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Press release - Programme

3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art

“Old Intersections-Make it New”

September 18 – December 18, 2011

Opening: Sunday September 18, 2011 | SMCA, Moni Lazariston, 19:30

(The Biennale venues will open to the public on Sunday 18.09 from 12:00 onwards)

The **3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art**, under the general title “**Old Intersections-Make it New**”, which is at the same time the thematic keystone of the three consecutive biennial organisations initiating from 2011 until 2015, will take place **from September 18 till December 18, 2011**. It is the first joint venture of the “**5 Museums’ Movement in Thessaloniki**” (**5M**) consisted of the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, the Museum of Byzantine Culture, the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, the Teloglion Foundation of Art AUTH and the leader of the project, the State Museum of Contemporary Art-Costakis Collection.

Focused on the Mediterranean region, the culture, the people, their emotions, their suffering and problems, viewed through a contemporary visual outlook, this year’s organisation comprises a **main** and a **parallel programme** including exhibitions, an international young artists’ workshop, a performance festival, a symposium and a variety of artistic events, building up in every part of the city.

The **3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art** is funded under the Operational Programme Macedonia-Thrace 2007-2013, and is **co-financed by the European Union** (European Regional Development Fund), with the SMCA as the lawful beneficiary.

It is also part of the “**Thessaloniki: Cultural Crossroads**” programme of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which focuses on the Middle East this year, as well, and is supported by the City of Thessaloniki and the Department of Culture, Education and Tourism, the 9th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, and other cultural and educational partners jointly.

The main programme of the Biennale is supported by an **International Advisory Committee**: **Catherine David**, Art-Historian, Curator, **Maria Rosa Girace Pieralisi**, Director of the Italian Institute in Thessaloniki, **Jannis Kounellis**, Artist, **Jessica Morgan**, Curator of Contemporary Art, **Denys Zacharopoulos**, Art-Historian, Curator.

Katerina Koskina, President of the Board of Trustees of the SMCA, is the Director of the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art.

Athina Ioannou, Administrative Manager of the SMCA, is the Project Manager.

The 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art will take place in cooperation, at promotion and communication level, with the **11th Lyon Biennale** (15.09-31.12.2011, <http://www.biennaledelyon.com>) and the **12th Istanbul Biennial** (17.09-13.11.2011, <http://bienal.oksv.org>).

MAIN PROGRAMME

“A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE”

Curators: Paolo Colombo, Mahita El Bacha Urieta, Marina Fokidis

Assistant Curators: Domna Gounari, Anna Mykoniati (SMCA)

In the current climate of gathering instability that holds great promise, as well as danger, the title **A Rock and a Hard Place** resonates powerfully. It captures the sense of fragility and jeopardy that looms over the wider politics of the Mediterranean and the psychology of the individual. Affected by a sense of impending danger and “Hamletic” doubt, contemporary artists produce work that is often characterised by a defensive, ironic stance.

The main programme of the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art derives its inspiration from the city, as a metaphor of the powerful multicultural character of its past history. Each and every one of the biennale venues (5 historical monuments and 5 museums) constitutes an episode of the all-embracing narrative. These episodes are inspired both by the former and the current use of these buildings, by the past and contemporary contribution to the social life and political game of the city, and the artists and the works hosted have been chosen within this particular framework. Therefore, the visitors of the exhibitions will be walking around the city and at the same time will be playing a part in its life and history.

Venues (in alphabetical order): Alatzá Imaret, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, Bey Hamam, Museum of Byzantine Culture, Casa Bianca, Contemporary Art Centre of Thessaloniki (port of Thessaloniki, warehouse B1), Eptapyrgio, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, State Museum of Contemporary Art (Moni Lazariston), Teloglion Foundation of Art-AUTH.

In terms of the Moni Lazariston, following a proposal of the three curators of the main programme, in the two central exhibition halls, works from the Costakis Collection will be set in an indirect dialogue, in terms of theme and aesthetics, with contemporary works of art. The works from the Costakis Collection that have been selected by the artist Kostis Velonis concern the part of the interaction with his works of art, and the ones selected by the chief-curator of the SMCA, Maria Tsantsanoglou, regard the interaction with the work of the rest of the artists.

The architectural design of the museological concept in the exhibition halls of the main programme has been undertaken by **Andreas Angelidakis**.

