



ADVERTISEMENT

Categories

[Green News \(/green/green-news\)](#)

[Climate \(/green/climate\)](#)

[Nature \(/green/nature\)](#)

[Living \(/green/green-living\)](#)

[Eco-Innovation \(/green/eco-innovation\)](#)

Programmes

[Ocean \(/https://www.euronews.com/green-series/ocean\)](#)

[Ocean Calls \(/https://www.euronews.com/green-series/ocean-calls\)](#)

[The Road To Green \(/https://www.euronews.com/green-series/the-road-to-green\)](#)

Featured



[Water Matters \(/https://www.euronews.com/green-series/water-matters\)](#)



[Climate Now \(/https://www.euronews.com/green-series/climate-now\)](#)

Water Matters

Europe's water is under increasing pressure. Pollution,...

Climate Now

We give you the latest climate facts from the world's leading...

Powered by

[Home \(/\)](#) > [Culture \(/culture\)](#) > [Art \(/culture/art\)](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

The Garden of Pythia: Oracles and AI installation turn Greek landscape into living artwork



Copyright Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission

By [Apostolos Staikos \(/profiles/580\)](#)

Published on 17/04/2025 - 7:14 GMT+2



Share this article



Comments ([#vuukle-comments-2783608](#))

Greece's Delphi oracle is the inspiration behind an immersive art installation by data artist Charles Sandison that's aimed at encouraging a deeper understanding of history and a greater appreciation of the possibilities of AI. Apostolos Staikos visited the site to find out more.

Built of stone, with relief styles on the walls and an impressive floor, the World Centre for Circular Economy and Culture is a unique example of post-war architecture.

ADVERTISEMENT

Established in 1959 from designs by the architect Petros Pikionis, the "Pi" Pavillion is considered one of the most beautiful balconies of Delphi, lying just a few hundred metres from the picturesque village.

There, as soon as the sun sets, its famous garden of "Pi" comes alive.* Ancient faces, letters and words appear on the rocks and the green leaves of the trees.



Welcome to the Garden of Pythia - Charles Sandison, Garden of Pythia, 2025. Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission

"The Garden of Pythia" is the new art installation by Scottish artist Charles Sandison and was commissioned by **PCAI (Polygreen Culture & Art Initiative)**. (<https://www.pcai.gr/>). The work bridges the ancient and modern worlds, and suggests that the answers we seek from artificial intelligence are similar to the quests of those who visited the Oracle of Delphi.

Top stories (/).



AI Kurt Cobain: The horror of Instagram's chatbots



Falling in Love 'is possible only in Berlin' says Jean Paul Gaultier



Singer Jessie J says she has been diagnosed with early breast cancer



Powered by

200-year-old condom with erotic art goes on display at Dutch museum



'Back To The Future' stars join Gibson in search for missing guitar

ADVERTISEMENT

euro news.



00:01



Read More

02:00





Inside the Garden of Pythia - Charles Sandison, Garden of Pythia, 2025 (work in progress). Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission

The idea was born during the Sandison's visit to the archaeological site, drawing a parallel between the concept of the oracle, in which travellers sought prophetic predictions, and a model example of an organic, physical computing device.

The landscape embodies a complex network of rituals, where gates, paths and timings seem to have functioned like the motherboard of a computer system.

"I think the work I made is a way of looking at nature. She in turn will listen to your question and give you the answers you seek. I spent a lot of time in the area, of course I visited the archaeological site. I walked in the hills and explored the landscape, the nature and the animals that live here. I decided to create a digital painting, a tribute to this place and its history," Sandison explains.

ADVERTISEMENT

Most read

Strauss' Blue Danube waltz beams into space for his 200th birthday

1 [\(/culture/2025/05/30/vienna-to-beam-strauss-iconic-blue-danube-waltz-into-space-to-mark-his-200th-birthday\)](/culture/2025/05/30/vienna-to-beam-strauss-iconic-blue-danube-waltz-into-space-to-mark-his-200th-birthday)

Culture catch-up: Jafar Panahi's Cannes win & politics of Iranian film

2 [\(/culture/2025/05/30/culture-catch-up-jafar-panahis-palme-dor-win-and-the-politics-of-iranian-cinema\)](/culture/2025/05/30/culture-catch-up-jafar-panahis-palme-dor-win-and-the-politics-of-iranian-cinema)

Pink diamond with ties to Marie Antoinette's daughter heads to auction

3 [\(/culture/2025/05/28/a-pink-diamond-ring-that-once-belonged-to-marie-antoinettes-daughter-is-going-up-for-auction\)](/culture/2025/05/28/a-pink-diamond-ring-that-once-belonged-to-marie-antoinettes-daughter-is-going-up-for-auction)

Elon Musk brands Bono a 'liar' and an 'idiot' over USAID comments

4 [\(/culture/2025/06/02/elon-musk-brands-bono-a-liar-and-an-idiot-over-usaid-cuts-criticism\)](/culture/2025/06/02/elon-musk-brands-bono-a-liar-and-an-idiot-over-usaid-cuts-criticism)

Film of the Week: 'The Phoenician Scheme' - Wes Anderson's empty shell

5 [\(/culture/2025/05/30/eurone-cultures-film-of-the-week-the-phoenician-scheme-wes-andersons-shallow-caper\)](/culture/2025/05/30/eurone-cultures-film-of-the-week-the-phoenician-scheme-wes-andersons-shallow-caper)

