



For Immediate Release

A BOOK AFFAIR

Temporärer Kunst-Buchladen

When: 11 MAY-30 NOVEMBER

Where: RADIO ATHÈNES,
Petraiki 15

GOETHE-INSTITUT,
Omirou 14-16

BENAKI MUSEUM, Koumpari 1

Organized by:

GOETHE- INSTITUT &
RADIO ATHÈNES

Curated by: HELENA
PAPADOPOULOS

Opening #1: FRIDAY 11 MAY,
7:30 PM

Hours: We 4-8pm, Sa 1-5pm
and by appointment

A Goethe-Institut &
Radio Athènes project

A BOOK AFFAIR is a term used to describe a situation in which one is reading a short casual fun book, while attempting to read a much longer more complex book. In this spirit, we are creating a temporary library/stage which will be open to the public for the run of several months (May-November 2018). Within this period we are inviting Greek and international publishers, authors, editors and artists to present their work in lectures,

talks, performances, and book signings. The selection spans art, theory, fashion, literature, psychoanalysis, architecture and design, a mix of 'fun books' and more 'complex reading'.

Approached as a performance unfolding over a 5-month period, it consists of lecture-performances, visual interventions, discussions, book presentations, readings and live music. The link between editors, artists, publishers, writers, choreographers and theorists involved in A BOOK AFFAIR is contemporary art and reading as a state / activity that involves not only the mind but also the body, in creating meaning and a new poetics. Reading as a methodological and transformational bridge. A BOOK AFFAIR is an experiment that approaches the library as a space of inter-textuality, creation, un-creation, and recreation-to borrow some concepts that Michel Foucault evokes in his essay "Fantasia of the Library" (1977). Local audiences and invited guests can exchange ideas, information and have access to one of the oldest forms of pleasure: books.

The presentations / events, will take place in *the library and auditorium of the Goethe-Institut, *the auditorium of the Benaki Museum, *at Radio Athènes which is transformed by Berlin based architect Etienne Descloux into a 'stage' as well as a 'vessel' for the collection of objects, books and works of art that will be presented as the project evolves *and in surprising locations in the city, depending on the format each participant chooses. An organic part of A Book Affair will be the Radio Athènes library that includes titles selected by artists and collaborators over the last three years.

Etienne Descloux (* 1972, Biel, CH) lives and works in Berlin. He studied architecture at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and at the Universität der Künste (UdK) Berlin. Since 2000 he works as an independant architect in Berlin with Tobias Engelschall. He has designed private homes in Neuchâtel, Falsterbo (under construction) and Hiddensee; galleries, art spaces, museums, shops, offices, restaurants, spas and apartments in Bad Driburg (under construction), Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, München, Osnabrück, Athens (under construction), London, Lucinasco and Nicosia. He has undertaken the architectural design for exhibitions at the Kunsthaus Bregenz, the Galerie der HGB Leipzig and the Ethnologisches Museum Dahlem. He has participated in group shows at the Kunsthalle Baden Baden, Kunsthall Bergen and Kunstverein Bielefeld. And

he has collaborated with artists such as Michael Beutler, Pablo Bronstein, Julian Goethe, David Lieske, Sharyar Nashat, Christodoulos Panayotou and Danh Vo.

With the participation of:

GITI NOURBAKHSCH
RARE BOOKS PARIS
GREGORY BROOKS
DESTE FOUNDATION
REAL REVIEW
JACK SELF
PoLYpEN
SABETH BUCHMANN
KERSTIN STAKEMEIER
NEXT SPRING
LAURA PRESTON
BILL
JULIE PEETERS
ROSALIND NASHASHIBI
ELENA NARBUTAITE
MAKIS MALAFEKAS
PARAGUAY PRESS
THOMAS BOUTOUX
JOACHIM HAMOU
SEQUENCE PRESS
MIGUEL ABREU
KATHERINE PICKARD
URBANOMIC
ROBIN MACKAY
STERNBERG PRESS
THE SERVING LIBRARY
LENIO KAKLEA
MERVE
FITZCARRALDO EDITIONS
JACQUES TESTARD
ALIKI PANAGIOTOPOULOU
THEODOROS GIANNAKIS
PRIMARY INFORMATION
JAMES HOFF
THE RADIO ATHÈNES
LIBRARY & many more

May-June 2018 (the fall program
will be released in July)

#1

**Giti Nourbakhsh: *The Golden Jaguar with a Thin Red Stripe*
Friday 11 May, 7:30 pm @
Radio Athènes**

**Launch of her newly published
illustrated book and exhibition
featuring works by the author,
Berta Fischer and fashion
designers Rubin & Chapelle,
NY**

Imbedded in the form of a play script, *The Golden Jaguar with a Thin Red Stripe* narrates loosely in monologues, which sometimes turn into dialogues, the coexistence of three characters, Bibi, Fzzi and Sitting Lady in an artificial space, a stage. Ix, a voice, is heard. A narrator connects the characters from a point of view perspective, visualizing the unspoken. He appears to describe each reality. Lonely Man is present.

Another mute main protagonist is the golden Jaguar. A single object on a stage, inspired and contextualized by stage designer Katrin Brack, a reminiscence.

The Golden Jaguar with a Thin Red Stripe is a collage of different found text fragments and various stories told. Illustrated.

Giti Nourbakhsh is an experimenting former art dealer.

She lives and works in Athens.

