

KVNSTHALLE ATHENA

PRESS RELEASE

MOUNTAIN / HOPE

An event in Kunsthalle Athena

Saturday 4 December 2010, 8 p.m.

Kerameikou 28 str., Kerameikos – Metaxourgeio, Athens, www.kunsthalleathena.org

Launch of “Mountain” fanzine

Exhibition with original sources from the fanzine

Exhibition with street posters by HOPE

Performance “CARGO”, 9 p.m.

Acoustic music performance by Lolek and Mary, 10 p.m.

Participating Artists: Alvaro Sebastian, Christopher Snow, ΔεΡΙΖαματζορ Προμπλεμ Ινναουστραλια, Farah Abed, Fumihito Hayashi a.k.a. Charlie Brown, Giorgos Kakanakis, Haris Laspas, Hercules Renieris, Iris Touliatou, Isa Lange, jar moFF, Kareem Lotfy, Kathy Grayson, Kevin Lemoine, Kristine Hymøller, Lizzi Bougatsos / Spencer Sweeney, Maurits de Bruijn, MCPM (Marc Charpentier Peintre Moderne), Miltos Manetas, Óscar Benassini, Petros Touloudis, Poka-Yio, Socrates Mitsios / Actually Huizenga, Socratis Socratous, Spyros Staveris, Terence Koh, Thanasis Totsikas, The Race Behind The Hill & Photoharrie, Vicky Ntagka

Kunsthalle Athena has the honour to host the artist HOPE with his project MOUNTAIN / HOPE for the first time in its space.

Embarking on the intentions of KUNSTHALLE ATHENA to encourage international artistic synergies that do not intend to promote states or national –hypothetical– attitudes but rather advocate specific localities, like neighbourhoods, and the contact between them, we are in the pleasant position to host the project MOUNTAIN / HOPE. The project involves on one hand the presentation of HOPE’s visual work, who in the latter years operates in the streets of Metaxourgeio and adapts this specific topography as his thematic axis and on the other hand the zine MOUNTAIN, in which the artist invites kindred artists from Athens and other localities of the world.

HOPE invites visual artists, writers and musicians to create an artwork, to write a text or even lyrics reflecting the idea of a mountain. These works are all collected in a publication that bears the title “MOUNTAIN”. At the same time with the publication’s presentation an exhibition will be held at KUNSTHALLE ATHENA with the original works from this edition. The circulation of the zine will start from the building of KUNSTHALLE ATHENA as a gesture of reinforcement of the relationship between exterior spaces of circulation and indoor spaces.

Moreover, there will be an exhibition of posters by HOPE, originally featured on walls of buildings around the district of Metaxourgeio. The exhibition location proved to be an essential criterion

when it came to select the exhibits. There is an essential link between the place where the exhibition is mounted and the very form of the exhibition, since HOPE's work was already presented and encountered at several spots around the Metaxourgeio area in a spirit of giving away things to strangers. Thus, the series of posters inside the exhibition space constitutes a sequence which traces the visitor's path around the exhibition and invites her/him from the interior to another potential route outside the building of Kunsthalle Athena, into the outdoors. Therefore, the specific exhibition space is rendered "unimportant".

The images in HOPE's work are playing on a system of oppositions and dualities: public / private space, black-and-white / colour, inside / outside. As a result, the inside and outside of buildings as qualities are open to intervention, making it thus hard to distinguish between public and private space. "The urban ugliness", as the artist states, "becomes a positive quality. And this accordingly evokes a MOUNTAIN."

In duration of the evening, a performance titled "CARGO" will also take place. In this performance, "the body of the artist becomes the load for a sarcophagus". The sculpture of the performance is designed and constructed by HOPE and Petros Touloudis, while the video work and music is by HOPE. The event will be accompanied by music from Lolek and Mary, while ABSOLUT VODKA will kindly offer cocktails and drinks.

For press enquiries and visuals please contact:

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OR visit our website **www.kunsthalleathena.org** (Press category)

Kerameikou 28, Kerameikos – Metaxourgeio, Athens, Greece, www.kunsthalleathena.org

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MORE INFORMATION

HOPE was born in Athens, where he currently lives and works. His work is mainly focused on our relationship to the urban. With an emphasis on photography, a medium that is primarily a tool of inquiry and description for the artist, HOPE places his work within the context of everyday life and narrates the difficulties in attempting to invest urban life with some kind of meaning. While permitting himself to be provoked by current events as an autonomous reality, HOPE, through his large-format evoking posters, proceeds from an accumulation of heterogeneous elements to a coherent statement on the walls of buildings in the city's centre, printing posters and then pasting them onto walls and buildings near the place where he lives. This somewhat precarious duality between public and private space somehow reflects the daily reality of life in Athens and especially downtown.

HOPE studied in the Law School of Athens. He has presented his work in solo exhibitions at K44 in Athens (*The sun may not shine tomorrow, so suck my dick*, 2008), at the Starter Gallery in Dresden (*Next Exhibition*, 2008) and at the KNOT Gallery in Athens (*The house of Phoenix*, installation & performance with Michele Valley, 2010). Moreover, he has participated in several group exhibitions, among others in *Free for Wall Pt 3* (2008) at the Brick Lane Gallery in London, in the 2nd Athens Biennale (2009) as part of the *3 Velvet Days in Heaven* project, in Athens Photo Festival (2009) with his work *Photography as a Performance*, in *Illustration – LIFO* exhibition (2010) at the Benaki Museum, Athens, in the international exhibition of contemporary art *OSTRALE '10 – 4* in Dresden, etc. Recently, he took part in the fifth annual NY Art Book Fair at the MoMA, New York, with his publication *“thesewarsareoutburstofhypnosisonlythefacesareforreal”* (2009), as part of the “Journal of Aesthetics and Protest” curated selection. In 2010 he was the recipient of the EGBE award for best cover illustration.

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www.kunsthalleathena.org