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Abstract Formulary

Presentation type: **Oral** ✔ **Poster** ☐

Title: Ex situ sky : notional atmospheres made of silica aerogel

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ABSTRACT (Space limited to 2200 characters)

Sky Ex Situ: notional atmospheres made of silica aerogel

The atmosphere is a mixture of gases that surrounds planet Earth. Life is possible thanks to a sustainable atmosphere, the last layer of our planet, its breath… Besides providing us with something to breath it shields us from most of the harmful UV radiation coming from the sun, warms the surface of our planet differences between daytime and night time temperatures. Prof. Ioannis MICHALOU(di)S is a visual artist, researcher and academic, internationally acknowledged as a leading researcher in Art&Science, and the first to research the application of a space technology nanomaterial in visual arts and design. His aer( )sculptures are made of silica aerogel, a material which has 99% air content and looks like frozen smoke. It is used by NASA as an insulating material in spacecrafts and to capture stardust! For Michalous this ethereal material is the personification of our blue and orange sky: very delicate but also strong enough to protect our planet Earth.
Since 2001 Aer( )sculptures and Skysculptures are his on-going research projects on visual arts, aiming to create ethereal sculptures from the lightest solid material on earth. Recently he createde a family of artworks named sky ex-situ the first work presented last year at the brand-new Ocean Flower Museum in in Hainan, China, March to December 2021. Inside a large, ceramic, wine jar there is installed a plaster copy of the head of the famous Greek statue “Ephebe of Marathon”. The head is surrounded by shatters of its negative space, sky. An Attica ex situ sky, a notional traumatized atmosphere protecting the but also committed to the sculpture. But no visitor can see the statue and its sky because the giant ceramic jar act like a broody hen around Ephebe hidden in the dark “chaos” of the jar. Nevertheless, once a visitor decides to approach and take a look inside the jar’s black hole, LEDs are starting to illuminate something we barely can understand: from chaos to cosmos… Gently and very slowly…