

NEON



ΚΡΑΤΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ
ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗΣ ΤΕΧΝΗΣ
STATE MUSEUM
OF CONTEMPORARY ART



ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗΣ
ΤΕΧΝΗΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ
THESSALONIKI CENTER
OF CONTEMPORARY ART

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 18 November, 2015

Flying over the Abyss

NEON at the Thessaloniki Center of Contemporary Art

7 November 2015 – 29 February 2016

NEON Organization for Culture and Development presents the exhibition *“Flying over the Abyss”*, at the Center of Contemporary Art in Thessaloniki, part of the State Museum of Contemporary Art (Warehouse B1, Thessaloniki port), from 7 November 2015 to 29 February 2016 (*Opening: Saturday, 7 November, 7pm*). The exhibition was initially presented at Rethymnon, in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete, from May to October 2015.

The collaboration between NEON and the Thessaloniki Center of Contemporary Art has developed an exhibition which optimizes a very important cultural asset of Greece, Nikos Kazantzakis-the thinker, thus creating a dialogue between his theosophical work *“Ascesis: The Saviors of God”* and the creations of Greek and international artists of contemporary art.

The exhibition *“Flying over the Abyss”* brings about the adjoined curatorship of Maria Marangou, Artistic Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Crete, and that of art historian, Dimitris Paleocrassas, exploring the passage of man from life to death, while observing, yet drawing its inspiration upon, Kazantzakis’ *“Ascesis”*. A synergy of NEON and the Kazantzakis Museum, the manuscript of *“Ascesis”*, exhibited for the first time in Thessaloniki, will be hosted at the exhibition, in an interacting process with contemporary art.

In their totality, 28 artists are presenting artworks that will be on an ongoing dialogue amongst them, the *“Ascesis”* as well, casting light upon the course of human life – from the trauma of birth to the struggle of life and creativity, unto death.

The exhibition includes works from the following artists: Marina Abramović, Alexis Akritchakis, Matthew Barney, Hans Bellmer, Lynda Benglis, John Bock, Louise Bourgeois, Heidi Bucher, Helen Chadwick, Savvas Christodoulides, Abraham Cruzvillegas, Robert Gober, Asta Gröting, Jim Hodges, Jenny Holzer, Kostas Ioannidis, Mike Kelley, William Kentridge, Martin Kippenberger, Sophia Kosmaoglou, Sherrie Levine, Sthathis Logothetis, Ana Mendieta, Maro Michalakakos, Doris Salcedo, Kiki Smith, Costas Tsoclis, Mark Wallinger.

All works exhibited are courtesy of the D.Daskalopoulos Collection.

Our warmest thanks to the D.Daskalopoulos Collection and Nikos Kazantzakis Museum for their generous loans to the exhibition.

Exhibition: 'Flying over the Abyss'

Duration: 7 November 2015 – 29 February 2016

Opening: 7 November 2015 | 7 pm.

Opening hours:

Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday-Saturday-Sunday: 10:00-18:00

Friday: 10:00-22:00

Monday: closed

Open guided tours every Saturday at 12:00 for ticketholders.

Museum admission: €3 adults, €1,5 concession, €1 group ticket. Concessions apply.

Thessaloniki Center of Contemporary Art

Warehouse B1 - Thessaloniki port, P.O.Box 10759, 541 10, Thessaloniki

T: 2310 593270, 2310 546683 / info@cact.gr

NEON is a Culture and Development, non-profit, Organization, founded by the collector and entrepreneur, Dimitris Daskalopoulos, in 2013. NEON aims to bring contemporary culture closer to everyone by giving prominence to the potential artistic creativity has to awaken, emotionally move and motivate. At the same time, it pursues the broader effort of the city's conducive upgrading, as well as the improvement of the citizen's every-day life. The Organization acts towards restoring the civilian's relation to the function and proceedings of the city.

NEON breaks the convention which limits an art foundation to a single space. It acts on a multitude of initiatives and spaces within the broader civic milieu. It is a vibrant and engaging interlocutor with society at large, cultural stakeholders and the wider public, in general.

NEON realizes its mission through free exhibitions, educational programs, talks and events, grants and scholarships, and a network creation of international partnerships, as well. NEON constructively collaborates with cultural institutions, while supporting the program of public and private institutions to enhance the understanding and dispersal of contemporary art. NEON aims at designating culture as the main vehicle for advancement and development.

The Contemporary Art Centre of Thessaloniki is an independent part of the **State Museum of Contemporary Art**. Through exhibitions, educational programs for children and adults, and other activities, it supports all forms and kinds of innovative artistic activity, it stays abreast of international trends in contemporary art, it participates in networks exchanging cultural products and experience, it seeks productive collaborations that will serve the shared objective of a multi-faceted support for, and promotion of, the arts. The Contemporary Art Centre of Thessaloniki is oriented mainly towards the relationship of art with politics, gender and the public space, while it participates in the **Thessaloniki Biennale for Contemporary Art** that is organized by SMCA, with hosting exhibitions in its space or with its own productions.

For more information, please contact: neon.org.gr or cact.gr

Reliant Communications

Contact: Ms. Efi Lazaridou

T: +30 210 6839839, +30 6932 296850

E: elazaridou@reliant.gr