



Thessaloniki, 6 September 2017

Press Release

Shared Sacred Sites

in the Balkans and the Mediterranean

SATURDAY 23.09.2017, opening

The exhibition will be inaugurated by the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutaris:

20:00 / Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art

22:00 / Yeni Camii – Concert of Savina Yannatou

SUNDAY 24.09.2017

International Workshop

09.30-19.00 / Thessaloniki Museum of Photography

TUESDAY 26.09.2017

20.00 / Yeni Camii, Performance by Marios Chatziprokopiou: “In a corner of the corridor”: a performative lecture on lament and love.

The three-part exhibition is being organized by the **Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art** and the **Thessaloniki Museum of Photography**, in collaboration with the **City of Thessaloniki**.

Venues

Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art

Thessaloniki Museum of Photography

Yeni Camii

Duration:

23 September – 31 December 2017

The exhibition

As they have done for centuries, Christians, Jews and Muslims pray today in sanctuaries belonging to another religion. Shared sacred sites are a well-established phenomenon in the Mediterranean, revealing the permeability of the frontiers between religious communities. Despite theological differences, the three religions share a number of elements in terms of beliefs, rites, holy figures and sites. These crossovers, however, are not devoid of ambiguity and can sometimes also lead to conflict. The Mediterranean world thus offers many examples of sharing, but also of

partition and division.

The three-part exhibition “Shared Sacred Sites” explores this phenomenon by locating it through various examples in different contexts and by bringing forward the entangled places and practices, symbols and figures that define it.

Thessaloniki, is ideally positioned to tell the story of “Shared Sacred Sites”, not only because the three monotheistic religions have historically flourished here, but also because today the city finds itself at the Mediterranean crossroads of migration. The three-part exhibition, designed as a sort of ‘pilgrimage’ to the city, reveals both historical and contemporary aspects of “sharing the sacred.”

Based on anthropological field research, different versions of this exhibition were first held at the *Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations* (MuCEM) in Marseille (2015), then at the *Bardo Museum* in Tunis (2016). Further exhibitions are planned in Paris, Marrakech, New York and Istanbul.

Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art

The *Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art* exhibition provides the visitor with an experience that blends anthropological research and contemporary art. The anthropological encounter tells of shrines dedicated to prophets and patriarchs, to Mary and shared saints.

The works of contemporary art, present a different locus for notions of sharing the sacred. Photographs, works of art, icons, and anthropological evidence are interwoven to evoke religious coexistence. With contemporary art, the exhibition raises questions concerning the power of religious symbols and practices that stand simultaneously at the core or at the edge of religion and faith.

Thessaloniki Museum of Photography

At the *Thessaloniki Museum of Photography* the exhibition presents a visual journey through the diverse geographies and communities of the Mediterranean. Places of coexistence and active sharing are revealed, next to cases where territorial disputes lead to conflict and physical separation. We visit these sites through a panorama of multiple photographic approaches, where archival material meets contemporary documentary photography and scientific fieldwork research blends with the vernacular photo keepsakes of the pilgrims and devotees themselves.

Yeni Camii

At Yeni Camii, the exhibition presents an historical narrative of Thessaloniki, privileging a religious osmosis that occurred between the three religions as they accommodated to living together. Daily contacts, popular religious interactions, testimonies of travelers and the co-existence in particular sacred spaces and iconic monuments of the city are highlighted as treasured fragments of an experience now

lost and a memory largely erased: that of Thessaloniki as a city once shared by different ethnic and religious communities.

Organized by:



Curation

Concept–Curatorial supervision

Dionigi Albera

IDEMEC, CNRS–Aix–Marseille University, France

Karen Barkey

University of California, Berkeley, USA

Dimitris C. Papadopoulos, PhD

Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, USA

Manoël Pénicaud

IDEMEC, CNRS–Aix–Marseille University, France

■ MMCA

Curator: Thouli Misirloglou

Assistant curator: Miguel Fernandez Belmonte

● ThMP

Curator: Stergios Karavatos

Assistant curator: Danaë Tezapsidou

Research: Olga Moutsianou

Scientific consultant: Giorgios Mavrommatis

▲ YENI CAMII

Curator: Thouli Misirloglou

Assistant curator: Miguel Fernandez Belmonte

Research: Charis Raitsinis

Scientific consultant: Panayiotis Poulos

Collaborating Institutions

Cartographic Heritage Archives

British School of Athens

Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki

ELIA-MIET

ELIA-MIET Thessaloniki

IDEMEC, CNRS

Museum of Byzantine Culture

Benaki Museum

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State Museum of Contemporary Art
Thessaloniki History Centre
SATIS, Aix-Marseille University

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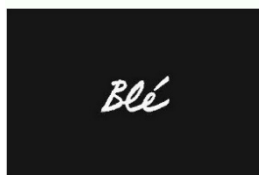
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The exhibition is part of the Parallel Program of the 6th Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art “Imagined Homes” (30.09.2017-14.01.2018 / www.thessalonikiennale.gr). The Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Regional Development Fund):

Thessaloniki
biennale: 6
of Contemporary Art
ΜΠΙΕΝΑΛΕ ΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΗΣ ΤΕΧΝΗΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ



The exhibition is also part of the Parallel Program of 52th Dimitria Festival:

52Δ

Educational programs and guided tours will be realized throughout the exhibition.

Venues and opening hours:

Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art

Egnatia 154 (TIF-Helexpo), 546 36 Thessaloniki

T: +30 2310-240002

mmcart@mmca.org.gr

www.mmca.org.gr

Thursday 10:00-22:00, Friday & Saturday 10:00-18:00, Sunday 11:00-15:00, Monday to Wednesday closed

Thessaloniki Museum of Photography

Warehouse A', Port of Thessaloniki

T: +30 2310566716

info.thmp@culture.gr / press.thmp@culture.gr

www.thmphoto.gr

Opening hours: Tuesday/Wednesday/ Thursday/Saturday/ Sunday 11:00–19:00, Friday 11:00–22:00, Monday closed

Yeni Camii (Old Archaeological Museum)

Arch. Museum 30 str, 546 41 Thessaloniki

T: +30 2310857978

pinakothiki@thessaloniki.gr

www.thessaloniki.gr

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00-18:00, Saturday 11:00-15:00, Sunday & Monday closed

More info:

For the MACEDONIAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART:

Egnatia 154 str (TIF-Helexpo), 546 36 Thessaloniki

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For the THESSALONIKI MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

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