

KVNSTHALLE ATHENA

PRESS RELEASE

MILTOS MANETAS NEW ONLINE COMMISSION FOR 2014

Every year Kunsthalle Athena is commissioning one artist to do a piece specifically for the opening page of its website. You can view it by clicking www.kunsthalleathena.org.

For 2014, we are honoured to host a new piece by Miltos Manetas, titled *Internet Monastery*.

In this period, of social political and economic crisis in Greece and the rest of South Europe, Manetas chooses to present a bare image of a lighted candle in a dark background. The visitors can play with the flame just through the simple gesture of putting it on and off. A visceral piece, the *Internet Monastery* refers -among others- to the solitude and the incapability of people to come up with a solid solution towards the overwhelming and fast-changing catastrophic events, as well as to the metaphysical hope that the current darkness bares. The popular gesture of lighting a candle contains an abstract yet strong faith that things might become good, better, even if the current moment is of total despair.

There is nothing hip nor trendy and above all, nothing digital attributed in this piece. One could say that the iconographical style has much more to do with the classical -even religious- painting of the 16th century (Caravaggio) in terms of light or with the same period's Flemish painting, in terms of sharpness, to name just few references. This merge between past and present forms an interesting subversion according to which Manetas informs the so called "Post Internet Art" with classical aesthetics.

Miltos Manetas is the Founder of the Art Movement NEEN, a pioneer of MACHINIMA and an instigator of Internet Art. In 2009 he initiated the INTERNET PAVILION for the VENICE BIENNIAL. The theme of the last current edition was THE UNCONNECTED, People who are NOT using the Internet. He is a Greek-born painter, conceptual artist and theorist whose work explores the representation and the aesthetics of the information society. Manetas is a multifaceted artist, whose work can be placed within a well-established tradition in modern painting, representing modern people in their particular modern settings.

For more information or visual material, please contact:

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

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