

CV

Angelos Merges is a Swiss-Greek visual artist born in 1989 in Chios, Greece. He received an Integrated Master from Athens School of Fine Arts in the direction of Painting in 2020 and a Master in Fine Arts from Zürcher Hochschule der Künste in 2023.

He works between Zurich, Switzerland and Athens, Greece.

Solo Exhibitions:

2027 upcoming: TBA, in collaboration with DEO Projects, Chios

2025 **Off Season**, Kalfayan Galleries, Athens

2024 **pilgrims**, Modern Animals gallery, Zurich

2020 **Family of Man**, ASFA Degree Show, Athens

2018 **World's Material**, Melanithros gallery, Athens

Art Fairs:

2026 **Vima Art Fair** with Kalfayan Galleries, Limasol

2025 **Art Basel Miami Beach** with Kalfayan Galleries, Miami

Frieze Art Fair with Kalfayan Galleries, London

Art Athina with Kalfayan Galleries, Athens

Vima Art Fair with Kalfayan Galleries, Limasol

2024 **Art Athina** with Kalfayan Galleries, Athens

Art Athina with ACHT! and Nitra Gallery, Athens

2022 **Mataroa Awards**, Art Thessaloniki Fair, Thessaloniki

2021 **Art Athina Pop Up**, with ACHT! and Nitra Gallery,
King George, Athens

Selected Group & Duo Exhibitions:

2026 **City of Zurich Art Grants**, Helmhaus, Zurich

2025 **Werkschau 2025 Kanton Zürich**, Kunst Museum Winterthur

Grosse Regionale 2025, Kunst(Zeug)haus, Rapperswil

Why Look at Animals?, National Museum

of Contemporary Art (EMST), Athens

Earthly Things - Ghostly Matters, Zeughausareal, Uster

Theorimata IV, Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art,

Municipal Gallery of Athens

Oltre la Pietra, Castelgrande, Bellinzona Ticino

2024 **City of Zurich Art Grants**, Helmhaus, Zurich

Jungkunst 2024, Halle 710, Winterthur

The Radiance of Earthen Bonds, Duo show

with Aline Witschi, FOMO art space, Zurich

2023 **ENCORE: New Greek Painting**, Municipal Gallery of Athens

Visarte: „Einsichten 2023 and Friends“, Photobastei, Zurich

with FOMO offspace & Hotel Tiger offspace,

Sunburn, Studio West gallery, London, online

2022 **Soft Underbelly**, Zoumboulakis Gallery, Athens

An exemplary Art Show, Hotel Tiger offspace, Zurich

Summer Projekt, Go Green Art Gallery, Erlenbach

In The Other Room, Sonnenstube offspace, Lugano

2021 **21!**, Archaeological Museum of Agios Nikolaos, Crete

Reality Check, StandInLine Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus

Back to Athens - Day Wavers, Isaia Megaron, Athens

On a Small Scale, Alma Gallery, Athens

2020 **The space of emplacement**, Space52, online

2019 **The shaped Body**, Stegi Gramaton kai Tehnon Aminteou,
Florina

Awards & Scholarships:

- 2025 **Förderbeitrag**, Canton Zurich
- 2022 **Heinrich Hintermeister-Stiftung Zangger Weber Scholarship**
Hirschmann Stipendium Award
Mataroa Award (nominated)
- 2019 **TrainOSE**, 150 years Greek Railway Award
Ethniki Asfalistiki Graduates award (nominated)

Talks & Presentations:

- 2026 **Artist presentation** in the Bachelor Program,
3rd Painting studio, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- 2025 **Talks on Artists' Rights**, Panel discussion,
organized by Association Rights in the Arts,
Zurich Art Weekend Event
- 2024 **Artist presentation** in the MFA Program,
Athens School of Fine Arts
Artist presentation in the Bachelor Program,
3rd Painting studio, Athens School of Fine Arts

Residency Programs:

- 2022 **Shared Campus Summer School**,
Rivers. Jugular Veins of Empire, London
- 2021 **Centre of Polish Sculpture**, Orońsko
Ktirio 1, Vogiatzoglou Museum, ACHT! collective, Athens
- 2015 **Philoxenia Workshop**, Festivart, Loutraki

Publications & Interviews:

- 2025 **Lifo Culture**, lifo.gr, article by Christos Paridis
<https://www.lifo.gr/culture/eikastika/paratheristes-i-prosfyges-oi-ainigmatikes-figoyres-toy-aggeloy-merge>
- Kunstbulletin.ch**, article by Valentina Bischof
<https://www.kunstbulletin.ch/en/notebook/werkschau-2025-angelos-merges>
- 2024 **Decoding Zurich's Art Scene**, Collegium Helveticum,
Swiss Institute for advanced study,
interviewed by Anna Lugovska
Stadtfilter Empfiehlt, Stadtfilter Radio,
interviewed by Ursina Ingold
<https://soundcloud.com/stadtfilter/angelos-merges>
- Art Verge**, artverge.com,
interviewed by Yannis Kostarias
<https://art-verge.com/experience-the-evocative-rhythms-and-luminous-silence-in-angelos-merges-work/>
- 2020 **The Art Newspaper Greece**, issue no. 251
interviewed by Fotini Kapis

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ARTIST STATEMENT

Angelos Merges' painting compositions deal with current social issues while exploring painting strategies that correspond to the post-analog era. Having grown up on the small island of Chios near the Turkish borders, draws on his observations of the social changes caused by the economic crisis and the influx of refugees to the Aegean islands. During the past few years of residing in Zurich, themes of atomization, social discordance and displacement and matters of inclusion/exclusion have taken center stage in his artistic practice.

Strongly influenced by recent events that reshaped the socio-political landscape of Greece, his interest focuses on themes that revolve around the notion of liminality, existing in a perpetual state of in-between- as a human condition. In his work, events that occurred over the last decade and personal memories blend, producing a series of images that are interpreted without being explained. Issues that emerged during the economic and refugee crisis meet memories from growing up in the island of Chios, his homeland, creating ambiguous images that oscillate between the intimate and the unfamiliar.

The series of paintings form open-ended narratives offering an intermediate space that prompts the viewers to position themselves and to fill in the narrative based on their own perceptions. In the depicted scenes, the exposed and the unseen, the initiated and the outsider seem to be in constant exchange in an attempt to raise questions about shifts of perspective and positions of power.

Belonging to a generation of artists who grew up during the time of digital outburst, he approaches painting as a medium that enables the artist to focus on content and method in an era where screen culture holds a dominant role in everyday life. In his practice, Merges uses mainly found low-resolution images as references and employs a painting style that integrates abstract elements within a technique rooted in Alla Prima. In the majority of his works, the depicted forms are reduced to their most functional components, leaving out most details related to personal or cultural identity. This strategy allows him to explore how figurative painting can connect different cultural viewpoints at a time when identity plays a major role in how we see and describe human beings.