

#ThisIsACo_op

Greek Pavilion
15th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia

Association of Greek Architects



la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Partecipazioni Nazionali

Pavilion of Greece At the 15th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia

Exile Europa

#ThisIsACo-op is hosting discussions, encounters and events in an amphitheatrical structure that serves as a receptacle of dialogue and a symbol of participation and community. The Greek Pavilion is a natural meeting place for architects, Associations, social movements and socially-minded individuals from Greece and the international community seeking solutions to the common fronts engendered by the crisis.

Saturday 17th September
Greek Pavilion, Giardini | 14.00 - 18.00

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

After the EU-Turkey agreement, signed also by Greece, many European countries -Greece included - have once more closed their borders 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 again become invisible. The idea of a final destination is lost, the treaty accepts this entrapment.

Exile is what Greece represents now for refugees. Exile: on the borders at Idomeni, in the detention centers, the new concentration ("selection") camps without a date of exit. At the same time, we see collective co-habitation and solidarity forming in the spaces of the borders at Idomeni, Lesvos, Calais. Co-habitation seems to be a possibility to overcome the borders through self-organization and self determined actions.

Tools used for control, like the Internet, have also become 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 coup in Turkey, the Brexit of the UK, increasing terrorist attacks taking place throughout refugees' journeys, everything seems to be increasingly in flux: geopolitical instability increases and complicates the barriers and borders that 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 the imprisoning and the refusal of the refugees? How do we react to the Geneva Convention being breached? Where is asylum today? Nothing is stable. Information and context are constantly changing. **The 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, inhabiting 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—will merge with poems from various places of origin, in languages both familiar and unfamiliar.

Performance participants:

Stefanos Chandelis, Dimitris Samir, Christina Thomopoulos, Eleni Tzirtzilaki

After Saturday's performance, a presentation will take place entitled "Lesvos Solidarity-PIKPA: The creation and the evolution of a self-managed refugee camp" by Eleni Alfinoglou, participant in the PIKPA initiative. After the presentation there will be a video screening 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 cohabitation are created in tense border spaces, in self-organized spaces in which we live together? What contradictions do we find there? Is it an example of participatory design? With or without architects? What is the role of art and education?

Participating in the discussion:

Biennale Urbana (Andrea Curtoni, Giulia Mazzorin), Alessandra Pomarico (Free Home University), Nation 25 (Caterina Pecchioli), Over The Fortress, The Nationless Pavillon (Sara Alberani), S.a.l.e-Docks, Stalker (Lorenzo Romito)

Wednesday 5th October | GREECE

As part of the search, a trip by boat to Makronisos is scheduled | GREECE

Idea / Organized by:

Nomadic Architecture (www.nomadikiarxitektoniki.net)

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

In collaboration with: Sara Alberani (Nation25, The Nationless Pavilion), Alessandra Pomarico (Free Home University)

Special thanks to Yiannis and Anthonis Atsonios and the ceramist studio "Atsonios" in Sifnos (Vathi), Greece for their support in preparing this work.

#ThisIsACo-op | Greek Pavilion, 15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Exhibition duration | 28 May – 27 November 2016

Location | Giardini, Venice, Italy

Commissioner | Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretary of Spatial Planning and Urban Environment, Eirini Klampatsea

Curator | Association of Greek Architects, SADAS-PEA

Info

The Association of Greek Architects was established in 1922 in Athens. The Association's mission is to promote, disseminate and preserve architecture in Greece, as well as to safeguard the interests of its members. The Association's agenda includes promoting the industry's distinctive professional identity, protecting architects' professional rights and developing a nationwide organisation.

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Ministry of Environment & Energy



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