

Spring 2022 Artist Award Recipients, Sponsored by Sign for

Stela Anastasaki and Garyfalia Terizaki



Mind's Eye | Touching Art Stela Anastasaki Christina Vlachou



Through our shared experience of working in art museums, project-spaces and galleries, we realized that although art is potentially supposed to be for all, in fact there are many social groups who are excluded from its experience; most notably for those who are blind and visually impaired. How could we possibly communicate art, in an ocular-centric culture, to people who cannot see? Can we really argue that our society is democratic when certain social groups do not have the privilege to experience a museum? We aim to tackle with **Mind's Eye | Touching Art**, accessibility concerns to meaningfully engage people through art. This initiative provides visually impaired individuals with opportunities to access art exhibitions independently and form their own impressions and opinions.

Throughout our work we are using contemporary art and culture as our main mediums, aiming at a more inclusive society, where different cultural, artistic, and social positions find space for expression. We design projects that challenge, inspire and reveal a different way of thinking. All our projects are the outcome of a process that combines extended research and continuous testing with focus groups resulting in co-designing all the inclusive solutions we are developing.

We feel very honoured that our project **Mind's Eye | Touching Art** is among the recipients of the Artist Award sponsored by Sign for Hope! This award is of great importance for us since it will provide us with the opportunity to continue our research. We can now further develop our research based on inclusive solutions. Our vision is to transform cultural institutions and museums into open and inclusive spaces that promote social diversity, paving the way to a more equal society.

Historically, art has served as an ideal ground for innovative ideas to grow. Combined with activism, it can often act as a catalyst for social change. Art suggests alternative ways of perceiving the world around us, providing a wide field of experimentation while addressing issues of social injustice and defending fundamental democratic rights. With this thought in mind, we would encourage anyone to pursue their activism objectives, as we strongly believe that activism can have a very significant social outcome in terms of transforming established ways of thinking and acting, and in finding new ways of expressing stories.

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The Cultural Center at the Public Central Library of Kalamata, GR: Using Art, a Universal Language, as a Means of Communication and Expression Garyfalia Terizaki

Receiving this Artist Award will enable me to buy books in the languages of the immigrant children living in the area with the goal of maintaining contact with their homeland language and culture. I will also buy materials to give them the opportunity to express themselves through photography, painting, and literature, making use of various art techniques, implementing educational programs for children in collaboration with other organizations and schools.

The books in a variety of languages purchased with the Artist Award will draw in more people to the library. In time through this process these communities they will become more open since they will feel accepted and in turn will share elements of their own culture. The library will be a platform where they can express and believe in themselves. The ultimate goal of this initiative is that immigrant children and their families will feel confident in sharing their culture, ideas, and identity, thus feeling more comfortable in their new context.

Refer to the November Issue of Artivism's Zine: Celebrating Children's Day for more on Garyfalia Terizaki's work.