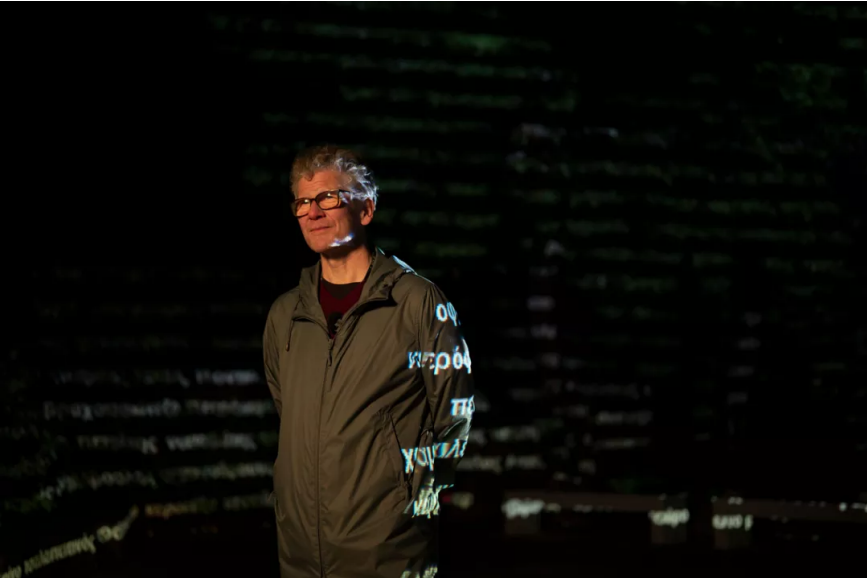
ADVERTISEMENT

Powered



The work features specially designed code and sensors that detect temperature and light levels, and interacts with the environment and evolves over time.

"The Garden of Pythia is a fictional place set partly on a mountainside in ancient Greece and partly in the matrix of my computer. Inspired by my visit to the temple of Apollo, I have coded this visual AI work that combines the memories of Pythia with the beautiful slopes of Parnassus. I believe that visitors will see this artwork as a means of bridging the ancient and the modern, and realize that the answers we seek from the AI are analogous to the corresponding quests of the ancient world from Pythia," the Scottish artist claims .



Charles Sandison inside the Garden of Pythia - Charles Sandison; Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission



I want visitors to understand that there are people like artists, creators and musicians who are trying to use this technology in a way that serves humans. ”

- Charles Sandison -
Artist





The Garden of Pythia - Charles Sandison, Garden of Pythia, 2025 (work in progress). Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission

For Sandison, Delphi was analogous to CERN, (<https://home.cern/>) the most sophisticated system for interpreting and predicting goals and outcomes. It was a way of understanding the world more deeply, equivalent to modern developments in the field of artificial intelligence.

The PCAI mission

Founded by Athanasios Polychronopoulos, CEO of environmental company Polygreen (<https://www.polygreen.eco/>), PCAI is a cultural organization that aims to raise environmental awareness through an annual program of art commissions, contemporary art exhibitions, artist residency programs, workshops and conferences.

The PCAI Art Collection focuses on commissions and works of contemporary art and moving image. It aims to provide artists with the means and resources to create pieces in dialogue with contemporary environmental, sociological and philosophical issues, allowing for complete freedom of expression and critical inquiry.



Athanasios Polychronopoulos - Polygreen/PCAI

"Protecting the environment means changing attitudes and behaviour. To do this, people really need to feel that they have to take action. I believe that culture, art and especially contemporary art are able to send messages and influence people to really contribute to the protection of their environment," argues Athanasios Polychronopoulos, CEO of Polygreen and founder of PCAI.



The Garden of Pythia - Charles Sandison, Garden of Pythia, 2025 (work in progress). Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission



Read more



Polish artist unveils
installation at London
sustainability hub



Artist uses AI to rec-lead
extinct animals for
New York exhibition



16 enchanting
installations take centre
stage at Essen Light
Festival

The Garden of Pythia - Charles Sandison, Garden of Pythia, 2025 (work in progress). Courtesy of the artist. PCAI artwork commission

Environmental protection (/tag/environmental-protection)

At a time when the potential of artificial intelligence is both troubling and frightening to many of us, Charles Sandison believes it can prove to be a useful tool.

Contemporary art (/tag/contemporary-art)

Culture (/tag/culture)

"Visiting the 'Garden of Pythia' is an experience where artificial intelligence is not what is often described in the media and news. Most of the time it is about scary stories. I want visitors to see that AI is not a scary thing. It's a tool. People like artists, creators and musicians who are trying to use this technology in a way that serves humans. I hope that people here have an upbeat and positive artistic experience," says Sandison.

Artificial intelligence (/tag/artificial-intelligence)

Society (/tag/society)

Archaeology (/tag/archaeology)

The Garden of Pythia (<https://www.pcai.gr/pcais-new-commission-2>) opened April 9, ahead of the 2025 Delphi Economic Forum, and remains open to the public at PCAI's 'pi' pavilion.

Sign up to Euronews Culture (javascript:void(0))

Get a weekly dose of Europe's most inspiring culture (javascript:void(0))

Email *

Enter your Email

By subscribing to our newsletters, you confirm that you agree to our (javascript:void(0))