

Thomas Jefferson



85 cm version. Studio photograph; background cleaned for presentation.

A contemporary sculptural portrait

Made in the artist's New York studio for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The work approaches Jefferson through his relationship with Greece and his correspondence with the scholar Adamantios Korais.

Two completed versions are proposed for institutional gift: an 85 cm interior portrait and a 100 cm exterior portrait. Each is a unique work, not part of an edition. This dossier brings together the studio's object information and the next steps for curatorial review.

[View the complete presentation and image gallery](#)

Object record

George Petrides (b. Athens, 1964)

Thomas Jefferson, 2026

Clay modeling, digital sculpting and fabrication in recycled PETG, finished by hand with applied brass and bronze metal coatings and a protective clear coat.

Each is a unique work, not part of an edition or a cast of the other. The artist may make further portraits differing in size, colour and form, but no copies of either work will be produced.

	INTERIOR	EXTERIOR
Height, without base	85 cm	100 cm
Width	80 cm	Approx. 100 cm
Weight, without base	Approx. 20 kg	Approx. 30 kg
Studio insurance value	US\$170,000	US\$250,000
Base concept	Ballasted plywood cylinder	Reinforced concrete cylinder
Base dimensions	110 cm H × 45 cm diameter	120 cm exposed H × approx. 65 cm diameter

The insurance figure is supplied by the studio. Heights exclude the base; weights are estimates and bases are concepts. Confirm depth, final dimensions, mounting, installed height and identifying details with the studio.

Material and care

Applied metal coatings cover a recycled PETG body; this is not a solid bronze casting. The studio specifies soft-cloth cleaning and annual renewal of the exterior clear coat. The same two-component UV coating has served outdoors on *Constantine* since 2025. Review product specifications, treatment compatibility and site exposure with the studio and conservator.

Placement details, base drawings and care notes

Context and interpretation

Greece and America

Petrides's statement centers on Jefferson's exchange with Adamantios Korais. In his letter of October 31, 1823, Jefferson discussed government and education for an emerging Greek state. The correspondence provides a focused historical entry point for the portrait.

The portrait tradition

The studio identifies four direct references: Jean-Antoine Houdon's bust (1789), Rembrandt Peale's portrait (1800), Gilbert Stuart's *Edgehill* portrait (1805/1821), and Stuart's *Medallion Portrait* (1805). A turned head and frontal torso carry these likenesses into Petrides's own treatment of form and surface.

Public interpretation

The Greek-American connection can be presented alongside Jefferson's broader historical legacy. Jefferson's advocacy of liberty coexisted with his enslavement of people. Monticello's research on slavery and the lives of enslaved families provides material for institution-led interpretation.

The artist

Born in Athens and based in Athens and New York, Petrides combines clay modeling with digital fabrication and hand finishing. His *Hellenic Heads* exhibition began in Washington, DC, in 2022 and was presented in Venice in 2024, in parallel with Biennale Arte. The eight-city, five-year tour reached its final stop at the Embassy of Greece in Berlin, which opened on September 9, 2026.

SELECTED SOURCES & FURTHER READING

National Archives: Jefferson to Adamantios Coray, October 31, 1823

Monticello: Life Portraits of Thomas Jefferson

Monticello: Slavery at Monticello

Artist biography and professional record

Institutional review

Proposed gift

The artist proposes an outright gift for public display with artist credit. The selected version, location, display arrangements, inscription and image permissions are addressed in a written agreement with the recipient. The website describes proposed arrangements; institutional acceptance remains subject to review.

Practical arrangements

The recipient arranges and pays for packing, transport, insurance, customs, base construction, site preparation and installation. The studio supplies the sculpture for collection in New York and provides base and installation guidance. Outdoor foundations and anchoring require local engineering review.

Documentation to coordinate

Confirm signature and identifying marks, ownership history, and the documentation accompanying transfer. Both works are unique; see Object record. Also coordinate final dimensions and weight, a dated condition report, complete photography, coating specifications, care instructions and mounting details with the studio.

Photography and image use

The online gallery shows the 85 cm version, including views with cleaned backgrounds and original studio files. Placement illustrations are labeled as AI-generated concepts. Photography of the selected 100 cm work should be requested for its object record. Confirm the photographer credit and publication permissions with the studio before reproduction.

Begin a conversation

Share the institution, preferred version, proposed setting and review timetable. The studio can discuss the site and arrange further documentation or an inspection.

studio@petrides.art

[Live dossier and downloadable photographs](#)