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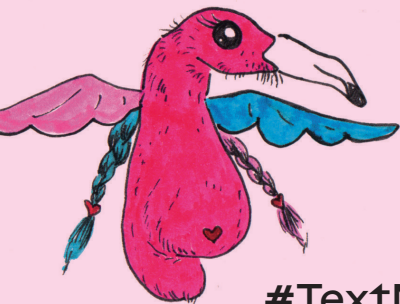
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CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE

#TextMe

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary

A project based on an original concept
by Vassilis Zidianakis.

A year of actions and events around books and text
in media arts, in the context of UNESCO's Athens 2018,
World Book Capital.

23 April 2018 – 23 April 2019
Athens

The cultural organisation Atopos Contemporary Visual Culture (Atopos CVC) presents #TextMe, a year of actions and events in the premises of Atopos CVC (Salaminos 72, Metaxourgeio) based on an original concept by Vassilis Zidianakis. #TextMe takes place in the context of UNESCO's Athens 2018 – World Book Capital.

The first floor of Atopos CVC's premises has been taken over by #TextMe_Fluffy Library, an artwork-in-progress designed and animated by the artist Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou. Although it welcomed its first 'readers' on the 23rd of April, #TextMe_FluffyLibrary will continue evolving until the 23rd of April 2019. The project combines an unconventional library with a participatory installation, creating a cuddly environment for reading, storytelling and play.

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary also operates as a workshop, producing an innovative fairy tale discussing issues of gender roles and human or non-human relationships. Fluffy, the main character of the fairy tale is a gigantic, hybrid creature that lives inside the library alongside a series of monster-letter characters. Visitors to the library must remove their shoes before entering so that they may fall about, cavort or even lie on Fluffy to read a book or to just relax alone or with Fluffy's friends.

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary

A rebellious library, an atopic reading space,
a cuddly hug for books, art and hybrids.

Atopos CVC invited the artist Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou to design and realize Fluffy Library - an unusual library, a participatory installation and a cuddly reading and playing environment for both young and old. Fluffy Library occupies the rooms of Atopos CVC, incorporating in the main artwork the rich book collection of the organisation, which consists of more than 2.500 art and visual culture books.

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary



Antigoni's work merges imaginary and real worlds, childhood memories and adult life and is influenced by feminist and queer theories. The project combines the logic of a large-scale installation with impromptu performances, collective storytellings, plush sculptures and furry costumes. Her work is inspired by lgbtqi+ fairy tales, feminist sci-fi literature, furies' subcultures and the natural world, and she uses these influences to expand the boundaries of identity, intimacy, sexuality and co-existence.

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary is an age-and-genderfluid cuddly environment. The project's hybrid nature creates a multi-sensorial, visual experience that encourages the use of the library. As time passes, a series of monster letters and other fairy tale and sci-fi characters will begin inhabiting Fluffy Library, thus creating a playful and interactive environment. Visitors are encouraged to transform themselves into some of the characters by wearing the furry costumes and participating in the story through spontaneous performances and collective happenings.

An unconventional fairy tale

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary also operates as a workshop that will produce an unconventional fairy tale. Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou, in collaboration with other artists, scientists, story-tellers, educators and the general public, will create the story of 'Fluffy', the principal character of the fairy tale and installation. The encounters will be taking place inside the library-installation, activating the space with discussions, alternative narratives, archives, as well as traces of the whole process.

According to the main concept of the artwork, Fluffy, also known amongst scientists as Flufiella Chimaerica, is a magnificently large, symbiotic creature that occupies and lives in the entire building.

As well as Fluffy, the visitor will have the opportunity of meeting a series of monstrous letters – D, for a dragon princess, T, for a super heroine teddy-bear, O, for a tentacular (octopous) witch, P, for a masculine (pixie) fairy, M, for a hairy pink mermaid and many others – that will be constructed during the course of the exhibition and will inhabit and reclaim their places inside books and stories and on the shelves. Fluffy and its friends, will produce a fairy tale that will celebrate alternative narratives around identity, gender and human relations, thus becoming an educational project.

