



la Biennale di Venezia

57. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
Ministry of Culture and Sports

**EMST** MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**Pavilion of Greece**  
**at the 57th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**  
**“Laboratory of Dilemmas”**

**Commissioner: National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens (EMST),**  
**Director: Katerina Koskina**

**Curator: Orestis Andreadakis**

**Exhibitor: George Drivas, [www.drivas.org](http://www.drivas.org)**

**Venue: Giardini**

The artist George Drivas will represent Greece at the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (13 May – 26 November, 2017) with the video installation titled **Laboratory of Dilemmas**, curated by Orestis Andreadakis. The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens (EMST) has been appointed commissioner of Greece's national participation. The work has been selected by an advisory committee, appointed by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, among a total of 30 proposals.

**Laboratory of Dilemmas** is a narrative video installation – based on Aeschylus' theatre play *Iketides (Suppliant Women)*, which poses a dilemma between saving the Foreigner and maintaining the safety of the Native. Addressing current global sociopolitical issues, the work deals with the anguish, puzzlement, and confusion of individuals and social groups when called upon to address similar dilemmas.

Aeschylus' *Iketides (Suppliant Women, 464-463 b.c)* is the first literary text in history that raises the issue of a persecuted group of people seeking for asylum.

The Suppliants have left Egypt to avoid having to marry their first cousins and arrive at Argos seeking asylum from the King of the city. The King is then faced with a dilemma. If he helps the foreign women, he risks causing turmoil among his people and going to war with the Egyptians, who are after the Suppliants. But if he doesn't help them, he will break the sacred laws of Hospitality and violate the principles of Law and Humanism, leaving the Suppliants to the mercy of their pursuers.

**Laboratory of Dilemmas** focuses on the play's dilemma through the excerpts of an unfinished documentary in the form of found footage about a scientific experiment. This experiment was never completed for unknown reasons, however the found excerpts of the unfinished documentary reveal today, after so many years, details of the experiment, as well as the hopes of the professor who envisioned it and the disagreements with his co-researchers.

The story is presented piecemeal through multiple video and sound sources inside a Labyrinth.

The acclaimed actress Charlotte Rampling has a leading role in the videos of **Laboratory of Dilemmas**, along with other well-known Greek actors such as Yorgos Kotanidis, Lazaros Georgakopoulos, Kora Karvouni, Polydoros Vogiatzis, Rena Kyprioti, Panis Kalofolias.

**Laboratory of Dilemmas** is an immersive video installation that addresses contemporary sociopolitical issues and offers a peripatetic audiovisual experience that may create various different dilemmas to every visitor.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports. It wouldn't have been realized though without the generous support of our sponsors, and more specifically of the Grand Sponsor **Onassis Foundation**, the Principal Partner **Efa Ventures**, the Sponsor **Polyeco Contemporary Art Initiative**, the supporters **NEON Organization for Culture and Development**, **Aegean Airlines**, **Athens Concert Hall (Megaron)**, **Agricultural University of Athens**, **St. George Lycabettus Hotel**, **Skinos Mastiha Spirit**, **Greek National Tourism Organisation (EOT)** and the Communication Sponsor **ERT (Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation)**.

[www.laboratoryofdilemmas.gr](http://www.laboratoryofdilemmas.gr)

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