

Press Release

St. George Lycabettus Gallery

Exhibition title:

Escapism

Escaping one's reality is an urgency hardwired in all of us. It's a universal need where either we renew or we escape emotions. Escaping a place by entering a new environment is a coping mechanism as old as time.

The most common practice of escape is travel and by extension, checking into a hotel. The new setting, the smell of the room, the touch of the fresh linens, watching random channels on the tv, getting dressed in front of the new mirror, ordering room service... all senses are activated by new stimuli. For a few days or hours your mind and body are "elsewhere".

A hotel room is occupied constantly and it is pretty much identical in every floor of the hotel. Even so, a feeling is lingering that each room "is transformed" and goes through a metamorphosis every time a new occupant takes residence in it. Personally, I was always enchanted with hotel rooms. I feel like a mystic aura is created when people occupy the space. Walking in the suspiciously quiet corridors, a wave of curiosity takes over me. *"What is going on in there, who stays there this time, what are their habits? Do they sleep with the tv open? Did they unpack their suitcase the minute they arrived or are their clothes still in there? Are they having an affair? Have they eaten anything from the mini bar? Will they be sad to leave the hotel or they can't wait to be home?"*

These thoughts have preoccupied artists throughout art history and hotel rooms have been the centre of curiosity for many artists. Famously, Edward Hopper's "Hotel Room" depicts a lonely young lady who sits on the edge of a bed in an anonymous hotel room alone with her thoughts, whilst famous photographer Sophie Calle photographic documentation titled "The Hotel: Room 47" captures hotel rooms and the traces left behind.

Escapism present artworks that express or symbolise elements often found in hotel rooms: artworks made of fabric represent the sheets and carpet of the room, works made of metal or containing reflective elements are translated as the windows and mirrors of the rooms, even the presence of an imperceptible (but nevertheless noticeable) scent in the space has been incorporated into the exhibition's curation to simulate the scent of the rooms typically used in boutique hotels. Finally, the artworks come into dialogue with a "staged corner/simulation of a hotel room" composed of collectible design objects.

Each of these elements are essential components for the escapism of the visitors. As the hotel room activates and renews the senses of its guests, the artworks of this exhibition will activate in their own manner the senses of the visitors of the gallery.

Participating artists: Lisa Bravi, Alexandros Douras, Ellie Joannou, Bety Krňanská Olga Migliaressi-Phoca, Sotiris Panousakis, Bregje Sliepenbeek , Dionysis Sotovikis, Marios Stamatis.

Curated by Theodora Koumoundourou

Design by Kyveli Zoi.

Opening: Thursday, February 13, 6pm-9pm

Exhibition duration: February 14-April 12, 2025

Opening hours: Wednesday - Friday: 12:00-20:00, Saturday: 11:00-16:00 or by appointment.