

Thessaloniki biennale: 6 of Contemporary Art

ΜΠΙΕΝΑΛΕ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗΣ ΤΕΧΝΗΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF CULTURE & SPORTS
STATE MUSEUM
OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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Press release

6th THESSALONIKI BIENNALE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

“Imagined Homes”

30 September 2017 – 14 January 2018

The **6th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art** under the main theme **“Imagined Homes”** is ready to welcome its audiences on **Saturday, 30 September 2017**. The first guests, mainly press representatives and professionals from the arts, attended the preview of the main exhibition venues following the press conference at the Contemporary Art Center of Thessaloniki (Warehouse B1, Port of Thessaloniki).

The Biennale, organised by the State Museum of Contemporary Art as with all its previous editions, has, in the ten years since its launch, established itself as a prestigious and important institution for the promotion of contemporary art in Greece and abroad. The Biennale’s main exhibition and performance festival hosts 96 artists and groups from 37 countries and 4 continents, all of whom call attention to this year’s theme **“Imagined Homes”**: taking as a starting point the major current issue of the outbreak of the migration crisis, and resulting in an investigation and analysis of the concept of home, its fluidity and redefinition.

As **Andreas Takis, President of the Board of Administration of the State Museum of Contemporary Art**, stated: “This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art. Furthermore, also this year, the State Museum of Contemporary Art, the Biennale’s organising institution, celebrates its twentieth anniversary. The Biennale is a preeminent event for our museum, which has always defined its strategy in open dialogue with society and in accordance with the demands of the times. The Biennale has been the driving force in the museum’s research on international developments in the arts, aspiring to serve as a dynamic forum that showcases original artistic contributions from all over the world”.

Maria Tsantsanoglou, Director of the State Museum of Contemporary Art, mentioned the 6th Biennale’s five novelties and pointed out that this year’s edition “relies on its own forces and chooses to bear the signature of the entire team of curators, art historians and educators working at the museum, whose experience,

awareness and knowledge have combined in organising an excellent collaborative project. Although this year's Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art had a smaller budget than all five preceding editions, it is still here. The Biennale for the first time made extensive use of open calls to artists, with half the participating Greek and international artists being selected from a total of 1,352 submitted proposals. Another innovation of this year's edition is the artists' residency program, whose works are presented as part of the main exhibition, and the presentation of a selection of artworks from the neighbouring Çanakkale Biennale, which had a similar thematic focus but unfortunately wasn't realised.

Regarding the 6th Biennale's thematic axis, **Syrago Tsiara, director of the Biennale**, states that "The home we leave behind, the home we hold dear in our memories when we are forced to move, the home we dream of and aspire to create, along with the changes taking place inside and around us in this process, constitute the core of our concept of 'Imagined Homes'. And despite the fact that 'Imagined Homes' are based on the current refugees crisis, they don't just reflect this situation but also give space to new concepts that are born: new ways of social interaction, self-organization, solidarity, inclusiveness and collective functioning, but also the sense of exclusion and marginalization.

The main exhibition of the 6th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art takes place in four venues: the **State Museum of Contemporary Art at Moni Lazariston, the Contemporary Art Center of Thessaloniki, the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art and the Mount Athos Center**. Along with the Thessaloniki Performance Festival, the exhibitions of the 5 Museums Movement of Thessaloniki, the events program, the educational programs for children and adults and the parallel program that includes self-funded exhibitions/actions that are presented under the auspices of the Biennale, the 6th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art will be spread across almost every corner of the city.

For the full program: <http://thessalonikibiennale.gr/>

The Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Regional Development Fund).



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