

Nikos Podias

Safe Area

October 23, 2025 – January 3, 2026

Athens

CITRONNE Gallery – Athens presents the solo exhibition-installation by Nikos Podias, 'Safe Area'.

Nikos Podias draws his themes from traditions and echoes of global culture. In his practice, he explores the possibilities of paper. The resulting works—textures, forms, rhythms, and patterns—generate objects and creatures charged with the magical and apotropaic properties of amulets. 'Safe Area' is a new body of work that forms a potentially shielded, yet fragile, space.

Protection and the prevention of evil occupy a central place in the artist's process of restoring and reconfiguring his original material, which unfolds through multiple stages of transformation. This metamorphosis, a process of personal introspection, isolates the artist from external stimuli. Absorbed in the repetition of gestures, his gaze turns inward; studio time becomes personified; the making of the works advances almost unconsciously.

Podias draws from popular allegories, myths, and folktales rooted in local as well as universal traditions. The snake's shed skin—an emblem of protection and good fortune; the hedgehog's quills—symbols of self-defense and wisdom; the Eastern talismanic shirts that ward off evil: the artist creates paper constructions that resemble textiles—protective yet simultaneously fragile, airy, and light. He restores and repurposes found and reclaimed materials such as cigarette foil wrappers or tea bags.

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A network of anonymous collaborators collects Podias' materials. These discarded yet functional elements are recycled into works that reflect a collective imaginary and subconscious, reminiscent of archetypal amulets. The material retains a private memory, as its origin is embedded within the delicate and intricate structures that Podias "molds".

The motifs and textures evoke architectural shells or landscapes—surfaces—peculiar, fragile spaces. These finely wrought, sensitive environments interweave and unfold in space, generating a surreal dimension. Within a single piece of paper, personal and collective experiences are synthesized. Through reconstruction, multiple memories are revived, producing multiple readings.

At CITRONE Gallery, Podias installs 'Safe Area': an unexpectedly mysterious and captivating environment. The visitors perceive luminous reflections and shadows diffused through the works—a visible lightness combined with the seemingly sharp, deceptive nature of the materials; the paradox of a paper armor. All these seemingly contradictory elements compose a liminal state between safety and vulnerability.

Nikos Podias is represented by CITRONE Gallery.