Artists (in alphabetical order): 98 Weeks, Mounira Al Solh, Archive (Francesca Boenzi, Paolo Caffoni, Chiara Figone, Ignas Petronis), Francis Alÿs, Arab Image Foundation, Rasheed Araeen, Athanasios Argianas, Katerina Athanasopoulou, Alexandra Bachzetsis, Manfredi Beninati, Christoph Büchel, Pierpaolo Campanini, Vlassis Caniaris, Spartacus Chetwynd, Cinemathèque de Tanger, Keren Cytter, Christina Dimitriadis, Thomas Dworzak, Yasmine Eid-Sabbagh (in collaboration with Arab Image Foundation), e-flux projects (Julieta Aranda & Anton Vidokle), Andreas Embirikos, Mounir Fatmi, Emmanuel Finkiel, Penelope Georgiou, Yannoulis Halepas, Steven C. Harvey, IKONOTV, Mahmoud Kaabour, Dionisis Kavallieratos, Ali Kazma, William Kentridge, Alexander Kluge, Panos Koutroubousis, Nikolaj B.S. Larsen, Solon Lekkas, Sifis Likakis, Katariina Lillqvist, Zeina Maasri, Margherita Manzelli, Irini Miga, Moataz Nasr, Bruce Nauman, Olaf Nikolai, Pavlos Nikolakopoulos, Jockum Nordström, Pantelis Pantelopoulos, Alessandro Pessoli, Michail Pirgelis, Angelo Plessas, PRISM TV (Nikos Katsaounis & Nina Paschalidou), Imran Qureshi, Jean-Marc Rochette, Marwan Sahmarani, Yiorgos Sapountzis, Hrair Sarkissian, Yehudit Sasportas, Alberto Savinio, Tayfun Sertas, Ahlam Shibli, Slavs and Tatars, Socratis Socratous, Christiana Soulou, Naoko Takahashi, Ryan Trecartin, Kostas Tsioukas, Andreas Vais, Nanos Valaoritis, Kostis Velonis, Pae White, Constantinos Xenakis.

The archive of George Lykidis and selected archives of “The Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive” will also be shown.

A sequence of artistic events will adjoin the main programme and will soon be announced, such as the presentation of the dOCUMENTA (13) Notebook series “100 Notes – 100 Thoughts”. Chus

Martínez, dOCUMENTA (13) Head of Department, and Member of Core Agent Group, will present the first 17 Notebooks from the series “100 Notes – 100 Thoughts” and a conversation with the curator Marina Fokidis will follow.

Coordination of the main programme venues by the curators of SMCA: John Bolis, Domna Gounari, Areti Leopoulou, Katerina Mavromichali, Anna Mykonati, Eirini Papakonstantinou, Maria Tsantsanoglou, Syrago Tsiara.

PARALLEL PROGRAMME

- **Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, www.amth.gr**

“The Jews in Thessaloniki. Indelible marks in space”

September 18, 2011 - September 30, 2012

Curators: Polyxeni Adam-Veleni, Director of the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, Evangelia Stefani, Head of the Exhibitions Department, Eleftheria Akrivopoulou, archaeologist-museologist, Angeliki Koukouvou, archaeologist.

In cooperation with: 9th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Museum of Byzantine Culture, Folklife and Ethnological Museum of Macedonia-Thrace, Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, Jewish Community of Thessaloniki, Museum for the Macedonian Struggle, Thessaloniki History Centre.

The exhibition **“The Jews in Thessaloniki. Indelible marks in space”** is an attempt towards the recomposition of the palimpsest of the major Jewish community in Greece, guided by the tangible or intangible ‘indelible marks’ of the Jewish presence in the city in the course of time.

Through four exhibition sections the history of the Jewish Community is presented as an archaeological search, from the Hellenistic period, when the first signs of its presence are traced, till the tragic annihilation during the WWII; a journey in time and place through the history of the Jews of Thessaloniki revealing another story of the city; a course through the city history with stations-landmarks that reflect the religious, social, economical and spiritual dimension of the Jewish Community. Points of referral: the University of Thessaloniki, an area where already from ancient times the Jewish cemetery extended, the Ancient Agora of Thessaloniki, where the Rogos Jewish community was located, the hotel Electra Pallas in Aristotelous street, built in the area of the known School of Alliance, Liberty Square, the customs-house at the port, the commercial Saul and Modiano arcade, emblematic buildings-villas in the east part of Thessaloniki, and the railway station, where the wretched neighbourhoods of the poor Jews were located (e.g. Hirsch).

Objects, rich audiovisual material, which includes unpublished documents, photos, maps, narratives and testimonies, accompany the thematic unities.

