

PRESS RELEASE

Occupy Atopos #AndrewSpyrou

“Echogeographies: Explorations into Urban Sonics”, a sonic exhibition, part of the European Council’s Cultural Heritage Days 2017 with the theme ΠΟΛ(Ε)ΙΣ (CITIES)

Duration// 21-24 September, 2017

ATOPOS CVC// 72 Salaminos str., Metaxourgeio, Athens (nearest Metro stations Kerameikos and Metaxourgeio)

Entrance free

As part of the celebrations for the European Council’s Cultural Heritage Days 2017 the Artistic Director of Atopos cvc, Vassilis Zidianakis, has invited sound art curator Andrew Spyrou to “occupy” the premises of Atopos cvc and create a three-day programme focussing on the exploration and manipulation of the sounds of Athens.

Spyrou notes in his text: “In a city so visually rich, one can easily neglect the act of listening, the creation of a further sensorial layer through which we can understand and appreciate our surrounding environment”.

As part of the European Council’s Cultural Heritage Days 2017, Atopos cvc and sound art curator Andrew Spyrou have invited five leading experimental music and sound art practitioners working in Athens and further afield to take part in a three-day event exploring the sonic possibilities existing within the natural and cultural environment of the city of Athens, utilising the rich physical, historical and ethnological surroundings afforded by the immediate location.

The five participants, **Alexandros Drymonitis, Alyssa Moxley, Antidröm, Delia Gonzalez and Kostadis**, have each been commissioned to prepare a new sound work utilising only recordings and sonic inspirations encountered within a 0.5km radius around Atopos cvc in the Metaxourgeio area, each of which will be exhibited in individual rooms around the restored Neoclassical townhouse in which Atopos cvc is located for the duration of 22-24 September 2017.

Alongside the sonic exhibition, on the evening of 23 September the participants will perform live experimental manipulations of their recordings and auditory experiences of the area, drawing from a breadth of skill and technical ability across the field of electronic music and sound synthesis.

On the final day of the event, a workshop open to the public will be led by Alyssa Moxley and Antidröm, focussing on Microphone Construction, Sound Recording and the Manipulation of Recorded Sounds.

About OCCUPY ATOPOS

Occupy Atopos is an exhibition programme curated by Vassilis Zidianakis that takes place at Atopos’ headquarters, 72 Salaminos street. The aim of the programme is to observe and assist in a supportive way the creative process and progress of contemporary artists and curators. The participants are invited to reside in Atopos cvc and present their work through exhibitions, site specific installations, murals, zines, talks and videos or performances.

Occupy Atopos has hosted photographer Ren Hang, artist-critic Clo'e Floirat and Paris-based fashion curator Lydia Kamitsis, amongst others. From September 2016 to July 2017, Atopos cvc collaborated with documenta 14 with the Occupy Atopos Residency programme.

ECHOGEOGRAPHIES PROGRAMME

21-23 September 2017 – Residency and Performance Planning

Alexandros Drymonitis, Alyssa Moxley, Antidröm, Delia Gonzalez and **Kostadis** will utilise the collaborative sound studio at Atopos cvc to discuss and formulate, along with Andrew Spyrou, the basis of three improvisatory performances to take place on the evening of 23 September. These performances will utilise the sounds and inspirations drawn from the area surrounding Atopos cvc, and will keep in mind as a general premise the theme of CITIES.

22-24 September 2017 – Sonic Exhibition (Open to the public, 11:00 to 19:00, Saturday 11:00 to 23:00)

The five new compositions / sonic artworks will be open to the public to experience at Atopos cvc, each exhibited in separate rooms.

23 September 2017 – Performance (Open to the public, starting time 20:30)

During the evening, two ensembles made up of the participants will present three improvised performances in the courtyard of Atopos cvc.

24 September 2017- Workshop (Reservation suggested, 11:00-16:00)

During the workshop participants will learn how to construct a basic contact microphone (with piezo discs), record sounds with this microphone and manipulate these sounds to form a composition.

ECHOGEOGRAPHIES WORKSHOP

Microphone Construction, Sound Recording, Manipulation of Recorded Sounds and Composition

Instructors: Alyssa Moxley & Antidröm

Participants will record sounds within the city, collect objects and explore the sonic qualities of different materials through recording vibration. The contact mics can also be used as transducers on light materials – such as bowls, cans and paper – and participants will play with activating found materials. The participants will have an opportunity to make a small performance to each other at the end of the workshop and will be able to keep their newly constructed contact microphones. All compositions from the workshop will be combined to form one continuous piece which will the participants will also be able to take home.

