

AB5to6

Athens Biennale 2015 — 2017

Omninoia



Synapse 2: Rethinking Institutional Critique – A View from the South

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

In this Summit, we explore the role of art institutions and cultural organisations, as well as that of the bio-politics and political economy of late capitalism. In the current context of global dispossession, austerity, inequality, indebtedness, conspicuous consumption, zero hour work, extreme financialisation and privatisation of life, what kind of institutions should art biennials be? Where should they look for their public and political constituencies? What kind of practices should they nurture? What forms of sociability, relationality and political imaginaries should they foster? Where shall they draw the boundaries, if any, between their inside and their outside?

We invited leading international scholars, artists, activists and cultural organisations to think together new institutional formats, value forms and ways of working together by embracing the perspective of Europe's south. This south is not a fixed locality, but a broad geopolitical formation that includes the Middle East and Eastern Europe and exists outside Europe's centre and from which we ask the speakers to situate themselves and find a common vocabulary as a new point of departure.

Co-programmed by Massimiliano Mollona and Stephanie Bailey

The Athens Biennale 2015 – 2017 OMONOIA continues its creative collaboration with the National Theatre of Greece, which hosts the Summit of *Synapse 2* on Friday April 15th at the New Rex.

April 15, 2016

Venue: National Theatre – New Rex, 48, Panepistimiou Str.

Schedule: 10 minutes per speaker, 40 minutes for conversation and 20 minutes for Q&A

11:00 – 11:10	Welcome Xenia Kalpaktoglou, Poka-Yio, Thodoris Abazis
11:10 – 11:30	Introduction By Massimiliano Mollona
11:45 – 13:45	Session I
13:45 – 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 – 16:30	Session II
16:30 – 17:00	Closing

Session I: Why, What, And For Whom? Making a Biennial

The session opens with Vasif Kortun introducing *The Time of Work*, redefining institutions through a post-curatorial approach and interdisciplinary dialogue. The panel continues with a discussion on the notions of 'relational aesthetics' and '(neo)institutionalism' in contemporary Europe, through specific experiences that complicate and blur the boundaries between these institutional forms.

Stephanie Bailey (moderator), Nicolas Bourriaud, Vasif Kortun, Viktor Misiano

Session II: Common Praxis

The panel discusses some activist, artistic and curatorial practices including media activism, virtual platforms, self-organisation and counter-hegemonic histories, that counter state violence, civil war and radical capitalist dispossession.

Katia Arfara (moderator), Sotirios Bahtsetzis, Maria-Thalia Carras & Olga Hatzidaki, Vasyi Cherepanyn, Apostolos Kalfopoulos, Mohammad Salemy, Ala Younis

April 16, 2016

Venue: Bageion, 18 Omonoia Square

Schedule: 10 minutes per speaker, 40 minutes for conversation and 20 minutes for Q&A

10:00 – 10:30	Introduction/ Summary of the previous day's proceedings By Massimiliano Mollona, Xenia Kalpaktoglou & Poka-Yio
10:30 – 12:30	Session III
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 – 15:10	Session IV
15:10 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:30	15-minute Summaries
16:00 – 18:30	Open Conversation

Session III: Regionalism and the New South

The panel discusses new spatial and geopolitical configuration of 'the South' with Greece as a crossroad between Europe's north, south, west and east. Can art biennials in the South revitalise the project of the Third World, South-to-South co-operation or the ancient routes of regional cosmopolitanism?

Binna Choi, Angela Dimitrakaki (moderator), Oscar Guardiola-Rivera, Elpida Karampa, Qalandar Bux Memon, Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Simon Sheikh

Session IV: Acting Out: On the Body Politic

The panel discusses artistic practices revolving around ideas of personhood, reproductive labour and 'the corporeal' to sketch a post-capitalist imaginary.

Marwa Arsanios, Karen Mirza & Brad Butler, Helena Papadopoulos (moderator), Alexei Penzin, Theo Prodromidis, Gregory Sholette, Kuba Szreder

Summaries

Stephanie Bailey, Angela Dimitrakaki, Helena Papadopoulos, Qalandar Bux Memon

The international summit of *Synapse 2: Rethinking Institutional Critique – A View from the South* will be conceptually bridged to a two-day symposium which will be co-organised by the Onassis Cultural Centre - Athens (OCC) and the Athens Biennale with the generous support of the Onassis Foundation within the frame of the OCC's Fast Forward Festival.