The exhibition is part of the “Thessaloniki: Cultural Crossroads” programme of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

- **Museum of Byzantine Culture, www.mbp.gr**

“Byzantium and the Arabs”

September - December 2011

Curator: Stamatios Hondrogiannis, archaeologist MBC

In cooperation with: 4th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 6th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 7th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 9th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 10th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 12th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 23rd Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 25th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, 17th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, National Archaeological Museum, Byzantine and Christian Museum, Benaki Museum of Islamic Art, Historical Museum of Crete, Numismatic Museum, Science Centre and Technology Museum “NOESIS”, Library AUTH.

The exhibition **“Byzantium and the Arabs”** will present the relations and interactions that were developed between the Byzantium and the Arabs from the 7th century A.D. till 1453 (fall of Constantinople by the Ottomans) aiming at the revelation of characteristic aspects of both cultures. The thematic sections will present the identity of the Arabs, the birth of the new religion of Islam and the caliphates, the great expansion across the Arabic peninsula and the Mediterranean region, the sieges of Constantinople and the fall of Thessaloniki in 904. The battles with the Arabs, as well as the emergence of the tradition of the “Akrites” and especially of Digenis Akritas will also be among the topics of the exhibition. The interaction of both cultures in the fields of letters, science and art will also be depicted.

The exhibition will include over a hundred objects, such as icons, manuscripts, jewellery, coins, ceramics, and sculptures, from the collections of the Museum of Byzantine Culture, as well as from collections of public and private museums and Ephorates of Antiquities in Greece, and will be supported by visual material.

The exhibition is part of the programme “Thessaloniki: Cultural Crossroads” of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

- **Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art** / www.mmca.org.gr ,
www.roamingimages.org

“Roaming Images. Crossroads of Greek and Arab Culture Through the Eyes of Contemporary Artists”

September 18, 2011 - January 8, 2012

Project leader: Christos Savvidis

Curators: ‘Roaming Images, Exhibition’: Iara Boubnova. ‘Roaming Images, Routes’: Sotirios Bahtsetzis

In cooperation with: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) - School of Architecture, National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation - Thessaloniki Centre, Institute Mohamed Ali for the Research of the Eastern Tradition, Kavala (IMARET)

“Roaming Images” is a nomadic forum that brings the West and the East together, through the search of the various concepts of ‘image’, along with the ideologies and geo-cultural state of affairs that fostered them. The project calls contemporary artists to engage the cultural heritage of the Arab peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean as places of a long-standing artistic and cultural convergence. The notion of image evolves into a world medium of telling the story concerning the way we speak, the way we think and even the way we envision the future.

The “Roaming Images Project” consists of the exhibition “Roaming Images” curated by Iara Boubnova, as well as of the “Roaming Images, Routes”, curated by Sotirios Bahtsetzis. Within the framework of the “Roaming Images, Routes”, a series of projects (organization of site-specific projects or public art interventions, lectures, workshops etc) is taking place in various cities - stations, along the route linking Muscat (Oman) to Thessaloniki (Greece), with the participation of local artists, writers and scholars that work in this broad geographical region. Through the creative cooperation with local institutions, foundations and partners, “Roaming Images” presents in Thessaloniki art works that have been produced through these actions, along with their documentation.

At the same time, the exhibition “Photography as a Means of Creating or Subverting Stereotypes”, curated by Lena Athanasopoulou, at the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation - Thessaloniki Centre, presents works of students involved in the issue of stereotypes.

Organizing Committee of “Roaming Images”: Xanthippi Skarpia-Heypel (President of the Board of Trustees of MMCA), Katerina Kamara (General Secretary of the Board of Trustees of MMCA), Matoula Scaltsa (Member of the Board of Trustees of MMCA), Denys Zacharopoulos (Artistic Director, MMCA), George Papakostas (President of the School of Architecture, AUTH), Ioannis Epameinondas (Director of the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation - Thessaloniki Centre), Anna Tzouma-Misirian (President of IMARET)

Roaming Images is supported by the programme “Thessaliniki: Cultural Crossroads” of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It’s part of the Focus Middle East project by MMCA.

- **State Museum of Contemporary Art / www.greekstatemuseum.com**

- **“Selections from the SMCA Costakis collection”**

September 18 – December 18, 2011

Curators: Maria Tsantsanoglou, Angeliki Charistou (SMCA)

At Moni Lazariston, the home of the Costakis Collection, works of the Russian Avant-Garde are presented in the two central exhibition halls, into thematic sections, and in accordance with a selection of works of the artists participating in the main programme. In the basement, two rooms are devoted to the various movements of the Russian Avant-Garde art, while at the same time the interaction of other expressions of art -poetry, theatre, music, cinema, architecture- with the visual arts is pointed out. Within this framework the phenomenon of the organic composition of the arts, characterizing broadly the period of the Russian Avant-Garde, is presented together with the inexhaustible inspiration, the dominant and perpetual character of the art of this period.

