

Anestis Michalis

ON MY HEAD

Sylvia Kouvali, *Piraeus*
19 February – 17 May 2025

A score for reflection, movement, and encounter

(whisper)

What rests on your head, unseen?
A vessel of memory, tilting,
full of stories you didn't choose,

threatening to spill.

(voice, steady)

These vessels carry this weight—
cracked, porous, imperfect,

alive.

(choral, overlapping voices)

A crack is not an end.
A crack is an opening—
for stories to slip through,
for transformations to begin.

(instrumental)

T-t-t-tap.
The glaze splinters—
Sharp enough to wound,
soft enough to hold.

In the kiln,
fire doesn't merely shape—

it haunts.

You think of the moment of cooling, when form solidifies.

(whisper)

You lean in.
it compels, unsettles,
demands your gaze.
The vessel pulls you to its edge,
teetering between comfort and rupture.

(voice, resonant)

The vessel is a body—
It breathes,
expands and contracts,
grows fragile with time.

Here,
you might find yourself
listening for what refuses to be named.

(choral hum, slow crescendo)

We contain and are contained.
We fracture. We persist.
We overflow. We break.
We are remade in the process.
We become a new body, together with others.

Time folds here.

(voice, layered with echoes)

A house becomes a home,
a home becomes a memory,
a memory becomes sand.

(instrumental)

The space breathes
with overlapping lives—
those before and those after,
all stitched into the vessel's flesh.

(listen)

The vessels murmur:
of absence,
of presence,
of lives passed through,
of the ordinary made unfamiliar.

You stand at the threshold.

What do you carry on your head?
What stories seep from your cracks?

(whisper)

Be still.

Let the vessels breathe.

Let them speak.

(pause)

Feel the in-between:

the weight and release,
the beauty of what is collectively becoming.
You are both container and contained.

On your head—

clay,

fragments,

and all their transformations.

And in cooling, you remember the fire.

Text by: Lydia Antoniou

Bio

Anestis Michalis (b. 1981, Athens) lives and works in Athens, Greece.

His solo exhibitions include: *On My Head*, Sylvia Kouvali, Piraeus (2025); , *epismaltosi*, Nilufar Gallery, Milan (2022)

Group exhibitions include: *Once We Were Gardens*, DEO Project, Chios (forthcoming); *The Journey Of Life*, Homo Faber , Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice (2024); *like friends you know*, Nilufar Depot & Nilufar Gallery, Milan (2024); *Out Of Nowhere*, Nilufar Gallery & Nomad Circle, Capri (2023); *Flower Power*, Planet Spen, Athens (2015)