The symposium *Art at the borders: spatial politics and postcolonial strategies in the Middle East* will be co-curated by Katia Arfara (Artistic Director of the OCC's Theatre & Dance and of the Fast Forward Festival) and Massimiliano Mollona (Programme Director of the Athens Biennale 2015 – 2017 OMONOIA) and will take place at the Onassis Cultural Centre - Athens (27 May) and at Bageion (28 May).



* April 15, 2016

The talks will be held in English and simultaneous translation will be offered.

Bageion opening at 19:00

* April 16, 2016

All talks will be held in English

OMONOIA After-party will be held at 21:00 at Bageion

* Programme

All talks and presentations will be held in English

Free entrance

Booking required, contact omonoia@athensbiennial.org

* *The building is not accessible to persons with restricted mobility.*

List of Speakers

- Arfara, Katia** / Artistic Director of Theatre & Dance at Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece
- Arsanios, Marwa** / Artist, Part-time teacher, Co-founder of 98 weeks Research Project, Beirut, Lebanon
- Bahtsetzis, Sotirios** / Writer, Curator, Educator, Athens, Greece
- Bailey, Stephanie** / Senior Editor of *Ibraaz*, Contributing editor to *ART PAPERS* and *LEAP*, Editor-at-large at *Ocula.com*, Writer for *Artforum International*, London, UK
- Bourriaud, Nicolas** / Curator, Art Critic, Co-founder of Palais de Tokyo, Director of La Panacée, Paris, France
- Butler, Brad** / Artist, Co-founder of no.w.here, London, UK
- Carras, Maria-Thalia** / Curator, Co-director of Locus Athens, Greece
- Cherepanyn, Vasyl** / Editor of *Krytyka Polityczna*, Lecturer at the Cultural Studies Department of the National University of Kyiv, Head of Visual Culture Research Centre, Kiev, Ukraine
- Choi, Binna** / Curator, Director of Casco – Office for Art, Design & Theory, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Dimitrakaki, Angela** / Writer and Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Art History & Theory at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- Guardiola-Rivera, Oscar** / Writer, Lecturer of Law and Philosophy at Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
- Hatzidaki, Olga** / Curator, Co-director of Locus Athens, Greece
- Kalfopoulos, Apostolos** / Architect, Independent Curator, Art-Critic, Lecturer at the School of Architecture in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Founder and Director of DYNAMO, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Karampa, Elpida** / Art Theorist, Independent Curator, Athens, Greece
- Kortun, Vasif** / Curator, Writer, Lecturer, Director of Research and Programs of SALT, Istanbul, Turkey
- Memon, Qalandar Bux** / Editor of *Naked Punch Review*, Assistant Professor, Co-founder of Café Boi, Lahore, Pakistan
- Mirza, Karen** / Artist, Co-founder of no.w.here, London, UK
- Misiano, Viktor** / Curator, Founder, Editor of *Moscow Art Magazine* and *Manifesta Journal: Journal of Contemporary Curatorship*, Moscow, Russia
- Papadopoulos, Helena** / Curator, Founder & Director of Radio Athènes, Athens, Greece
- Penzin, Alexei** / Reader at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Wolverhampton, Researcher at the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Member of the group ChtoDelat/What is to be done?, London, UK
- Salemy, Mohammad** / Artist, Critic, Curator, New York, USA
- Sengupta, Shuddhabrata** / Artist, Curator, Co-founder of Raqs Media Collective, Delhi, India
- Sheikh, Simon** / Curator, Theorist, Reader in Art and Programme Director of MFA Curating at Goldsmiths, London, UK
- Sholette, Gregory** / Artist, Writer, Core member of Gulf Labor Coalition, New York, USA
- Szreder, Kuba** / Theorist, Curator, Member of Free/Slow University of Warsaw, Poland
- Prodromidis, Theo** / Artist, Athens, Greece
- Younis, Ala** / Research-based Artist, Contributing editor at *Ibraaz*, Co-founder of the non-profit publishing initiative *Kayfa ta*, Amman, Jordan

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