- **Accrochage: “Jan Fabre, PIETÀS”** (Thessaloniki Concert Hall - Building M2, *the dates will be announced*)

On the occasion of the participation of the SMCA in the presentation of Jan Fabre’s new work ‘PIETÀS in the 54th Venice Biennale (01.06-16.10.2011), a connection with the exhibition will be made, based on audiovisual material and preparatory work of the particular unity.

- **Teloglion Foundation of Arts – AUTH / www.tf.auth.gr/teloglion**

“Pieces and Fragments from Fustat”

November 2011 - January 2012

Curators: Rosanna Ballian (Benaki Museum-Athens), Panagiotis Bikas (Teloglion Foundation of Arts, AUTH)

In cooperation with: Benaki Museum of Islamic Art

The Teloglion Foundation will present the exhibition **“Pieces and Fragments from Fustat”**. Fustat, part of old Cairo now, was the first capital of Egypt during the period of Arab dominion (7th century A.D.) and flourished till the 12th century A.D. Fustat is also known for the archaeological remains discovered during the last hundred years. These finds, from the rich repositories, offer significant information on the glorious past of the city. The objects in exhibit consisted part of the well-known collection of Antonis Benakis and today are part of the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art Collection in Athens. These special works of art will accompany furniture and small objects from the collection of Nestor and Alice Teloglou aiming at an exhibition which searches to highlight issues such as the value of the fragment as a record of culture, as well as the selections of Greek collectors.

The exhibition is part of the “Thessaloniki: Cultural Crossroads” programme of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

- **International Young Artists’ Workshop / “Domino”**

September 18 - October 7, 2011: workshop

October 7 - November 7, 2011: exhibition

Curators & coordinators: Areti Leopoulou, Theodore Markoglou (SMCA)

The **3rd International Young Artists’ Workshop** is focusing on the contemporary experimental art, highlighting a characteristic dimension of Thessaloniki, as a cultural crossroad with historical and broader dimensions.

The workshop could function as a 'temporary autonomous zone' within the Mediterranean environment and its economical and political conflicts, realignment and unrest. In this framework, the title 'Domino' was selected, as a reference to the known and dominant -on a political and economical level- theory of the 'Domino effect'. Based on the central idea of the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennial and the workshop's concept, all the participating artists come from the Mediterranean and the Middle East regions.

The workshop will begin on the 18.09.2011, at the former army camp 'Pavlos Melas', with the kind support of the Municipality of Pavlos Melas. It will be brought to completion on October the 7th, with the opening of the exhibition of all the works produced during the artists' stay (duration of exhibition: 07.10 - 07.11.2011).

Participating artists: Dimitris Ameladiotis (Greece), Nadia Ayari (Tunisia), Sirine Fatouh (Lebanon), The Fleetgroup (Georgia), Andre Gonçalves (Portugal), Elina Ioannou (Cyprus), Nader Sadek (Egypt).

- **Thessaloniki Performance Festival**

September 19-25, 2011

Curator & coordinator: Eirini Papakonstantinou (SMCA)

The **Performance Festival** constitutes an international meeting of this rather radical and unconventional artistic practice within the framework of the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art. As in its emergence, in May 2009, the Festival will focus utterly on the art of performance, aiming at evolving into a meeting place and an interactive platform of Greek and foreign artists that search for the ultimate value of the human body, in terms of its form and content, and set off the social-political dimension of this particular expression of art. The aim of the Festival is to collect and to present all the heterogeneous elements that make up performance art and to portray all the possible dimensions for a thorough exploration of all the pertinent aspects, meanings and ideas. Alongside the live performances, the festival will encompass lectures, masterclasses, screenings, workshops, concerts, tributes and an exhibition, in an attempt to approach the meaning, the history and the development of performance in Greece and abroad.

