

IN BROAD DAYLIGHT: WOMEN STREET ARTISTS FROM GREECE

May 19 - June 30, 2018

Curated by
Vassiliki Vayenou
Blanka Amezkua

Video research by
Dr. Konstantina Drakopoulou



Dizi, Full Color Festival III, Athens, 2016, Katrakeio Theater of Nikiaia, Photo courtesy Nikos Balodimos

Olga Alexopoulou, Lebaniz Blonde, Cleo43, Dizi, Simoni Fontana, Nique

Opening Reception
Saturday, May 19, 6-9pm

Artist Talk moderated by
Lady K Fever
Wednesday, May 23, 6-8pm

Children's Workshop with Cleo43
Saturday, May 26, 2-5pm

Gathering + Open Mic
Saturday, May 26, 6-9pm

Curatorial Tour
Wednesday, June 13, 6pm

[Pose] Ta Bombe Film Screening
Friday, June 15, 6:30pm

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Gallery Hours
12-6:30, Sat 12-5pm

Graffiti constitutes one of the most dynamic messengers of the urban pulse on an international level. In Greece, graffiti emerged in the early 80s, in big and small cities, suburban neighborhoods and rural areas, coinciding chronologically with other European and American cities. In recent years, Greek street artists have been commenting upon the changes caused in Greek society by the financial crisis, both on a personal and social level, through their art. The force of graffiti art as a tool for activating the public's critical skills, the immediacy of its message, its easy and free accessibility and its awakening, transformative powers render it one of the most democratic artistic media.

In Broad Daylight features painting, mixed media and installation by women street artists from Greece, distinguished by both the quality of their work and their unwavering attitude towards freedom of expression.

Olga Alexopoulou's works aim to reveal the inner structure of her subjects, acting as mediators between a spatial and a mental interior and exterior and vacillating between materiality and ethereality. The style of **Cleo43's** artifacts is rooted in international folklore and her practice examines notions such as group identity, transmission of 'beliefs' and community-based values. **Dizi's** artworks are marked by wide experimentation in her creation of surreal characters, geometric patterns and symmetries, with mandala-like images creating some kind of a sacred, meditative space.

Simoni Fontana draws from Japanese iconography, manga and pop surrealism to create portraits that verge on self-portraiture, exploring human interaction, emotions and dreams. Using puns and catchy, small phrases applied to walls in a site-specific manner, **Lebaniz Blonde** depicts the Greek collective mind through personal reflections on current issues. **Nique's** bold, lively portraits of international MCs, hip hop artists and rappers highlight the impact and power of music in the transformation of the social environment on a global level.

In Broad Daylight hosts a section of the quadrennial international public art film festival *Top to Bottom*, which takes place in Athens, Greece and is curated by Andreas Fakis for the independent cultural foundation Studio 4. The show also includes books and articles on Greek graffiti and is complemented by a series of public events, providing general information about Greek street art with the hope of rousing further interest in the scene's impressive artistic diversity and social impact.

Sincere thanks to the exhibition's main sponsor, the Onassis Foundation USA, for their generous support in its realization. Also special thanks to the sponsors, FOUGARO Cultural Centre, Greece, METAPOLIS, SakeTattoocrew and Enlite for their valuable support, as well as to Metaichmio Publications and Oxy Publishing for their kind donations of books on Greek graffiti. Many thanks to Konstantina Drakopoulou, Andreas Fakis, Jasone and Senor for their insightful selection of the audiovisual material about Greek graffiti and to Myrto Vounatsou for its technical support. Warm thanks to Maria Chatzidakis, Konstantina Drakopoulou, Myrto Tsilimpounidi, Thanasis Moutsopoulos, Orestis Pangalos, Manos Stefanidis and Julia Tulke for their articles on Greek graffiti, as well as to Stephanie Lindquist, Eleni Mylonas, Angeliki Douveri and Dimitris Theodosis for their precious assistance in various aspects of the exhibition.

BronxArtSpace is a non-profit gallery that promotes the innovative ideas of underrepresented and emerging artists and curators. Started in 2008 by Linda Cunningham and Mitsu Hadeishi, BronxArtSpace is dedicated to exhibiting the highest quality artwork from the Bronx and around the world. Our mission is to foster dialogue around the contemporary local, national and global issues while advancing local arts education and opportunities.

BronxArtSpace is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization, and is generously supported by private donors and public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnership with City Council, The New York State Council on the Arts, and the New Yankees Stadium Community Benefits Fund.

