

For Immediate Release

Stephen Antonakos

New Installations by International Artist in Private Show

January 28, 2012, 5 – 7 pm

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RiverArts is pleased to announce "**Antonakos: New Work**," a one-time evening reception in the artist's New York space. Guests at this special event will be among the first to view four grand new series of framed works with gold leaf -- as well as the three most recent rectangular Panels back-lit with neon. Antonakos' use of this glorious material, with its echoes of Byzantium, invites new meanings and possibilities of feeling in the viewer -- much as his five decades of neon work have lent that material many new aesthetic meanings.

The Reception will take place from 5 to 7 PM on Saturday, January 28, 2012, at the artist's Soho studio. The address will be given with a paid reservation of \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. Availability is limited. A full-color catalogue of a recent Antonakos exhibition will be a gift to attendees. To make reservations, please visit www.riverarts.org.

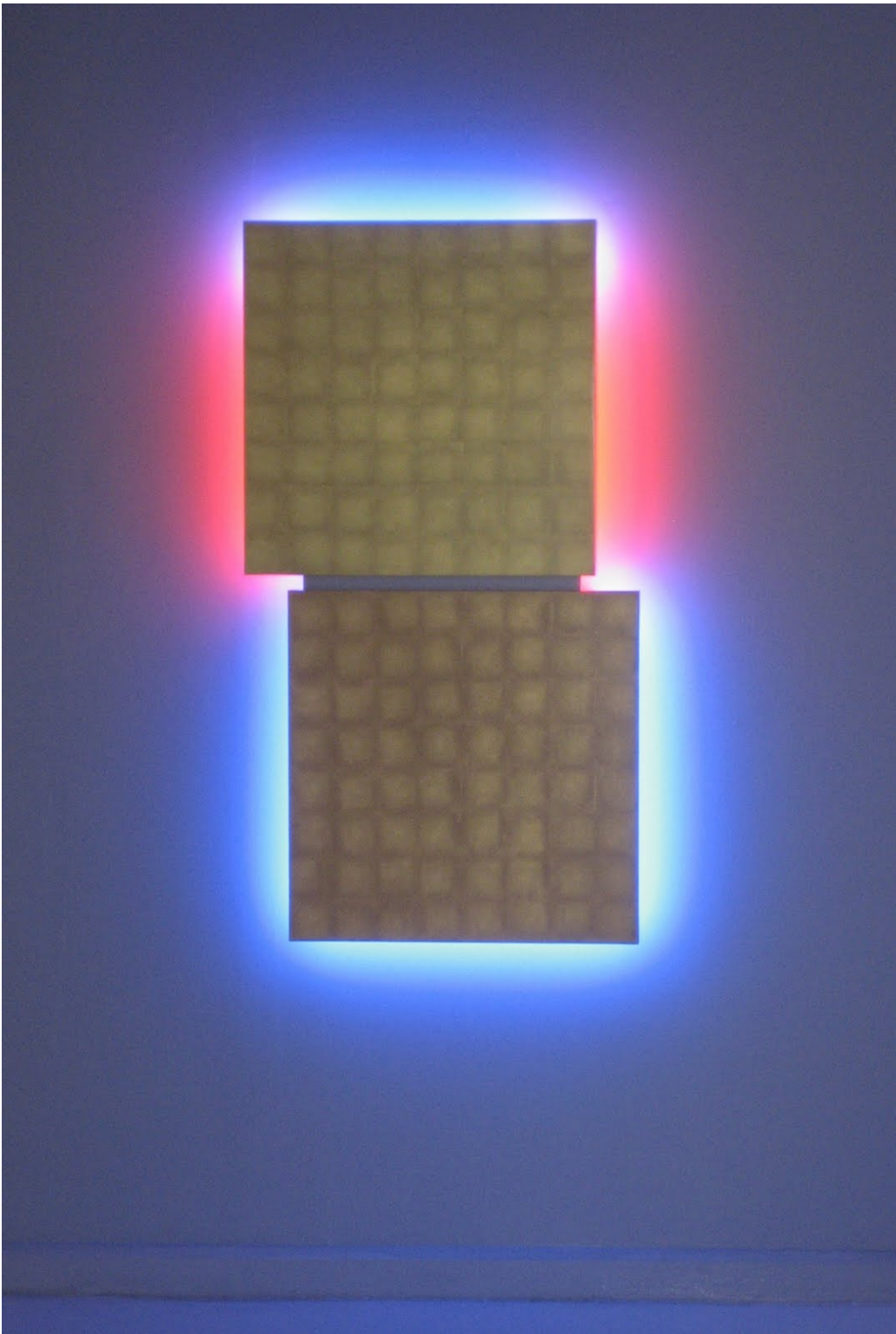
Eminent art critic and historian Irving Sandler has said, "Stephen Antonakos has been the pioneer in the use of neon in fine art for 50 years. A major achievement has been his engagement with architectural form and space. Essentially a classicist in the Constructivist tradition, he has revealed the poetry of neon." Antonakos has been active internationally for decades also with drawings, collages, canvases, "Cuts," Artist's Books, Packages, Reliefs, Chapels, Walls, Rooms, and large-scale public installations -- in works from hand size to hundreds of feet. From the beginning, the works have depended upon the meanings inherent in color and form. They speak through their particular scale, proportions, placements, and relationships to each other -- as music does. Antonakos' abstract geometries are "real things in real space in the here and now," without illusion, symbolism, or references outside the immediate visual and kinetic experience.

Even in an evening event, the centrality of light will be clear throughout the works on view. After sundown the neon glows behind the Panels seem to expand and intensify, dominating the rectangular surfaces. The sequences of gold sheets gleam warmly, and there is a play of brightness as one walks along the series. A careful selection of earlier work, including drawings, neon tables, and a Chapel model -- will give some historical context to the new works.

Stephen Antonakos has exhibited in over 100 one-person exhibitions internationally, including a major recent retrospective, and in over 250 group shows. More than fifty permanent public works have been installed in this country, Europe, and Japan. His work is in many major public and private collections here and abroad. The Neuberger Museum presented Antonakos its

Lifetime Achievement award in 2000. In 2009 he received the Prize in Art from The American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2011 he was honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards from the National Academy and Museum and from the Greek America Foundation. Please look at www.stephenantonakos.com. We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting private exhibition.

RiverArts is a community-based non-profit organization that provides quality arts education and events in the Rivertowns of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson and Irvington, New York.



2010, Saints Cosmas and Damian
Gold Leaf on Versacel with red and blue neon tubes
49"h x 27"w x 4 1/2"d
Photo Credit: Alexander C. Marsh, Brooklyn