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THIS MUST BE THE PLACE - KUNSTHALLE ATHENA

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Maria Tzanakou, *What Remains*, 2012 , ephemeral text - sculpture, Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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, they decided to have a non-specific theme for their main show, since everyday life has become so hectic, that it cannot be expressed yet by verbal terms and meanings. The opening night, after visiting the 'institutionalized' ART ATHINA, where Kunsthalle's artistic director Marina Fokidis curated the parallel group show '*OPEN FORM*' featuring distinguished international galleries, we all headed downtown to celebrate once again. **Only this time the public's encounter with contemporary art was to be witnessed on a direct, emotionally charged, overwhelming informal basis.**

Video: Interview Thanos Kyriakides - *This must be the place* @ Kunsthalle Athena

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Katerina Kana, *A Few Standing Columns*, 2013, sculpture rock and plasticine (32 x 32 x 20 cm), Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

Cultural and art institutions with a critical agenda and a self-reflective attitude provide a constant source of inspiration for Kunsthalle Athena. At the same time, **the urban cultures of Athens**, at the moment of the city's most unpredictable transformation under global forces, provide an intricate learning ground and a concrete point of origin for its activities, direction and prospects of viability. For, in Kunsthalle's critical intervention in the art scenes of Athens, Greece and Europe at large we trust and for the radical curating that present themselves locally and globally we emotionally stand for.



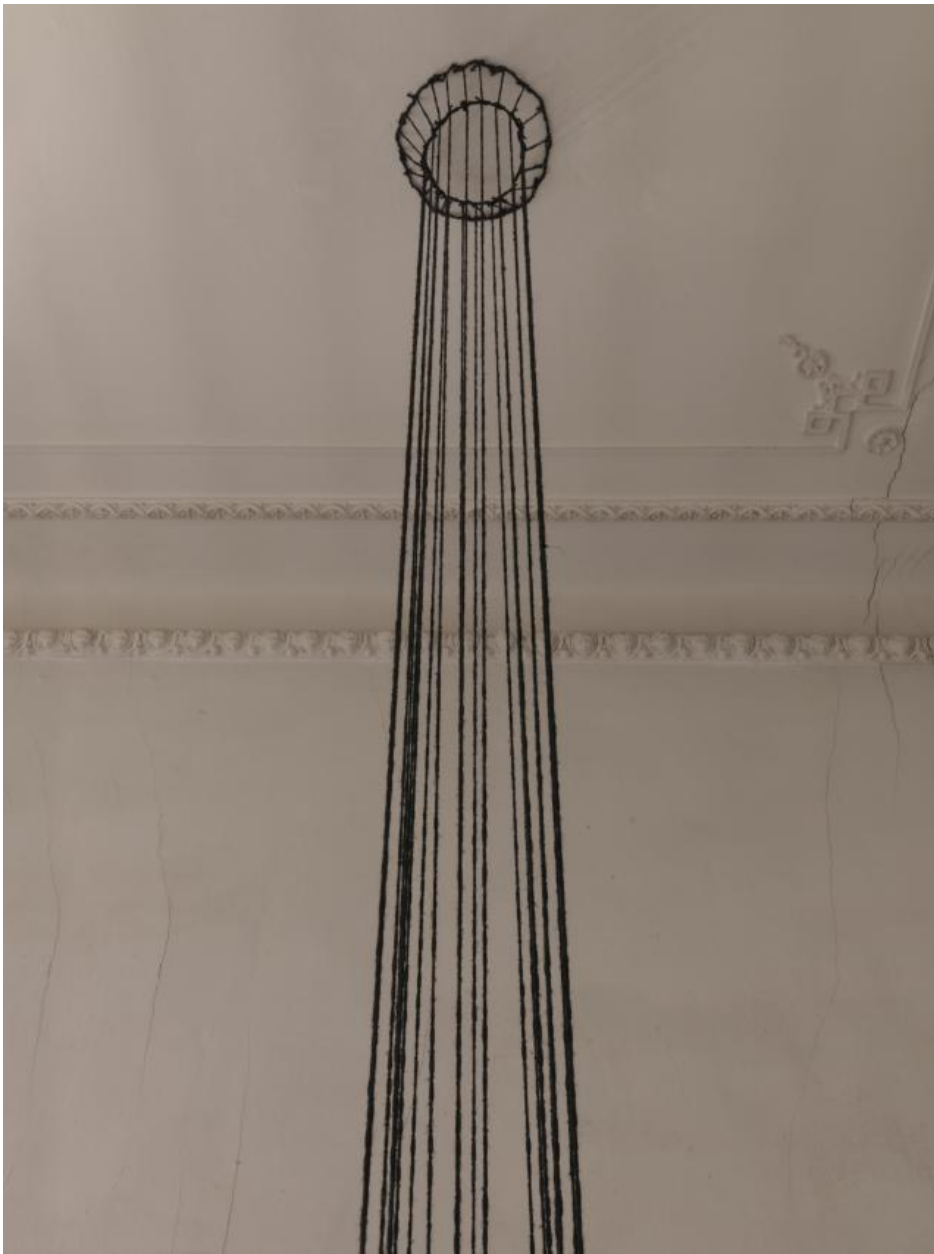
Katerina Kana, *Untitled*, 2013, sculpture plexiglass mirrors hexagon 170 x 80 cm, Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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**.



