

Fluffy Library @ Arnolfini / Press Release

Fluffy Library is a participatory installation created by the artist Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou and curated by Vassilis Zidianakis, Artistic Director of Atopos Contemporary Visual Culture (ATOPOS cvc) The project is an invitation for other creatures to inhabit the space, lie down, read or even themselves create alternative stories around gender, identity, sexuality and co-existence.

Fluffy, the cuddly symbiotic beast, has just left ATOPOS cvc's library in Athens and is now travelling to the Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, hoping to make new friends and find fodder along the way. The gender-and-age fluid furry is constantly seeking love, hugs and radical tenderness. It eats books and digests feminist queer knowledge while sharing it with other cohabitant monster friends, such as the non-binary horse, the hairy fairy, the dragon princess and many other characters.

Besides Fluffy, there is a monstrous alphabet of hybrid identities, used for interweaving into a language, for reforming it and creating new narratives through storytelling. Fairy masculinities, dragons that want to be princesses, hairy mermaids, vulnerable cyborgs and sensitive monsters are reclaiming their place in existence.

The project juxtaposes different disciplines through collaborations that Antigoni does with other artists and educators, performances and workshops for children, as well as special LGBTQI+ friendly fairy-tales, feminist books and queer literature.

Fluffy's own story is being written by those who engage with the project and perpetuate it. Rumor has it that...

"Fluffy might be a monstrous femininity; a devourer Charybdis with many "mouths" that eats books and digests knowledge..."

"Fluffy might be a furry universe, a hairy wormhole with magic ability to transfer you to parallel realities..."

"Fluffy is deaf..."

"Fluffy's sexuality is fluid just like its identity. We don't know its gender, where it came from or where it will go after."

Fluffy Library aims to blur the boundaries between different ages and open up spaces for different identities. How good a grasp can we get of the uncanny and how much tenderness can we give to or gather from it?

CV of Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou

Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou is a 25 years old artist from Athens. Her work combines large-scale participatory installations with interactive performances and is deeply influenced by queer feminist dialogues. She explores the notion of playfulness as a political act and also as a tool to create alternative senses of desire, self-expression and co-existence. Her fluffy, intimate installations are safe spaces that embrace uncommon narratives and blur the boundaries between different ages and genders. Through collaborations, workshops for kids and fluffiness she is trying to connect art together with alternative pedagogy and activism.

Her work has been showcased at the 6th Biennale of Thessaloniki, the 10th Berlin Biennale “We don’t need another hero” in collaboration with Fabiana Faleiros at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, the National Opera of Greece. Her latest project “Fluffy Library”, commissioned by ATOPOS cvc, lasted for one year as part of “UNESCO’s Athens 2018, World Book Capital”.

CV of ATOPOS cvc

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

The word ‘atopos’, from the ancient Greek “άτοπος”, refers to that which is the strange, the unwonted, the eccentric and the unclassifiable.

ATOPOS’ program of the past 10 years includes, inter alia, innovative exhibitions and projects such as *ARRRGH! Monsters In Fashion*, which was first exhibited at the Benaki Museum in Athens, La Gaîté Lyrique in Paris and Centraal Museum in Utrecht, the exhibition *RRRIPP!! Paper Fashion*, which was also first exhibited at the Benaki Museum in Athens and then travelled to, amongst other venues, the Musee d’Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in Luxembourg and ModeMuseum-MoMu in Antwerp, the publication of *Not A Toy* in collaboration with Pictoplasma Publishing Berlin, and *UNLOCKED*, a photographic essay on the representation of the naked body in the digital era. The most recent project was *#TextMe*, a year of actions and events around the book and text in media arts in the context of “UNESCO’s Athens 2018, World Book Capital” of which Fluffy Library was the main program.

ATOPOS cvc occupies the premises of a neoclassical building, Salaminos 72, in the heart of Metaxourgheio. Built in 1912 as a typical Athenian town house, it has recently been restored and converted to include exhibition spaces, an extensive library on fashion and art and a home for the ATOPOS cvc Paper Dress Collection. In this multi-functional space ATOPOS cvc has also instigated the Occupy ATOPOS Residency Program with the aim of collaborating on projects with invited young artists, such as, Craig Green, Ren Hang, Ibrahim Mahama and Clo’e Floirat.