

BORDERS

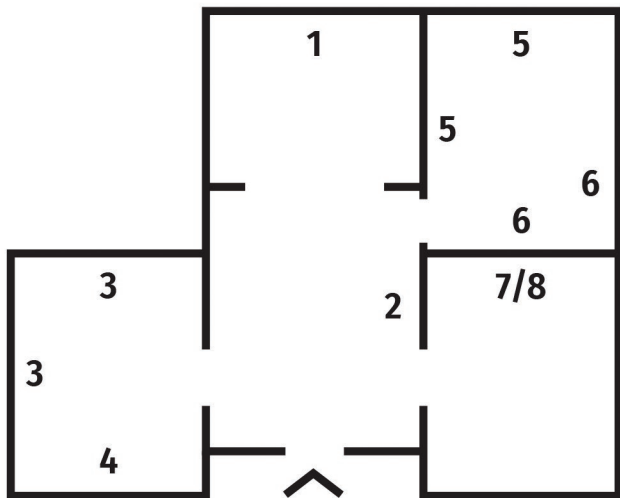
CROSSINGS

BORDERLANDS

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO EXHIBITION

Opening
19 NOVEMBER 2021

1927 art space



ARTISTS: WORKS

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BORDERS, BORDERLANDS, CROSSINGS

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Production

Between the Seas: Mediterranean Performance Lab
(www.betweenthe seas.org)

Curation

Aktina Stathaki

Production assistance & visual material design

Sofia Chionidou

Borders | Borderlands | Crossings was designed in 2019 as a response to the refugee crisis and the increasing xenophobia the world over. After postponing the exhibition several times as a result of the pandemic, we are pleased to be able to share it with you with only few modifications from our initial planning.

While designing the exhibition we wanted to explore the notion of borders as historic and political constructs. We looked into border as a dividing line, that determines the right to belong, to citizenship, to mobility; and as a non-locus of constant crossing, of life constituted as “naked life”, as Agamben has put it, that invites us to re-consider its value.

The participating artists were chosen through an open call and based on their works the exhibition is organised in two broad sections: that of internal borders, where urban and national political, architectural and economic decisions shape cities within cities and divide populations in those who belong and those who don't; and that of external borders where the stripping off of citizenship threatens to strip those who cross them, off their very status as humans. In a historic moment where human mobility is, for millions of fellow humans, an inescapable necessity but also an inalienable right, our vision for a post-nation-state world will have to confront the dominant capitalist discourse of globalised capital on the one hand, and the pervasive fear of “the other” and the retreat behind nationalist, xenophobic narratives on the other.

Between the Seas: Mediterranean Performance Lab is a not-for-profit organisation, based in New York and Greece. It aims to nurture and promote the Mediterranean performing arts and to create opportunities for dialogue and exchange between Mediterranean and American artists.

Aktina Stathaki (curation/production) is a researcher and arts programmer, specialising in theatre and postcolonial studies. She is a graduate of the National University of Athens, the National Theatre Drama School and holds a PhD from the University of Toronto. She has worked as a researcher and arts producer/manager in organisations such as The Joyce Theatre, Women's Project Theater, HERE arts center (NYC), International Theatre Institute (Shanghai), Hellenic Ministry of Culture (Athens). She has been the founder and Artistic Director of Between the Seas Festival in New York (2011-2019) and has co-founded 1927 art space in Athens.

Sofia Chionidou (production assistance & visual material design) was born and lives in Athens, where she graduated from the Architecture School of the NTUA. In the duration of her studies and internship, and because of her simultaneous dance practice, she developed an interest in artistic practices, particularly ones concerning space - body - movement - senses interaction. Currently, she is working as a production assistant in 1927 art space and as an architect.

Waterwell: The Flores Exhibits

Waterwell is a civic-minded theater company founded in 2002 by Drama Desk nominee Tom Ridgely and Tony Award Nominee Arian Moayed. The company is known for creating innovative live performance of the highest artistic caliber that speaks to pressing contemporary questions.

Waterwell's mission is to create riveting theater that is responsive: responsive to the events affecting the world, to changing aesthetic modes of expression, as well as to the individuals and communities attending each performance. This mission is manifested both in the company's professional productions and in its education program, which offers top-quality, civically-engaged conservatory training to more than 200 public school students at NYC's Professional Performing Arts School.

The Flores Exhibits is an online narrative advocacy project presenting videos of artists, lawyers and advocates reading the sworn testimony of children held in immigration detention at the U.S./Mexico Border. This project was created with the text of 69 legal depositions - the sworn testimonies of children in detention, plus a few from their lawyers and pediatricians - taken during June 2019.

The Flores Exhibits strives to bring attention to the issue of family separations at the border, and to provide immigration policy-makers with narrative evidence of the impact that such unregulated policing, lack of medical support, and dehumanizing conditions is having on thousands of people today.