Katerina Kana, *Untitled*, 2013, sculpture cork and mirrors (100 x 20, 33 x 28, 9 x 9 cm), Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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**.



Thanos Kyriakides, *Beyond Time Lines (Napoleon Jacket)*, 2010, hand knotted acrylic wool yarn (35 x 95 cm) & *Beyond Time Lines (Column Sketches)* 2013, hand knotted acrylic wool yarn, dimensions variable, from the project *Blind Adam*, Courtesy of The Breeder gallery, Athens, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

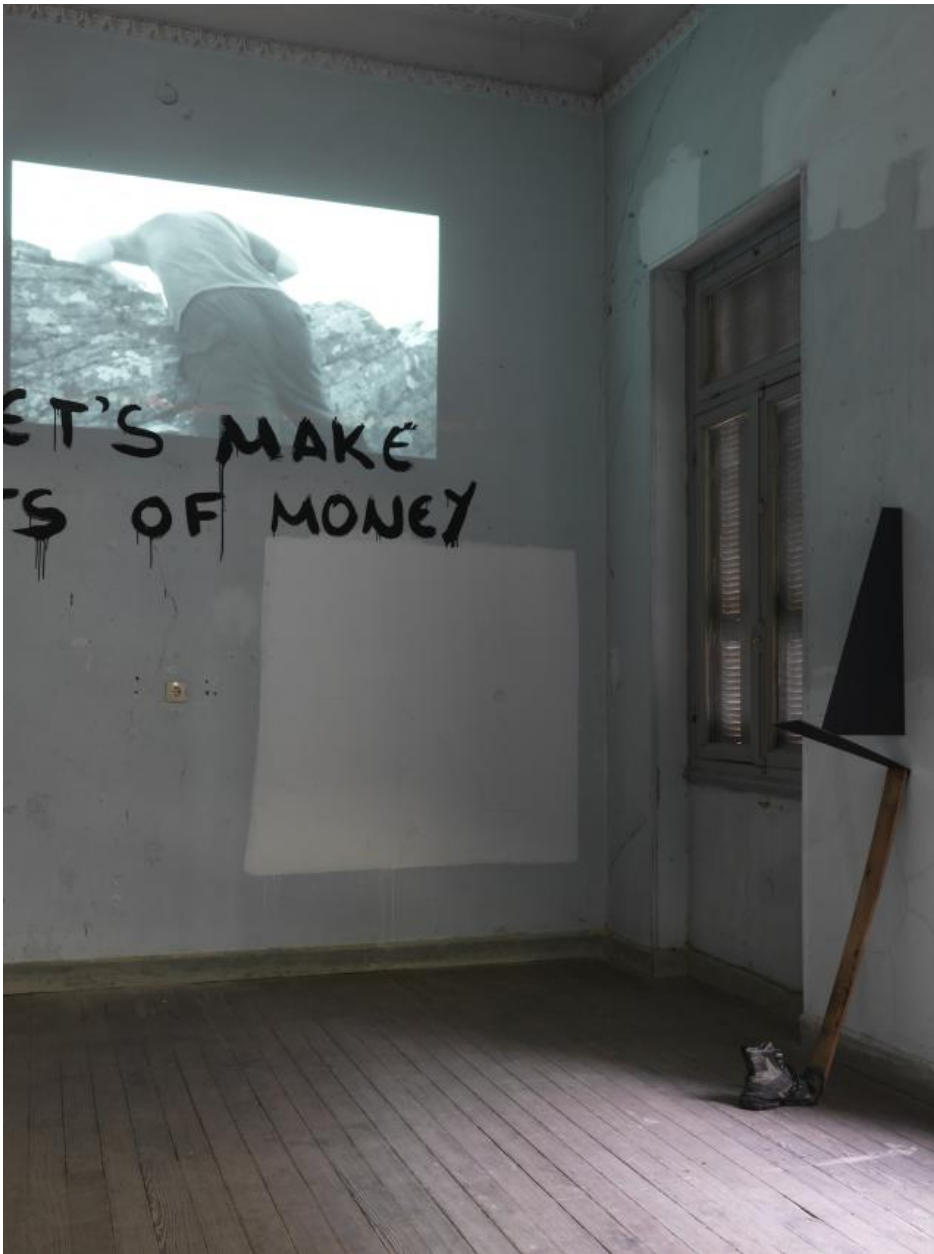


Petros Touloudis, *Erechtheion*, 2013, installation mixed media variable dimensions, Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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.



Petros Touloudis, *Pilgrim's Backpack*, 2013, sculpture concrete, wood, leather, strings (98 x 59 x 62 cm), Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.



Petros Touloudis, *Via recta*, 2012, digital video - duration 2'20" & *Untitled* 2013, mixed media (appx. 180 x 50 x 30 cm), Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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.



Socratis Socratous, *Untitled*, 2009, photograph printed on A4 paper, Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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.



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.



This must be the place opening night, 16th of May at Kunsthalle Athena - Kerameikou street (after the Art-Athina opening), Dj sets by Kostas Varotsos & Lo-Fi, Bar open with Greek raki, Photos by Bernard Steffin.

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**.



"Greek capital's current visibility in an international context is also connected with other, more troubling processes. **Recent socio-political events and economic turmoil in the region have made apparent the need for novel, participative and co-operative initiatives in the field of culture, if the latter is to retain and extend its relevance.