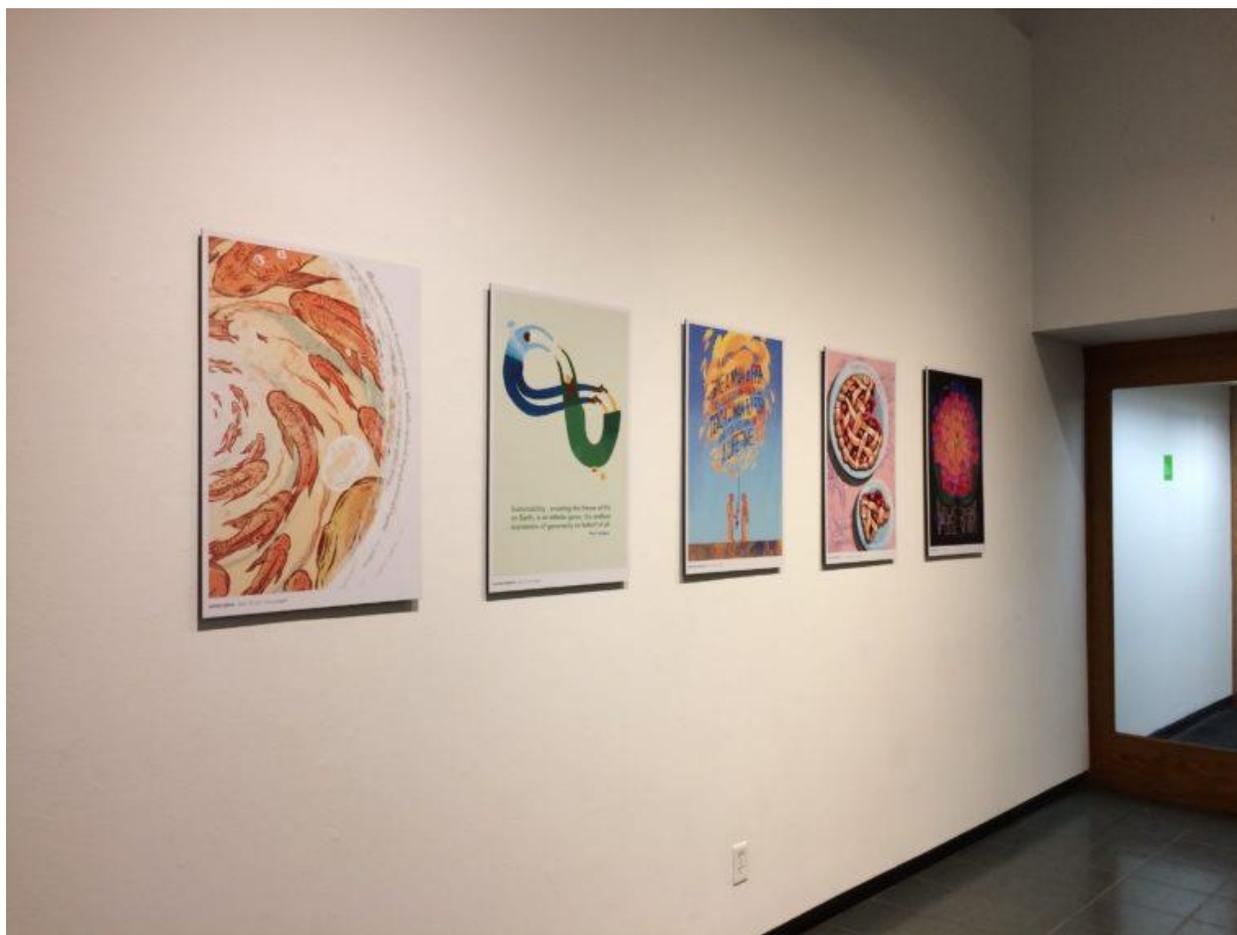


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Opening Reception for SVA Philanthropy Poster Project Exhibition in New York

By Eleni Sakellis

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Images from the School of Visual Arts exhibition Actions Speak Louder than Words: The Philanthropy Poster Project. Photo by Eleni Sakellis

NEW YORK – The opening reception for new exhibition entitled “Actions Speak Louder than Words” at The School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York took place on January 20. SVA is hosting the exhibition at its Gramercy Gallery, 209 East 23rd Street, now through February 10. Free and open to the public, the exhibition, curated by Greek artist and SVA professor Viktor Koen, consists of selected works by the SVA Master of Fine Arts Illustration as Visual Essay program.

