

# KUNSTHALLE ATHENA

## WHAT

Kunsthalle Athena is a flexible art centre dedicated to the visual culture of our time. Its major objective is to reintroduce contemporary art and its significance to a genuine public sphere, prioritizing the possibility of co-producing and thus extending culture.

Drawing on creative sources of varied origins and providing a vital core of social interaction and exchange, Kunsthalle Athena is constantly informed by the idiosyncrasy and distinctiveness of Athens and its public. Our desire is to emphasize the constant transformation of 'the polis' as a symbolic location for the production and dissemination of contemporary culture worldwide.

Founded in 2010, Kunsthalle Athena is an initiative of curator and writer Marina Fokidis and remains grateful to its many friends for their generosity and spirit of solidarity.

## HOW

At the present, Kunsthalle Athena resides temporarily in an old neoclassical and un-restored building that bears traces of urban life reaching back to almost one hundred years ago. During this seeding period, Kunsthalle Athena views its' output as an open-ended process, where each project imbricates with the following, culminating into a horizontal and ever expanding body of work and critical stances. It is one experiment to see how ephemeral episodes can make one whole conceptual narrative of visual politics.

### May 2010 -

#### **KUNSTHALLE ATHENA – THE BAR (co-curated with Sotirios Bahtsetzis)**

Kunsthalle Athena's launching project, THE BAR, hosted a variety of events related both to the city of Athens and the newly launched Kunsthalle: Site and conceptually specific works, responsive public performances, screenings, as well as Athenian pop archives, an Athens book archive, dj-sets and concerts, selected Athenian blogs, magazine launches, came together with DIY catering activity within the specially designed interior (one of the artworks) of the venue. The content of this event-cum-exhibition - or better, the bar itself - was the outcome of what can only be described as a collective offer: that of artists, curators, theoreticians, choreographers, friends of Kunsthalle Athena, and hopefully the public, in order to put ideas into orbit. Traces of the BAR project (artists include Andreas Angelidakis, Matthieu Laurette, Aids-3D, Gert & Uwe Tobias, Annika Larsson, Penelope

Georgiou, Dimitra Vamiali) remain in the exhibition space and combine with new works and commissions.

### **October 2010**

#### **BYOB - BRING YOUR OWN BEAMER – ATHENS**

The BYOB exhibition (an acronym for *bring your own beamer*) was an evening of simultaneous projections and selective performances. Following a personal invitation by artist Angelo Plessas, 33 artists proceeded in a collective installation in the temporary exhibition space of Kunsthalle Athena, based exclusively on their own projecting equipment and labour. It was a case of “presenting” moving images and performances in a DIY context, which evolved organically in progress of the evening. BYOB, as an “autonomous” event of projections, is based on a concept by artist Rafaël Rozendaal .It first took place in Berlin, while, after its second stop in Athens, it continued in New York, in Los Angeles, in Vienna, etc.

### **December 2010**

#### **Capitalism and the Aesthetics of Knowledge in the 21st century:**

##### **Uses of the Social Document in Contemporary Visual Art**

The series of workshops, seminars, screenings, presentations and roundtables intended to expand the dialogue on art as a field of research addressing historical processes and social issues, *Crisis, Art and Systems of Knowledge*, started with four screenings and seminars entitled *Capitalism and the Aesthetics of Knowledge in the 21st Century: Uses of the Social Document in Contemporary Visual Art*. Focusing on artists' film & video in the past fifteen years, art historian and writer Angela Dimitrakaki discussed the diverse ways in which a critical use of the lens engages a global space produced by capital and situated forms of resistance to capital's rule. The selected works exemplify contemporary art's shift to the document and documentation as a means to map imaginatively a wide range of social, economic and cultural sites associated with various forms of crisis. (Artists included Johan Grimonprez, Ursula Biemann, Renzo Martens, Allan Sekula.)

### **December 2010 – February 2011**

#### **MOUNTAIN / HOPE**

The project MOUNTAIN / HOPE 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 invited kindred artists from Athens and other localities of the world 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 is held at Kunsthalle Athena with the original works from this edition. 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.

## WHO

**Marina Fokidis**, founder and director  
**Angela Dimitrakaki**, scientific advisor  
**Eleanna Papathanasiadi**, curator  
**Apostolos Vasilopoulos**, curator

### **Kunsthalle Athena**

**28, Kerameikou Street, Kerameikos - Metaxourgeio, Athens, Greece**

Closest metro station: Metaxourgeio Metro Station ([See map](#))

For visiting hours, dates and more information please visit

[www.kunsthalleathena.org](http://www.kunsthalleathena.org), or contact:

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