



PRESS RELEASE

Yiannis Christakos
In Fear of the Other

12 October – 20 November 2021

The art gallery **Ikastikos Kiklos DL** presents the solo exhibition *In Fear of the Other* by Yiannis Christakos.

With his new body of work Yiannis Christakos goes back to his favourite subject area of the visual language of maps and their imaginary renderings.

"... My aim is not to reproduce anatomic geographical drawings but redesign the map so that the figurative work gradually turns into a complex pattern, in terms of both content and form.

Moreover, throughout this time I have been trying to advance the stylistic references of cartography, at the same time enriching it by incorporating narrative and formal elements that are extraneous to the practice of mapmaking.

The elements with which I try to enrich my image often refer to blood vessels and arteries or nerves and neurons, essentially referencing the human body. Elsewhere, these elements start from routes, networks or city plans and point to the urban fabric. Finally, they may be patterns that resemble the branches and root systems of plants or thorns in the form of flowers and twigs, bringing to mind the images in an old school herbarium. On several occasions the relation of these images with memory remains strong, while elsewhere all these allusions are subtle. In every case, the key issue is the deconstruction of the representational map towards creating a new imaginary and designing a dense, polysemantic image.

All this is incorporated into my painting practice either directly or indirectly, creating a personal stylistic motif.

Moreover, through these processed images I try to discover the quality of the drawing and promote the dynamic of my visual idiom and methodology.



My painting is characterized by precision, multiple processing, perseverance to the point of obsession, detail, manual work, repetition and a lengthy process. Most of the time I start working with no specific reference in mind. I just put the pencil on the blank canvas or paper and then, in a magical, 'sacred' way, everything finds its way.

It is a challenge for me to resolve any formal issues that arise as I work. Yet aside from the stylistic quests and the painterly sound outcome, I am equally interested in my works as indirect, subtle carriers of the sociopolitical queries, references and thoughts triggered by the process of working on the project, and which return as the title of the exhibition — *In Fear of the Other*. Fear of the different, the alien, the migrant, the virus-infected; a fear we have ultimately accepted, we have tragically got used to as a society."

Yannis Christakos, October 2021

<http://yiannischristakos.wordpress.com>

Yiannis Christakos

Born in Athens, he is assistant professor at the University of Ioannina. He studied graphic design at TEI, Athens (1984-1988) and painting at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Thessaloniki (1989-1994). He continued with postgraduate studies in Britain, obtaining an MA (1998-1999) and a Doctorate in Fine Arts (2003) from the University of East London, studying on a Greek State scholarship. In 2000-2002 he taught at the University of East London. He is a founding member of the "Capsule" art group with which he has exhibited multimedia installations (sound and image) in Athens and London. He has had 16 solo exhibitions in Greece, Britain and Cyprus and has participated in numerous group shows in Athens, New York, Florida, London, Nicosia, etc.

His works feature in public and private collections such as those of the Ministry of Culture (Athens), the Greek Parliament (Athens), Dakis Joannou (Athens), the Vorres Museum (Athens), Exit Art (New York) as well as in other private collections in Greece, Cyprus, the USA, Britain, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany. His projects have been reviewed in the Greek and international press, while he has published papers on the theory and teaching of art.



Exhibition opening: Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 13:00

Duration: 12 October – 20 November 2021

Opening hours: Monday closed
Wednesday - Saturday 11:00 - 16:00
Tuesday - Thursday - Friday 11:00 - 20:00

Admission to the exhibition is free.

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