Each student chooses a quote about philanthropy and interprets it by combining images and type in poster format, with the resulting work submitted to be considered for the Philanthropy Poster Project exhibition at the Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) International Conference on Philanthropy in Greece.

The 24 posters by SVA MFA Illustration as Visual Essay alumni and second-year students included quotes, some well-known and some not so well-known highlighting the theme of philanthropy. The selections were among the most creative posters which had previously been displayed during the SNF International Conference on Philanthropy at the SNF Cultural Center in Athens since 2014. The posters express the SNF Conference visually and more than 96 have been displayed since the start of the project.



Left to right: Marshall Arisman- Chair, MFA Illustration as Visual Essay Department, School of Visual Arts; Viktor Koen- Curator and Professor, School of Visual Arts; Stelios Vasilakis- Director of Programs & Strategic Initiatives, Stavros Niarchos Foundation; and Vasili Tsamis- Chief Operating Officer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Photo by Eleni Sakellis

The SNF International Conference on Philanthropy brings together internationally renowned speakers from the fields of academia and science, as well as representatives of other foundations and institutions. The aim of the conference is to present best practices, and become the ground for the exchange of ideas and discussion on the developments within the wider field of philanthropy. Each year's theme varies depending on current challenges, keeping at its core the four program areas of the Foundation: Arts and Culture, Education, Health and Sports, and Social Welfare. The conference is addressed to representatives of other foundations, nonprofit organizations

and institutions, as well as to all those who are interested in the role of philanthropy and social giving.

The body of work developed by MFA Illustrators, along with contributions by Graphic Design students, and Summer Illustration Residents at SVA, becomes a visual extension to the SNF Conference on Philanthropy by showcasing the way young artists and designers-in-training perceive the subject of giving through a literal, symbolic or purely aesthetic expression that expands beyond the cliché and commonplace. The talented and deeply international make up of SVA's student body generates a multicultural approach to the theme of philanthropy that has evolved into a global sampling of ideas, quotes and expressions.

Among those present at the opening of the exhibition were Vasili Tsamis- SNF Chief Operating Officer, Stelios Vasilakis- SNF Director of Programs & Strategic Initiatives, Marshall Arisman- Chair of SVA's MFA Illustration as Visual Essay Department, and Viktor Koen- Curator and SVA Professor, as well as many art lovers and SVA supporters. Among the gifted artists with works on display is Greek artist Efi Chalikopoulou, www.efichaliko.com.



Images from the School of Visual Arts exhibition Actions Speak Louder than Words, including the poster by Greek artist Efi Chalikopoulou on left. Photo by Eleni Sakellis

Viktor Koen is an award-winning artist and educator who earned a BFA from the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem, Israel and an MFA with honors from the

School of Visual Arts. Mr. Koen serves on the faculty of the School of Visual Arts on the graduate and undergraduate levels. His images are regularly published in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Nature magazine. His client list includes top publishing companies and magazines including Penguin Random House, Doubleday, Harper Collins, Rizzoli, Houghton Mifflin, Tor, Time, Newsweek, Esquire, National Geographic, Rolling Stone, and Wired, among many others. His prints are exhibited in galleries and museums in the United States, Europe, Japan, and Australia. More information on Koen and his work is available online at: www.viktorkoen.com.

More information about the exhibition can be found online at: <http://www.sva.edu/events/events-exhibitions/actions-speak-louder-than-words-the-philanthropy-poster-project>.

More information about the Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation International Conference on Philanthropy in Greece can be found at: www.snf.org.



Attendees at the opening reception for Actions Speak Louder than Words: The Philanthropy Poster Project at the School of Visual Arts. Photo by Eleni Sakellis