Uzoma Orji: Passport Mathematics

Uzoma is an Abuja-based creative technologist and visual artist whose work is interested in exploring the post-colonial crisis of identity, dreaming up alternate African futures and thinking deeply about how to live full lives in the age of information overload.

Passport Mathematics is a criticism of existing frameworks around global mobility, an assertion that passport politics is simply a way of measuring the worth of a human being based on their nationality. It uses the Global Passport Power Rank's concept of 'mobility scores' to calculate that, for example, 1 American is equal to 3 Nigerians or that 1 Swede is equal to 5 Afghans. The aim of this work is to challenge our 21st-century notions of equality and fairness; it asks why our culture's fundamental belief that all humans are equal does not apply to borders and global mobility. Why are passports a requirement and why do their weights vary? Passports Mathematics calls for either a rethink of the structures that allow humans move through their world or an acceptance of the fact that we are not as egalitarian as we like to believe.

Reuben Ross: Beyond the Medina

Reuben Ross is a visual anthropologist based in Lisbon, Portugal. His work explores diverse issues of urban and visual culture, with a particular focus on the consequences of transnational migration, the contradictions of globalisation and the challenges of living in a capitalist economy. He is also a doctoral student in cultural studies at The Lisbon Consortium, part of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, where his research examines the histories of superdiverse streets in selected global cities and their visual representation through different media.

Beyond the Medina historically follows the urban development of the city of Sefrou, especially since the interventions in it made by its French governors after 1912. It points to the particularity of the superimposed segregation of different areas of the city, as a result of the strategic development design of villes nouvelles, which dictated the construction of new cities in proximity with the traditional medinas of the moroccan cities, which were to be artificially preserved, serving as home to the poor indigenous populations and as a touristic attraction to the French. However, as time passed, the spontaneous growth of Sefrou and, subsequently, its newly built, "illegal" settlements have brought forth questions regarding the right to the city. Who is to belong to it, live in it, govern and design it?

Frank Holbein: 11 ORTE / 11 PLACES

Frank Holbein, born in 1985 in Leinefelde, Germany, currently lives and works in Leipzig and Athens. The artist and filmmaker studied media art at the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig and graduated as a student of Clemens von Wedemeyer in 2019. From 2011 until 2017 he was a member of the artist group Many People. Together with Kiron Guidi he is dedicated to the project space MEME since 2018. Frank Holbein participated in group shows among others at Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Bonn, C/O Berlin, KW Institut for Contemporary Art Berlin, N.B.K. Berlin and Grassimuseum Leipzig.

In "11 ORTE" the visual artist and filmmaker Frank Holbein deals with the representation of nature and the perception of remembrances. The video is 59 minutes long and consists of 11 static shots of the landscape along the former inner-german border. Are there still visible traces of the 1400 km long border facility? How does a torn landscape grow back together? The formal structure of my observation takes place between two memorial sites that have made it their task to commemorate and reappraise the history of the german Division, the "Memorial to the German Division Marien" and the "Eichsfeld Borderland Museum". The recordings are neither explained nor commented. There is no conventional plot, characters or dialogue. The video installation was produced in 2017 in collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB) and the "Memorial to the German Devison Marienborn" as part of the exhibition "Operation Grenze" curated by Prof. Joachim Blank and Fabian Bechlte. In 2018 "11 ORTE" was shown at "Night Screenings - temporary spaces for new narratives" in collaboration with Video-Forum, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.) curated by Marenka Krasomil.

Haya Zaaatry: Reclaiming the Palestinian City

Haya Zaatry is a Palestinian musician, architect and researcher (MSc in Architecture), born and raised in Nazareth, based in Haifa. Haya is co-founder of "Eljam", a non-profit community project, which aims to empower the Palestinian live alternative music scene. She is currently working at Bimkom - planners for planning rights (NGO).

Reclaiming the Palestinian City discusses a change that is occurring in the urban life of the city of Haifa in recent years, the rise of the Palestinian urban identity within it. This change entails the revisiting of the Palestinian city, which has been both physically and historically eradicated during and after the Nakba, through practices of remembering art, entertainment, protest. Through mapping, this project links those practices to the urban fabric of Haifa and to the particular places in its centre which echo the old Palestinian city, constituting thus an attempt in formulating and illustrating identity.

Fousteri, Katsianou, Vradi, Tavouti: Dourgouti: A moving space

Dourgouti, filled with discontinuities and multiple becomings, unravels its face on a cinematic backdrop of quiet neighborhoods and imposing buildings. What stories can it tell us?