** Kunsthalle Athena is not concerned with locating itself within the newest art world trends but, equally, it is not preoccupied with avoiding the latter. Its major objective is to be part of, and assist in, the realisation of agency through art. Art is itself part of this precarious intellect that strives for critical discourse. In 2010, as the country and its capital enter a period of economic uncertainty that challenges the social fabric, Kunsthalle Athena sees in this difficult moment art's possibility to address the social imaginary. **'We' cannot wait for a better moment to present itself. This is the right moment for doing things differently, for seeing differently and for believing in making a difference.**

Kunsthalle Athena will be based on essential teamwork among individuals and groups with a wide range of expertise and competences, seeking the creative contribution of local and global communities. It will encourage creative interactions with an international scope while its gravitational centre will be the distinctiveness of Athens and its public. Kunsthalle Athena will offer a new way to experience art in Athens, providing an alternative to that of the conventional art museum and related art institutions while aiming to complement them. The aim of Kunsthalle Athena is to emphasise the constant transformation of 'the polis' (Athens) as a symbolic location for the production and dissemination of contemporary culture worldwide".

Co-authored by Marina Fokidis, Sotirios Bahtsetzis and Angela Dimitrakaki.



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.**



Petros Touloudis, *Listen*, 2011, digital video - duration 10'17", Courtesy of the artist, Photo by Stathis Mamalakis.

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 at www.kunsthalleathena.org.

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



THIS MUST BE THE PLACE - Kunsthalle Athena, 9 May - August 2, 2013 Solo shows: Katerina Kana, Thanos Kyriakides (BLIND ADAM) and Petros Touloudis - Three visual artists -currently living and working in Athenspresent their work in Kunsthalle Athena. **The exhibition features also works by: Sotiris Bakagiannis** (Kunsthalle Athena online commission 2013), **Angelo Plessas, Socratis Socratous, Maria Tzanakou.**

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Kunsthalle Athena, 28, Kerameikou Street, Kerameikos - Metaxourgeio, Athens, Greece, www.kunsthalleathena.org

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