

Press Release

The Crisis and Beyond: Emerging Greek Art in Times of Trouble

(14-16 March 2011, 10am – 8pm)

Think. How long did the bad Moment last how long did the miracle?

(Markos Meskos, Psilovrocho XVII)

The A. G. Leventis Foundation Scholars have in numerous occasions taken an active interest in cultural and scientific matters. At this moment in time, it seems appropriate to focus on the financial crisis. And what better way to do so, than by organising an art exhibit with young Greek artists from Athens and London, who live and create during – and beyond – this crisis.

The Crisis and Beyond: Emerging Greek Art in Times of Trouble

This exhibition aims to document the state of Greek art in what seems to be a rather dark time in the country's recent history. Young artists are called upon to answer a series of questions through their work: Is the overall feeling of gloom present in art? What are the main artistic trends in the current circumstances? Could this feeling of gloom act as a springboard for a new, more creative period?

This is a rather fortuitous moment to explore the state of contemporary Greek art. It could be said that Greek art may be in its most mature phase, having finally broken with two centuries of cultural dependency, mainly on Western European artistic influences. The fact that young artists seem radically disappointed or unfulfilled today, is nothing but the best guarantee for things to come.

Finally, the premise of this exhibition, the co-existence of four Athens- and five London-based young Greek artists, is an ideal focal point for comparisons: to what extent do the former express the notion of locality and the latter absorb London's vibe or project a more international outlook?

The exhibition will take place between the 14th and the 16th of March 2011 (10am-8pm) at the Hellenic Centre in London, Great Hall, 16-18 Paddington Street, Marylebone, London W1U 5AS, Tel. 020 7487 5060, www.helleniccentre.org.

Participating artists:

Nikos Varytimiadis

Vasiliki Gkotsi

Panayotis Lamprinidis

Katerina Barabouti & Solis Barki

Yannis Pakapoukas

Elias Papanikolaou

Christos Prossylis

Aristotelis George Sofianopoulos

George Feretos

On opening night, Monday 14 March, Katerina Barabouti and Solis Barki will give a musical performance.

The exhibition is curated by the art historian Thanassis Moutsopoulos, in collaboration with the board of The A. G. Leventis Foundation Scholars Association.

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