while she has participated in influential group shows, such as Venice Biennale.

<http://www.tate.org.uk/context-comment/video/moving-images-eija-liisa-ahtila>

<http://www.crystaleye.fi/>

**Barry J. C. Purves** is a British director, theatre designer, screenwriter and producer usually, but not exclusively working with animation. Purves has been honored with more than sixty international prizes of best director, best film, grand prix, and nominations for Oscar and BAFTA awards. Many festivals have held retrospectives of his works, including the Edinburgh International Festival, the Bristol Puppet Festival, London International Animation Festival.

[www.barrypurves.com](http://www.barrypurves.com)

**Theodore Ushev** is an animator, graphic designer, illustrator and multimedia artist. He has studied in Kyustendil and at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia. For Ushev, animation has socio-political impact, humanitarian character and therapeutic power. His work explores the relation of the medium of animation to visual arts, for example, in the historical avant-garde movements.

[www.ushev.com](http://www.ushev.com)

<https://www.nfb.ca/explore-all-directors/theodore-ushev/>

**Vassilis Kroustallis** comes from Corfu and is the initiator and director of Be There! Corfu Animation Festival. Moreover, he is the editor of the animation portal zippyframes.com and a Phd student of the Audio-Visual Arts Department. In 2016 he was honoured with the 2016 Norman McLaren – Evelyn Lambart Award for the Best Scholarly Article in Animation published 2014-2015. Recently he was selected as an

ambassador for Greece for the newly established institution of European Animation Awards.

**Dr. N. Kanellopoulos**, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., is professor in the Audiovisual Arts Department, Ionian University, specializing in Computer Systems & Applications and elected Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of Ionian University. His published work includes three international patents and about 100 papers/studies. Currently his main research interest is in the application of digital technology in audiovisual art interactive systems (VR/AR).

<http://avarts.ionio.gr/gr/department/professors-lecturers/323-kanellopoulos/>

**Dr Michalis Meimaris**, Professor of New Technologies in Media, Communication and Education, with significant contributions in the field of digital storytelling, has served at the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, being also the Head of the Department for a period of four years. He is the Director of the University Research Institute of Applied Communication, while in the past he established and directed the laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media. He has been awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques of the French Democracy. Dr Michalis Meimaris is a member of the Administrative Board of the Unesco Institute for Information Technologies in Education since January 1st, 2014.

<https://mmeimaris.gr/en/>

**Dan Lejerskar** began his career at Volvo Aerospace as program manager for the Ariane 5 rocket program for the main engine rocket. Lejerskar holds dual Masters of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science from Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. His awards include Most Accomplished Businessman for Fastest Growing Company in Sweden, Co-winner with the CEO of Volvo AB of the Chalmers University of Technology Daleen Prize and Entrepreneur of the Year.

<https://www.eonreality.com/dan-lejerskar>

**Thomas Gorbach** is electroacoustic music composer. He has studied traditional classic music in Switzerland with specialization in Oboe, Composition and Conducting and Studies in Analysis, Interpretation and Composition of Electroacoustic Music at the Electronic Music Department of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. He has given diverse lectures on Electroacoustic Music at the Vienna University of Technology and at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. In 2007, he started to build up Austria's first Acousmonium, The Vienna Acousmonium, and since then he has given 40 concerts on his Acousmonium.

[www.theacousmaticproject.at](http://www.theacousmaticproject.at)

Growing up in Vienna, **Volkmar Klien** spent his childhood engulfed in the city's rich musical life with all its glorious traditions and engrained rituals. Working from this background Volkmar Klien today strives to extend traditional practices of composing, producing and listening far beyond the established settings of concert music. He is a professor for composition and director of the institute for composition and conducting at the Anton Bruckner University (Linz, Austria).

[www.volkmarklien.com](http://www.volkmarklien.com)

#### **Festival Committee:**

Honorary President: Marianna Strapatsaki

President: Konstantinos Tiligadis

Members: Elena Hamalidi, Apostolos Loufopoulos, Andreas Giannakouloupoulos, Andreas Mniestris, Theodoros Lotis, Dimitris Maragopoulos, Justine Antigone Eloul, Nikos Kokkalis, Vassilis Psarras, Vassilis Kroustallis, Philippos Theocharidis.

Official Websites: <http://avarts.ionio.gr/gr/>

<http://music.ionio.gr/gr/research/laboratories/>

email: [av-fest@ionio.gr](mailto:av-fest@ionio.gr)

Within the framework of the festival, the 2<sup>nd</sup> international **Conference "Taboo - Transgression - Transcendence in Art & Science"** and the 1<sup>st</sup> **Summer School in Hybrid Arts** will take place in Corfu, where the Faculty of Music and Audiovisual Arts is

located. The conference will be held from 25 to 28 May 2017 and the summer school from 29 May to 11 June 2017. The conference program includes theoretical and artistic presentations, while the Summer School program includes lectures by invited speakers from the artistic and scientific field, apart from scheduled theoretical and practical courses.

The Guest Speakers of the Conference and the Summer School will be: Roy Ascott, Pauline Brooks, Andrew Carnie and Leigh Landy from the UK – Luís Graça and Marta de Menezes from Portugal – Polonia Tratnik from Slovenia – María Antonia González Valerio from Mexico – and Irina Aristarkhova, Kathy High, Mary Maggic, Gunalan Nadarajan, Adam Zaretsky from the United States. Their presence in these two activities of the festival is supported both from the foreign Institutions, in which they are answerable to, and from the accommodation sponsors of Corfu.

Official Websites: <http://avarts.ionio.gr/ttt/2017/en/>  
<http://avarts.ionio.gr/summer/2017/>