Our contact with Dourgouti began in 2019 through a three-month educational workshop under the auspices of Onassis Stegi. Our need to further study the local community, which remains unknown to most Athenians, produced "Dourgouti: A moving space". An in-progress project that uses multiple media to record the disparate elements and multicultural profile of the area that seems to be struggling between a worn-out identity and a new reality. A neighborhood where the refugee element is the only constant throughout its recent history and which is currently more relevant than ever.

Myrto Fousteri is an artist working on photography and multimedia based in Athens. She studied photography and audiovisual arts at TEI of Athens and continued her studies with seminars and workshops on the combination of art and therapy, art and gender, videodance, etc. Her interest is focused on the human being as a unique entity but also its connection and interaction with the place where it lives as well as with the rest of the community. Her works have been presented in recent years in group exhibitions in Greece. Finally, her story "Εκείνη και εγώ" ("She and I") has been published by Eleftheroudakis Publications.

Eleftheria Katsianou is a filmmaker who lives and works in Athens. She holds a degree in Political Science and History from Panteion University of Athens and a Master's degree in Filmmaking from Kingston University, London. From 2011 to 2017 she divided her time between Athens and London, with her artistic activity revolving around poetic and experimental cinema, documentaries and fiction. She directs and writes stories with an anthropocentric and social character,. She has participated in exhibitions in Greece and abroad and her short documentaries, Remains (2020) and Trash (2021), have been screened in international festivals abroad.

Louisa Vradi is a visual artist and photographer who lives and works in Athens. Photography, video and interaction are the main elements of her work. Her main interests are personal and collective memory, identity and youth culture, human movement and the relations of people with the land they inhabit. In addition to her studies in visual arts and new media at the Athens School of Fine Arts, she has trained in healing through art. As a photographer she has worked with international and major Greek media and organizations. For 2020 she was included in the 30 best photographers under 30 list by Artpil. She is currently completing the shooting of her first short documentary in Athens.

Sappho Tavouti is a journalist based in Athens and works in photojournalism and documentary photography. She holds an undergraduate degree in Communication and Media from the Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Master's degree in Photojournalism from Mid Sweden University in Sweden. A large part of her work consists in exploring and documenting social issues related to marginalization, exile and sensory anthropology. She has participated in group and solo exhibitions in Greece and Sweden and her photographs have been published in Greek newspapers. In recent years she has been working on her project EXI[S]LE.

Doris Hakim: Locus Sacer

Doris Hakim is a Palestinian-Greek visual artist and a performer. She graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts, and has a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Sevilla, Spain. Her complex and diverse origin played a significant role in her artistic question, triggering her to explore the effect of politics, religion, identify in matters such as democracy, inequality, boundaries etc. These explorations became an integral part of her artistic question. She focusses mainly on themes of gender, religious and political abuse. She participated in 30 collective exhibition and 3 solo exhibitions in Europe, USA and the Middle East.

Video: 3.25' Jerusalem

Jerusalem, the Holy City, has two significant walls - a religious one (the Wailing Wall) and the Separation Wall (between Israel - Palestine). The meaning of separation racial, religious, political etc. always concerned me. The wall became a tool - a visible limitation to separate groups of people. "Security Walls" are erected by the sovereign, who procures an emergency situation in a state of exception, where the exception becomes the rule itself.

Sound installation: By Jiannis Antonopoulos, a mixture of three sound elements from the three monotheistic religions of the Holy Land and recordings from the area.

Maira Flores & Luciano Scherer: Untitled (5)

Luciano Scherer (1987) and Maira Flores (1990), born in Brazil, work with contemporary art and film, creating together and individually. Maira has a degree in Art History and Luciano is currently pursuing a PhD in Film, after having completed his MA in Artistic Practices. Together they made the film Untitled (5) (2018), exhibited and awarded in festivals in Brazil, Ecuador, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece and China, today part of the collection of the Lisbon Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT). In recent years, they exhibited in Brazilian institutions such as Museum of Modern Art (MAM) in Rio de Janeiro, Museum of Image and Sound of São Paulo (MIS), Pavilion of Brazilian Cultures (São Paulo), CCBB (several cities), Museum of Contemporary Art of Porto Alegre, Capitólio Cinematheque, Ling Institute and Ecarta Foundation; as well international institutions such as Macau Orient Museum (China), BienalSur (Argentina) and Francis Naranjo Foundation (Spain). They live in Portugal.

Untitled (5) is a film created from the series of video performances made since 2015 - "Drowning Films" (Work in progress), by Maira Flores and Luciano Scherer. During the first presentation of these works, at the Ecarta Foundation in Brazil in 2015, the drowning of the Syrian-Kurdish boy Aylan Kurdi occurred, who was found washed out on the Turkish beach of Bodrum, while on an attempt to immigrate with his family to the Greek island of Kos. The boy's collapsed body shocked the world. The image of Aylan dead, due to its strength and violence was the media's awakening of the refugee crisis. Since then, however, the bodies have not stopped coming.

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