REQUIREMENTS & HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The workshop will be conducted in English and it is aimed at those interested in exploring their city from an alternative, sonic, perspective including sound enthusiasts, composers, architects, multi-disciplinary artists etc.

Date: Sunday 24 September 2017, 11:00-16:00

Equipment cost per participant: 10 e.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own recording devices if possible, though all equipment will be provided.

Maximum number of participants: 20

To reserve your place contact office@atopos.gr or call Atopos cvc at +30210 8838151, +30210 5242004 (Monday to Friday 11:00-18:00)

ECHO GEOGRAPHIES BIOS

Andrew Spyrou

Establishing the record label The Association for Depth Sound Recordings in 2011 has allowed Andrew Spyrou to work closely with artists working in unusual and experimental ways within the field of electronic music. The most recent commission by the label is a sound work by synthesizer pioneer Peter Zinovieff which was composed purely from hydrophone recordings of blue whales, and which received its world premiere at documenta14 in Athens. Alongside his curatorial work, Spyrou has also composed a number of his own sound works, including a performance at The Institute of Contemporary Arts, London of live electronic manipulations of disappearing tribal musics he recorded in Papua New Guinea, and has recently conducted a field recording expedition to Fiji and Tonga as a fellow of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary Academy. With Athens being a city very close to his heart, Spyrou was keen to find ways to investigate its sonic qualities, and is very pleased to be able to extend this possibility to a number of artists whose work he greatly admires.

<http://depthsoundrecordings.co.uk>

Alexandros Drymonitis

Drymonitis is a musician, active in the field of experimental electronic music and noise. His musical practice focuses on the texture of sound and noise, exploring the borders of control, with form as a main goal. His educational aim is to provide acquired knowledge on multimedia programming. He is the author of the book 'Digital Electronics for Musicians', published by Apress.

<http://drymonitis.me/>

Alyssa Moxley

Alyssa Moxley creates sonic interventions and environments. Her works often combine field recordings, instrumental compositions, digital and analog sound design, choreography, speaker placement, and sculpture. Recent works include "Living Memory," a spatial composition on the 4D Sound System, "Guest Rooms," an audio walk for Vathi Square in Athens, curation for the Kinisi Festival of Sound, a sound improvisation workshop with the Temps Zero collective, and sound compositions and recordings in Uganda with Nyege Nyege Tapes (forthcoming).

www.soundcloud.com/alyssamoxley

www.soundcloud.com/dromomaniac

Antidröm

Antidröm is a PhD neuroscientist living in the UK, also working within the field of analogue and digital sound synthesis. His electronic music is meticulously constructed using field recordings, found sounds, film clips and is oft laden with drum samples. Antidröm prefers hardware over software and constructs some of his own synthesisers, in particular to ensure that he is producing precisely the sounds he is looking for. He explains that his main reason for composing music is to experiment with textures of sound, especially relating to its influence on human emotion. Antidröm has performed as an electronic musician in a number of settings including the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London.

<https://antidrom.bandcamp.com/>

Delia Gonzalez

Delia Gonzalez is a Cuban-American musician and artist based in Athens. Her disciplines include everything from composer to filmmaker, dancer / choreographer, sculptor, painter & performance artist. She has released music on DFA Records, with which her musical career began in 2004 when the label released the 12" single Relevee followed by an album of cosmic acid-house The Days of Mars with her then musical partner Gavin Russom. In 2015 DFA released Delia's first solo album entitled In Remembrance, which was a full piano score for a 30-minute filmed ballet, and this year released Horse Follows Darkness, which has been termed a modern electronic soundtrack for the Revisionist Western.

<https://deliaogonzalez.bandcamp.com/>

Kostadis

Kostadis, a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, sound engineer and the project architect of 'Two Thousand Places', is an active member of Wham Jah and Lost Bodies and, in addition to several contributions to works for other groups (Acid Baby Jesus, In Trance 95 et al.) has released two solo albums: UNLEASH on Phase! Records in 2016 and SLUMBER – 3 ways to calm & sleep peacefully, a self-released mini album, in 2017. Kostadis' most recent performances include the internationally acclaimed (New York Times article and cover) "634 minutes inside a volcano" in 2016, the sound installation of the large scale video "1095°C" in collaboration with sound designer Pavlo Gkousio for the Benaki Museum, and his collaboration with light designer Stella Kaltsou for the SNFCC-produced series "Microclimata".

<https://kostadis.bandcamp.com/>
<https://soundcloud.com/kostadismusic>

ΑΤΟΠΟΣ

CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE

More information

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On the occasion of the European Council's Cultural Heritage Days 2017



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