

KVNSTHALLE ATHENA

PRESS RELEASE

A Wonderful Life

Opening: Tuesday, the 3rd of July, 20:30

Live performance: Cibelle

Duration: 3rd of July - end of September, 2012

Visiting hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 18:30 - 22:00

Address: 28, Kerameikou str., Kerameikos - Metaxourgeio, Athens

www.kunsthalleathena.org

Participating artists: Andreas Angelidakis, Christina Dimitriadis, Yiorgos Lazongas, Dimitris Masselos, Kostis Paravadis, Dimitris Rokos, Socratis Socratous, Vangelis Vlahos, Maria Tzanakou

Artists with permanent works in Kunsthalle Athena: Aids-3D, Andreas Angelidakis, Dimitra Vamiali, Juliette Bonneviot, Alexandros Georgiou, Lydia Dambassina, HOPE, Annika Larsson, Matthieu Laurette, Ylva Ogland, Angeliki Papoulia, Robert Pettena, Theo Prodromidis, Iraklis Renieris, Yorgos Stamkopoulos, Stefania Strouza, Paul Zografakis, Socratis Socratous

Summer in Kunsthalle Athena finds us living ***A Wonderful Life***.

After a winter of deep economic, social and existential crisis in Europe, during which Greece was the epicentre of it, on the verge of literal and moral disasters in an area of the city centre such as Metaxourgeio, where human trafficking and drug dealing go on undisturbed with the State's tolerance right in front of our eyes and leave shattered people behind, raped women as well as impoverished heroine addicts, yet we feel 'wonderful'. We didn't bother the riot brutalities, we don't mind the unfair austerity measures, either the schizophrenic promises of the vote-wise politicians, or the whirlpool that drugs us deeper and deeper; it just reminds us that something crucial has happened, happens and will happen once again, while we are drowning. Besides, it's about a wonderful life in the context that Capra is presenting it in his -accidentally characterised as a Christmas- film, ***It's a Wonderful Life***, which occurs at the heart of the American crisis in the '30s, and has a reference to a series of setbacks and human dilemmas, corruption, death, blind destruction and greed. All these take place in Posterville, in today's Athensville, or in any today's city, where people have become worse and more corrupted than their own rulers and where all the people have to come together in order to deal with their unthinkable weaknesses. By facing one another.

Knowing nothing else but art, we finally decided to continue. Perhaps, in an abstract way we are making an effort to resist against this individual and also collective drowning. This winter, we published a magazine called SOUTH, in English, aiming at 'contaminating' the whole world with the infamous southern stereotypes and ideas, since nothing else has worked out. The first issue seems to be a success; lots of information from Greece and all around has gone everywhere, or at least wherever we thought they should have gone. We are now sending you news about this.

Furthermore, influenced by our research for the magazine and in relation with everything that has happened lately, we invited some artists to present their work altogether, so, along with the works that exist already in Kunsthalle Athena, they would ideally deliver the trace of this "wonderful life" that surrounds us, more black than ever. The reflection from these works seems to be magical through our eyes and, hopefully, through yours too.

At the core of this set stands the work of Vangelis Vlahos "1981" (*Allagi*) (2007), courtesy of The Breeder gallery, a work that seeks to construct an "image" of the first nine months of PASOK government in the beginning of the '80s, showing material that has been found in the archives of the right-wing newspaper Eleftheros Kosmos, we also present a series of photographs by Dimitris Masselos that thematises the protests and late turbulences in Europe, the video *Troll (Walking Building Part II)* by Andreas Angelidakis that refers to a workers' housing block which can no longer stand the city and takes refuge into the nature becoming a part of it, *the School* by Socratis Socratous, a series of photographs depicting a vandalised by its own students Greek school, works of Yiorgos Lazongas, whose main work is the video *Small Gas Tanks for Multiple Uses*, 1978, the dark works by Kostis Paravadis, the poetic photograph by Christina Dimitriadis from a performance directed by herself in collaboration with Stefania Goulioti, which took place in the room where the photograph is now exhibited, and the surreal paintings by Dimitris Rokos.

A Wonderful Life for those who can take it, the exhibition opens officially on the 3rd of July, with a double party (for the opening of the exhibition and the launch of SOUTH magazine's first issue) where the Brazilian singer-artist, Cibelle, will perform live and exclusively for Kunsthalle Athena and SOUTH.

On **Monday the 9th** and **Tuesday the 10th of July**, Kunsthalle Athena presents the lecture-live act-concert on democracy, titled ***Epitaph***, directed by Angela Brouskou. ***Epitaph*** is a performance-action that will be conducted in collaboration with the music band **MiniMaximum Improvisation** and "**Theatro Domatiou**" (Angela Brouskou, Parthenopi Bouzouri), with the participation of Gina Politi.

The organisation and curation of the exhibition has been a collaboration of Kunsthalle Athena's curatorial team: Marina Fokidis, Apostolos Vasilopoulos, Eleanna Papathanasiadi, Angeliki Roussou

Assistant curator: Christina Stamou
Sound: Sonic Playground

Sponsors:



For more information or visual material, or if you wish to book an interview with the participants, please contact us at:

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Or visit our homepage **www.kunsthalleathena.org** (Press category)

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