Throughout the year, Antigoni and her guests will be tracing, exploring, unravelling and revealing Fluffy's traits, story and origins. Fluffy and its co-habitants, will produce a fairy tale that will celebrate alternative narratives around identity, gender and human relationships, thus becoming an educational project. Inside the library, besides the Atopos CVC book collection, visitors have the opportunity to find unique books for smart, confident, and courageous girls, sensitive boys, non-gendered creatures, children of all abilities and stories for alternative forms of families and co-existence.



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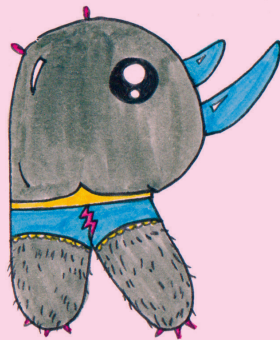
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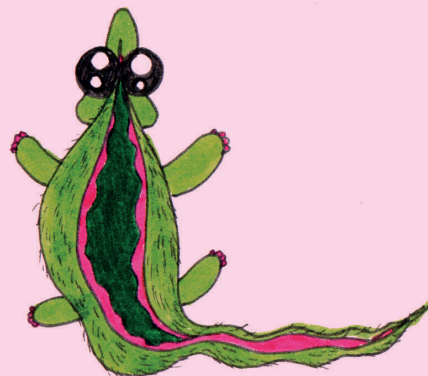
A fluffy guesthouse for books, art and fairy tale lovers

In the heart of this cuddly and cosy environment, there is also a transcendental fluffy guesthouse. It will be possible for a select number of art and fairy tale lovers to experience the unique opportunity of a sleepover with Fluffy. This is the first time that Atopos CVC is creating a hospitality project that literally allows the cohabitation with an artwork, the idea being to enhance the interactivity of the project while simultaneously supporting it financially.

Antigoni works with Ourania Anastasiadou for the development of an educational program for children of all abilities. Ourania Anastasiadou is an artist and an educator, responsible for the Accessible Education Unit of the Athens School of Fine Arts.



Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou is an Athens-based artist. She graduated from the Athens School of Fine Arts and she is a member of the collective running AMOQA (Athens Museum of Queer Arts). As a child, she took summer classes at the Royal Academy of Dance in London. She has showcased her work mostly in Germany and Greece, with several participations in exhibitions and festivals, such as the 6th Thessaloniki Biennial, Sound Acts festival in Athens, Witch Rave festival in Berlin. In collaboration with Fabiana Faleiros, she participates in the 10th Berlin Biennial at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art. Her work combines large-scale participatory installations with interactive and impromptu performances, plush sculptures and furry costumes. Deeply influenced by queer and feminist dialogues, her sources of inspiration also include lgbtqi+ fairy tales, feminist sci-fi literature, children's stories, the furies' subcultures and the natural world. Antigoni's fluffy worlds blur the boundaries between different ages and genders, and allow for an exploration of different narratives through recontextualising identity, intimacy, sexuality and co-existence.



#TextMe_FluffyLibrary

Information

ATOPOS Contemporary Visual Culture

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+302108838151, info@atopos.gr, www.atopos.gr, www.text-me.gr

Visiting hours: Thursday-Friday: 14:00-20:00 & Saturday-Sunday 12:00-18:00

Duration: 23 April 2018 – 23 April 2019

Free entrance

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary - teaser:

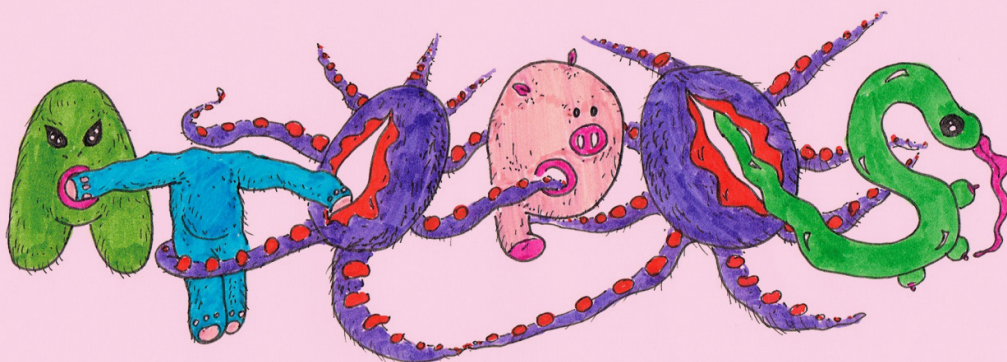
www.vimeo.com/266660332



ATOPOS CVC (Atopos Contemporary Visual Culture) is a non-profit Cultural Organization, founded in 2003 in Athens by Stamos Fafalios and Vassilis Zidianakis. Its aim is to implement innovative projects of contemporary visual culture, with particular emphasis on the human figure and costume.

In ATOPOS' cultural programme of the past 10 years are included, inter alia, a lot of significant exhibitions and projects such as **ARRRGH! Monsters In Fashion**, which has been displayed at the Benaki Museum, La Gaîté Lyrique in Paris and Centraal Museum in Utrecht, the exhibition **RRRIPP!! Paper Fashion**, that had travelled in museums like the the Musee d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in Luxembourg, ModeMuseum-MoMu in Anvers and Museum Bellerive/Design Museum in Zurich, the publication **Not A Toy** in collaboration with Pictoplasma Publishing Berlin, and also the **UNLOCKED**, a publication focused on the representation of the naked body in the digital era.

In 2010 ATOPOS CVC inaugurate its new building at Salaminos 72 street, in the heart of Metaxourgheio. In its initial form the building was a typical Athenian home of the 1912 with a yard which has renovated and turned into an "alive" organism; there, are hosted exhibitions, events, workshops and performances, our offices and the library of ATOPOS CVC and also the biggest collection of garments, made of paper, in the world.



#TextMe_FluffyLibrary

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Credits

#TextMe_FluffyLibrary

Artistic Director: Vassilis Zidianakis

Installation Design, Activities co-ordinator: Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou

Volunteers: Irina Probeygolova (co-ordination), Theodora Danilova, Tatiana Ilachshuk, Elpida Mpelali, Meri Ntzikisvili, Zoe Pampouki, Foteini Salvaridi, Vera Sotiriadou & IEK AKMI students (set up assistants)

Text Editor: Foivos Dousos

Photography: Panos Kokkinias

Graphic Designer: Em Kei / Oddd Studio

Animation: Charis Lalousis

Head of Production: Katerina Sarri

Production Assistant: Foteini Salvaridi

Production: ATOPOS CVC

Hospitality Sponsors:

KTIMA EVHARIS / www.domaine-evharis.gr

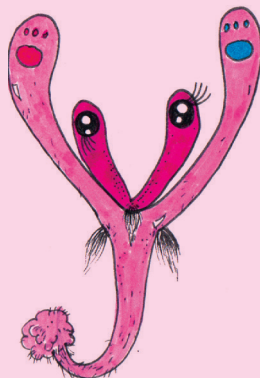
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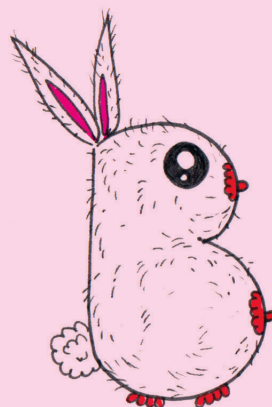
Athens Culture Net / www.athens2018.gr

Founding donor Stavros Niarchos Foundation



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Athens 2018 World Book Capital / www.athensculturenet.com



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