



Sterna Art project 2019

"ISLAND HOPPING"

16 / 7 - 19 / 8 / 2019

Participants: Dora Economou, Agnieszka Gratzka, Virginia Mastrogiannaki,
Paky Vlassopoulou

Artistic director: Greg Haji Joannides

Location: Nisyros, Tilos, Symi, Rhodes, Kastellorizo

The definition of *island hopping* is to cross a sea by means of several brief journeys between islands instead of a single long crossing to the final destination. Originally, the term denoted an ocean's passage by mammals, with specific references to how animals crossed the Caribbean and reached the American continent. In our time, however, *island hopping* is linked to summer vacations on more than one island. The notion of migration inherent in the term, and specifically the breaking up of migration into short sections until the final destination, has evolved today into going from one place to another without necessarily having a final destination—or, at least, the destination is not particularly important.

The Sterna organisation brings together a team of four visual artists who have already spent time on Nisyros. They have studied its materials, codifying and incorporating them into their work according to each one's personal style and depending on their subjects. After a two-week stay on the island to collect the materials they'll need for the journey, they embark on two ships for another three weeks of *island hopping* to the south, stopping over at Tilos, Symi, Rhodes, Castellorizo.

They carry with them 'trademark' local materials: pumice stone, sulphur, agramittha (a kind of nut) and thermal water, which are ritualistically offered as gifts to the islands linked to Nisyros by regular boat connections. On the other hand, what makes these artists, amidst the tourist high season, to create something of no apparent commercial value? What kind of good is contemporary art, and how does it relate to tourism? In a special time when art and tourism are the mainstays of Greek production, what is the





role of artists and why are they producing during a season designated as a time to rest and consume?

What is attempted here in a way is a kind of “branding” of artistic production while travelling from place to place; a process that involves the creation of a unique name or image for contemporary visual art. The “tourists-consumers” are recipients of a constant artistic process. This “branding” concerns the artists themselves and their work, but also Sterna; after all, a brand is the essence in the unique personal experience of each of us.

The journey starts from Nisyros with the intention of disseminating the people, the materials, the experiences and the processes that will take place on the island, the ferries and the local speedboat, the religious festivals and the cultural events that the participants will run into. The squares and the beaches until their arrival to Kastellorizo and their return to Athens where they live. The emphasis is on materiality, the special geography of remote islands, the necessities, the interests, the scheduled itineraries in high season, the 'tribes' of nomads, visitors, etc.

Ultimately, how can the energy from the volcano be conveyed without an explosion?

The project is organised by Sterna organisation in collaboration with the Municipality of the Nisyrians. With the support: NEON Organisation for Culture and Development, Partner for Kastellorizo: Societa delle Api, Transportation sponsors: Blue Star Ferries & Dodekanisos Seaways. With the help of the municipalities of Tilos & Symi. Communication sponsor: Popaganda. Info: www.sterna.com.gr



Sterna, founded in 2014 by artist Greg Haji Joannides, is an interdisciplinary non-profit





Castle of Emporeios
85303 Nisyros, Greece
+30 6942050050
info@sterna.com.gr

organization whose purpose is to foster and nurture the creative expression of artists while challenging perceptions of what constitutes contemporary visual culture. The Sterna Art Project is designed as an active site, a space for artists to converge through its residency programs, workshops, meetings and exhibitions throughout the whole year in various spaces around the island. The organization places a strong emphasis on the location of the residency in Nisyros and works actively to make a compelling connection between the resident artists and the island, its residents and the existing cultural events.



Κάστρο Εμπορείου
85303 Νίσυρος
+30 6942050050
info@sterna.com.gr