

KVNSTHALLE ATHENA

PRESS RELEASE

This Must Be the Place

Solo shows:

Katerina Kana, Thanos Kyriakides (BLIND ADAM) and Petros Touloudis

**Three visual artists -currently living and working in Athens-
present their work in Kunsthalle Athena.**

**The exhibition features also works by: Sotiris Bakagiannis (Kunsthalle Athena
online commission 2013), Angelo Plessas, Socratis Socratous, Maria Tzanakou**

Opening: Thursday, May 16, 2013, 21:30 (after the Art-Athina opening)

Dj sets by Kostas Varotsos & Lo-Fi (Greek Rock, Indie). Bar open with Greek raki

A series of performances under the title ***Political Speeches*** will take place as part of the parallel events program. Participators: Pantelis Pantelopoulos (23/5), Giorgos Papadopoulos (31/5), George-Icaros Babassakis (6/6), Panayiotis Hadjistefanou (6/6), Slavs & Tatars (26/6), Poka-Yio, Thanos Stathopoulos, and many more to be announced soon

Following the solo presentations of established and upcoming artists, Kunsthalle Athena presents this summer **Katerina Kana, Thanos Kyriakides (BLIND ADAM) and Petros Touloudis**. Three artists, who insist on living and working in Athens at this difficult time, meet up in Kunsthalle Athena on a peculiar co-existence that investigates the dynamic of the artistic spirit and production under all kind of severe economic and existential circumstances. Kunsthalle Athena chooses to focus once more on Greek artists. This time though, we decided to have a non-specific theme for our main show, since everyday life has become so hectic, that it cannot be expressed yet by verbal terms and meanings.

The artists who present their work in ***This Must Be the Place*** are working on the verge of form and image. They seem to have a prismatic comprehension of reality and thus create a body of work that is less a documentation than a subjective gesture or a bold sketch of life, in this given moment.

- Escaping the square logic of stereotypes, the photographic collages of **Katerina Kana** move in the interstice of different ideologies and emerge as discreetly iconoclastic. Common spaces, like beaches or urban surfaces, are subjected to an unprecedented view. Through a fragmentary viewpoint, Katerina Kana gives room for a vivid conceptual twist.
- **Thanos Kyriakides (BLIND ADAM)** intertwines by hand woollen threads into a structure made of multiple knots. His work, resembling at times sculptures, skeletons or even ghosts, is arranged in a composition that recalls concepts such as Spirituality and Memory.

- The sober drama revealed by **Petros Touloudis's** *sui generis* installations and constructions matches the subtle self-irony reflected by his videos. An intensive investigation of the connections between different artistic mediums gives his work an attribute of poetic gesture and political reflection on place and historicity.

Works by Sotiris Bakagiannis, Angelo Plessas, Socratis Socratous and Maria Tzanakou accompany the exhibition. Meanwhile, the parallel program will consist of a series of events titled ***Political Speeches***, a series of artistic performances based on propaganda tradition, which will intend to create a public conversation and interaction with the audience.

- **Sotiris Bakagiannis** documents his life by building web-based monolithic compositions that employ real time data streams in a passively animated manner. In Kunsthalle Athena he presents the work that he created for 2013 online commission, which is based on the live reproduction of randomly selected tweets relating to the Arab spring. While the posts intensify, their accumulation causes a nullification of content, allowing imperceptible rhythms and tensions to occur.
- **Angelo Plessas** is one of those artists that use the internet as their canvas, exploring how living part online and part offline makes us all dual citizens. On the opening night he will bring into life the building of Kunsthalle Athena with a special presentation: a one-off projection of an online work on the venue's facade that addresses the concept of power and money.
- For the last decade, **Socratis Socratous** has been photographing everyday moments, capturing the vibe of the urban landscape. In Kunsthalle Athena we are enlarging one of his pictures of Athens, greeting it as the visual manifesto of the exhibition.
- On the other hand, **Maria Tzanakou** utilizes words to leave her traces on the building. Short verbal puns are transformed into ephemeral sculptures on the walls of Kunsthalle Athena, through a laborious process of imprinting digital projections on surfaces, using just a pencil as her medium.

Living the last years in an infinite 'point zero', in a state where we can see no end and no beginning, we are called to re-inhabit a place, which has hurled us violently away from our prior certainties. The crucial point is how to formulate a new perception of our lives and actions: a new ontology. As we are experiencing this inevitable change, where everything is in flux, the space loses its shape and transforms into nothingness, in a utopian place: the space for the impossible.

The concept of 'crisis', having exhausted its original content through excessive use, is no longer adequate to describe the dynamics of this instance. The void remains active, even in the middle of nowhere, and it gets constantly charged with the actions and pauses of the people living inside it. The artists of ***This Must Be the Place*** become the prophets of a new era that is yet to be seen. Perhaps, Athens is revealing itself as a crucial meeting point for artistic creation, a place 'between places', in a transitional exhibition on the co-relation of space, form and politics.

Curated by Kunsthalle Athena's team: Marina Fokidis, Eleanna Papathanasiadi, Jorgina Stamogianni, Apostolos Vasilopoulos. Guest curator: Michelangelo Corsaro
Assistant curator & social media: Maria Passarivaki

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

Duration: May 9 - August 2, 2013

Visiting hours: Wednesday - Thursday, 18:30 – 22:00 (in May the exhibition will be open also on Friday)

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