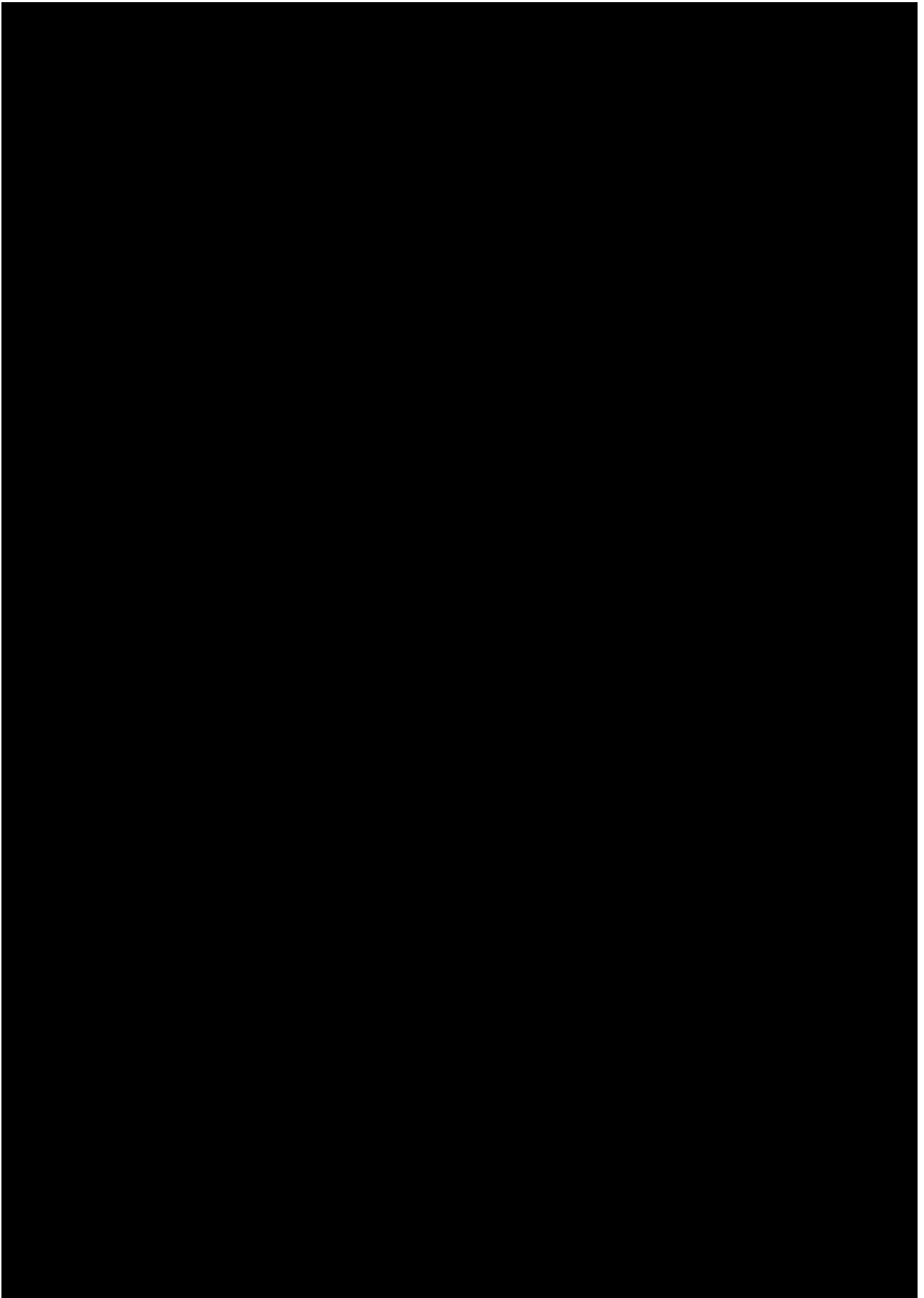
The French avant-garde artist **ORLAN** will be the Guest of Honour of the Performance Festival. Screenings of historical performances will be included as well as a presentation of her work, through a discussion with the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale Director, Katerina Koskina.

The Festival will take place in various places in the city, indoors and outdoors, and will offer to the broader public the opportunity of communication and interaction.

Artists: Nisrine Boukhari (Syria), Silvio De Gracia (Argentina), Nezaket Ekici (Turkey), HOPE (Greece), Regina José Galindo (Guatemala) Alastair MacLennan (N.Ireland), Mohammad (Nikos) Veliotis, Coti K. ILIOS-Greece, Liza Morozova (Russia), Kira O' Reilly (U.K.), Luigi Presicce (Italy), Wafaa Yasin (Palestine), Christina Georgiou (Cyprus), Michael Karikis (Greece), Efi Birba & Aris Servetalis (Greece), Georgia Sagri (Greece), Evi Georgi (Greece).

- **Symposium / the time and place will soon be announced**

The 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art will also embrace a meeting of the Mediterranean Cultural Parliament (M.C.P.) which will go along with a sequence of lectures.



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