**Exile Europa**

**15th Venice Biennale of Architecture**

**In the context of the Greek participation**

**The performance-action *Exile Europa* will take place in Venice, on Saturday September 17th in the Greek pavilion - Giardini at 14.00 pm.** *Performance participants: Stefanos Chandelis, Dimitris Samir, Christina Thomopoulos, Eleni Tzirtzilaki*

**Α presentation will follow the performance,15.30-18.00, entitled *Lesvos Solidarity-PIKPA: The creation and the evolution of a self-managed refugee camp*, Eleni Altinoglou with a video screening and open discussion with speakers from Lesvos and the Italian context. In the discussion take place:**Biennale Urbana(Andrea Curtoni,Giulia Mazzorin),Nation 25 (Caterina Pecchioli),Over The Fortress,The Nationless Pavillon,S.a.l.e-Docks,Stalker (Lorenzo Romito).

The performance Exile Europa comments on the notion of exile and how it is created in Europe today, as Europe closes its borders to refugees.

After the EU-Turkey agreement, that Greece also signed, many European countries - Greece included - have closed their borders once more to refugees and asylum seekers. Many people thus are now trapped in detention centers (“hotspots”), as well as throughout the country. A harsh contradiction: people who are in transit are also trapped. In these circumstances refugees have become invisible once more. The idea of a final destination appears lost; the treaty accepts this entrapment.

Exile is what Greece is now for refugees. Exile: on the borders at Idomeni, in the detention center prisons, the new concentration (“selection”) camps without an expiration date. At the same time however we see collective co-habilitation and solidarity forming in the spaces of the borders at Idomeni, Lesvos, Calais. Co-habilitation seems to be a possibility for overcoming borders through self-organization and action.

The Internet is not only used as a form of control, but also as a means of mapping of solidarity during the journey, etching routes, networks and tools of resistance.

Exile today is created within and outside of Europe’s borders. Time has been restructured. After the controversial coop in Turkey, the Brexit of the UK, increasing terrorist attacks throughout their journeys, everything seems to be increasingly in flux: geopolitical instability increases and complicates the barriers and borders those on the move are forced to face. Within this context what places are considered “safe grounds”, by whom and for whom? What does “destination city” mean in this context? To where are deportations happening today? How do we react to prisoning and pushbacks of refugees? How do we react to the Geneva Convention being breached? Where is asylum today?

Nothing is stable. Information and context are constantly changing.

Τhe traces of refugees – today’s exiles – seem to quickly disappear on their passage.

Vulnerable bodies are somewhere and at the same time nowhere.

The body itself becomes the border.

The performance *Exile Europa* traces notions of exile through the body, song, poetry and material in spaces in Venice. Moving through spaces and moments of journeys, habilitation of uncertainty, exclusion and exile, memories of Makronisos - the island of exile and torture of fighters of the post-civil war landscape of Greece – begin to surface. In the performance testimonies of exile of Makronisos co-exist with the histories of spaces of exile of refugees today - Idomeni, the port of Piraeus, Elaionas, Amygdaleza, Diavata, Moria - as well as with poems from various places of origin, in languages both familiar and unfamiliar.

**The performance will take place in the Greek pavilion-Giardini on Saturday September 17 2016, at 14.00pm.After performance(15.30-!8.00), a presentation will take place entitled *Lesvos Solidarity-PIKPA: The creation and the evolution of a self-managed refugee camp,***by Eleni Altinoglou, participant in the PIKPA initiative. After the presentation there will be a video projection and an open discussion. The presentation and discussion aim to approach the following questions:

*What is the importance and role of self-organized solidarity spaces - like Pikpa Lesvos - in this moment? How did the space begin and how has it changed through time as needs and political context change? How can/do such spaces and initiatives of solidarity respond and react to closed borders and harshening on current border politics?*

*What forms of co-existence and co-habilitation are created in tense border spaces, in self-organized spaces? What contradictions are formed there? Is it an example of participatory design? With or without architects? What is the role of art and education?*

*Performance participants: Stefanos Chandelis, Dimitris Samir, Christina Thomopoulos, Eleni Tzirtzilaki // Presentation: Eleni Altinoglou, Lesvos Solidarity (PIKPA)*

In the discussion take place:Biennale Urbana (Andrea Curtoni, Giulia Mazzorin)

Nation25 (Caterina Pecchioli)

OverTheFortress

The Nationless Pavilion  (Sara Alberani)

S.a.L.E.-Docks

Stalker (Lorenzo Romito)

We will go to Makronisos on October 5th by boat.

*Idea / Organized by*

Nomadic Architecture[www.nomadikiarxitektoniki.net](http://www.nomadikiarxitektoniki.net)

With Nails and Teeth Workshop<https://menychiakaimedontia.wordpress.com>

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