

# *Sheltered Gardens*

PCAI Polygreen Culture & Art Initiative



[1] Sheltered Gardens. [2] Afroditi Psarra. [3] Sasha Velour. [4] Eva Papamargariti. [5] VASKOS (Vassilis Noulas & Kostas Tzimoulis). [6] Kathleen Hanna & the Julie Ruin. [7] Evan Ifekoya.

September 20, 2022

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## ***Sheltered Gardens***

September 22–November 30, 2022

Add to Calendar

**Parallel performance programme:** September 22–24

### **Diomidous Botanical Garden**

Iera Odos 403, Haidari  
124 61 Athens  
Greece

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**Participating artists:** Margarita Athanasiou, Eleni Bagaki, Michel Delsol, Kathleen Hanna & the Julie Ruin, Evan Ifekoya, Irini Karayannopoulou, Lito Kattou, Chris Kraus, Linder, Polonca Lovšin, Campus Novel, Selina Nwulu, Leda Papaconstantinou, Eva Papamargariti, Afroditi Psarra, Gloria Steinem, Eva Stefani, Maria Varela, VASKOS (Vassilis Noulas & Kostas Tzimoulis), Marina Velisioti, Sasha Velour

**Sheltered Gardens** is a hybrid, visual arts exhibition featuring more than 35 international artists, writers and performers. Inspired by H.D.'s poem *Sheltered Garden* (1916) and taking place in J. & A. N. Diomedes Botanic Garden, one of the largest and most important botanical gardens in the Mediterranean, PCAI's new multimedia programme includes numerous new commissions and performances. Opening on September 22, *Sheltered Gardens* will unfold through an online, digital exhibition available at [pcai.gr](http://pcai.gr), a limited edition publication, a contemporary art group exhibition and a series of performances at the Diomedes Botanic Garden in Athens.

From Sasha Velour's drag performances to Linder's punk photomontage and from Chris Kraus' super 8 films to Leda Papaconstantinou's poetic narratives, the exhibition sets as a virtual tour among climbing plants, bamboo clusters and she-shed greenhouses. It acquires a physical existence turning into performances, archives and traces of ecosystems and arguments rising within contemporary female gardens. *Sheltered Garden* (1916), by avant-garde imagist American H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), constitutes the exhibition's starting point. A poem on H.D.'s relationship with nature depicting her quests as an early 20th century queer writer. Kinship with mother Earth, as a mythological aspect of cosmogony, garden as an archetype and gender inequalities have been discussed in many significant works by female writers. Alice Walker's book *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens* (1983), expresses the author's own quest on ancestral past, art and identity as an African-American woman during a challenging period for human rights in the United States. In 1919, Virginia Woolf dedicated one of her first works to Kew Royal Botanic Gardens of London, while her personal reflections on issues such as spatiality and gender were vigorously captured in her renowned essay *A Room of One's Own* (1929). *Sheltered Gardens* exhibition is an original hybrid environment referencing Donna Haraway's (Cyborg Manifesto, 1985) rejection of rigid identity boundaries and spatial-physical restraints and proposing alternative, creative and environmental quests in times of turbulence.

Curated by: Kika Kyriakakou

### **Public programme**

From **September 22 to 24**, a series of live performances, readings and workshops will take place in the Diomedes Botanic Garden. The entrance is free, by timed ticket booked in advance online at [diomedes-bg.gr](http://diomedes-bg.gr). Find out more about the public programme at [pcai.gr](http://pcai.gr).

Performers: Theodoros Chiotis, Phoebe Giannisi, Ermira Goro, I broke the vase, Dimitra Ioannou, Chrysanthi Koumianaki, Leda Papaconstantinou, Aris Papadopoulos & Martha Pasakopoulou, VASKOS (Vassilis Noulas & Kostas Tzimoulis), VIGIL (Despina Sanida-Krezia & Fotini Stamatelopoulou), Iria Vrettou.

Curated by: Kika Kyriakakou and VASKOS (Vassilis Noulas & Kostas Tzimoulis)

**Opening:** Thursday, September 22, 4–7pm

**Physical exhibition:** September 22–October 2, 2022, 4pm–7pm

**Digital exhibition:** September 22–November 30, 2022 via [pcai.gr](http://pcai.gr)

**Performances in the Garden:** 22-24 September, 2022, find out more at [pcai.gr](http://pcai.gr)

Free entrance, by timed ticket booked in advance via [diomedes-bg.gr](http://diomedes-bg.gr)

From September 22 to 24, there will be shuttle transportation from Aghia Marina metro station to Diomedes Botanic Garden at 3:50, 4:10, 4:30, 4:50, 5:10, 5:30, 5:50, 6:10, and 6:30pm. The last departure from D.B.G to the metro is at 8pm.

The exhibition is organised with the support and the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the support of the British Council and Flunet Productions.

Spread the word and use the hashtags **#shelteredgardens #pcai #diomedesbotanicgarden**



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