

**Title:** Past-forward: Stavros Economou Unarchived

**Program duration:** 10.2019-10.2021

**Project Coordinator and Principal Investigator:** Popi Iacovou

**Funding:** Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth – Cultural Services [€60.000]

**General Coordination:** University of Cyprus

**Co-organisers:** University of Cyprus, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth – Cultural Services, University of Cyprus, The Cyprus Institute, Neapolis University Pafos.

**Curators:** Popi Iacovou, Georgios Artopoulos, Michalis Sioulas, Marina Christodoulidou Location: State Gallery of Contemporary Art-SPEL, Nicosia, Cyprus, 12 June-10 October, 2021.

**Description:** The curatorial research project focuses on the performative agency of the architecture exhibition as a stage of mediated narratives that is triggered with the activation and the making-public of a private architectural archive. It explores how an architecture exhibition can become a discursive site of knowledge production that challenges dominant narratives, by reflecting on the curatorial positioning and multimedia reconstruction of the archive. This was the first retrospective exhibition of the work of Stavros Economou (1917–2004) – one of the most significant representatives of Modern Architecture in Cyprus. The curatorial approach addressed a twofold challenge: on one hand, it explored the role architectural representation can play in the production of the multiple and complex (hi)stories of modern buildings by focusing on the way digital tools and methods can be used to creatively engage with the architectural archive, and secondly, it considered ways in which an architecture exhibition can connect with the host city and its local population by addressing contemporary urgencies of spatial inquiry that provide new readings of the archive and its present-day value beyond heritage and historical research.