#2

**Gregory Brooks: Rare Books
Paris
Wednesday 23 May, 7:30 pm@
Radio Athènes**

**Rare books on fashion,
architecture, design, art
and original material from the
early years of Maison Martin
Margiela**

Late in 2013, a new feed appeared on Instagram. The first post was an image from a rare photobook by Dutch photographer and choreographer Hans van Manen. Subsequent posts featured an eclectic mix of printed material on architecture, fashion and interior design, artists' books, magazines, lookbooks, art catalogues, and other ephemera: offbeat and imaginative, it was clearly the product of a singular vision. Started as a personal project, rarebooksparis is now a full-time concern for its owner. The Instagram feed has over 30,000 followers, and a growing reputation as a go-to site for exquisitely crafted, hard-to-find books and ephemera, most of it fashion related. The owner's identity isn't a huge secret, but nor is he interested in making it public. He runs rarebooksparis from his flat in Paris's 19th arrondissement, in an as-yet ungentrified neighbourhood. This will be the first public presentation of Rare Books Paris.

#3

**THOMAS BOUTOUX &
JOACHIM HAMOU
present PARAGUAY PRESS
Friday 8 June, 7:30 pm@ Radio
Athènes
Lecture performance**

Thomas Boutoux is a Paris-based writer, curator and publisher. He is a founding member of several collective-run small scale organizations in Paris: the imprint Metronome Press; the art space castillo/corrales; the bookstore Section 7 Books, and the most recent one, the publishing cooperative Paraguay. As a writer, Boutoux has a long-standing practice of close collaboration with visual artists on artists books, scripts for films, plays for the radio or stage, songs and live events. He's currently producing a new play co-authored with Guillaume Leblon for Front International, Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art. He teaches social and contemporary art theory in the MA program of the School of Fine Arts, Bordeaux. In 2017, he co-organized with Helena Papadopoulos the long term project "All: Collected Voices" a Goethe-Institut and Radio Athènes collaboration.

Joachim Hamou is an artist, who works in multiple media (film, theatre and performance) and produces public events in collaboration with several community organizations. His collaborative art projects and films actively engage people in recognizing, understanding and participating in problem solving

related to complex social issues. His latest film UIP 27 is a drama-documentary set in the year 2027 where a possible future scenario for Israel and Palestine is imagined. He is currently developing the feature film called "Colonie" which is being produced by Barberousse films. Born in France, growing up in Paris and Stockholm within a Moroccan and Swedish family, he was based for a long period in Copenhagen where he initiated many independent institutions, such as TV-TV, Rio Bravo, Trampoline House. He currently lives between London and Paris, where he is a member of the publishing cooperative Paraguay.

[/www.hamou.artcodeinc.com/](http://www.hamou.artcodeinc.com/)

Paraguay is a publishing cooperative based in Paris. It has published books and several periodicals since 2007, first functioning as the house imprint of the project space castillo/corrales, and since 2015 as an autonomous non-profit organization, which develops a model of publishing that comprises live events, talks, workshops, exhibitions and books. Paraguay associates a dozen of writers, artists, curators, and graphic designers from different generations and has its offices in the artist-run space and studios DOC in Paris 19th.

<http://www.paraguaypress.com>

#4

**Makis Malafekas: De Les Kouventa (Hush Hush)
Friday 8 June, 8:45 pm @
Radio Athènes**

**Book launch and reading of the hot-off-the-press novel by Makis Malafekas
Published by Melani Editions.**

"This was the worst possible moment to get a book out on John Coltrane. Launching a book on jazz in midsummer Athens and right in the middle of Documenta, a full house of art intelligentsia. Nobody would show up, not even my publisher. Where the fuck was I going?"

Michalis Krokos is in trouble. Athens bids him welcome with a heatwave and contemporary art, record numbers of tourists and drift driving, the third Memorandum and Airbnb, enlightened hackers, mental cabdrivers and maneater chicks, murders, kidnappings and the heist of a painting that bears the secrets of the world. A writer lost in the tidal whirlpool of his time. In the wrong town. In the wrong summer.

Makis Malafekas is a writer who lives in Brussels and Athens.

#5

**Codex DESTE
Thursday 14 June, 7:30 pm @
Radio Athènes**

In the context of A Book Affair, the DESTE Foundation presents Codex DESTE, a special installation featuring all ninety publications that have accompanied the Foundation's exhibitions from 1983 to this day, as well as the 2000 Words series of artist's monographs. If an art catalogue, more than simply seeing images on paper, is a transcoding in book format of the event-making experience of an art exhibition or of an artwork, the installation Codex DESTE explores the physical dimension of publications in a structured environment. This is a material inquiry with indexical fragments and documents into the constitutive role of art catalogues in the exhibitions history of the DESTE Foundation.

#6

THEODOROS GIANNAKIS

Friday 22 June, 7:30pm @

Radio Athènes

The artist discusses the impact of literature in his work as well as his solo exhibition which opens on May 10th at Eleni Koroneou Gallery.

“I think that if contemporary writing is necessarily a lonely transaction of a four-dimensional human being, reading itself, and perhaps the need not only to tolerate this kind of loneliness but to love her, is a unmoveable event of my creative practice and of ways of reading, and one of the significant psychological events that I have to comprehend within it.”

Theodoros Giannakis was born in Preveza in 1979. He lives and works in Athens. He is a member of the artist group KERNEL and is currently a PhD candidate at the Athens School of Fine Arts. Recent exhibitions include: Primitivism Mirage, Eleni Koroneou Gallery, Athens; 2018 Triennial : Songs for Sabotage, – New Museum, New York; Driftwood, or how we surfaced through currents – Fondazione Prada, Athens; Roy Da Prince – Centre For Contemporary Art Futura, Prague; The Equibrists – organized by Deste Foundation, Benaki Museum, Athens

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For further information please contact
Iris Asimakopoulou at
Iris.Asimakopoulou@athen.goethe.org
or Helena Papadopoulou at
wave@radioathenes.org