

# ΔΕΣΤΕ

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ίδρυμα ΔΕΣΤΕ  
Εμ. Παππιά & Φιλελλήνων 11.  
142 34 Νέα Ιωνία  
Αθήνα Ελλάς

DESTE Foundation  
11 Filellinon & Em. Pappa St.  
142 34 Nea Ionia  
Athens Greece

WWW . DESTE . GR  
T — 30 210 27 58 490  
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June, 2017

### ***THE ATHENS DIALOGUES***



Conceived by **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, in conversation with **Danai Anesiadou**, **James Bridle**, **Liz Diller**, **Apostolos Georgiou**, **Ranjana Leyendecker**, **Ari Marcopoulos**, **Rags Media Collective**, **Charles Ray**, **Adrián Villar Rojas**, **Christiana Soulou**, and **Hito Steyerl**

Sunday, June 18 at 19:30

Benaki Museum  
1 Koumbari Street, Athens



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The DESTE Foundation's mission to promote and explore the connections between contemporary art and other disciplines has always given shape to its annual events and exhibitions. This year, DESTE organized a number of events in April that coincided with Documenta 14, held this year in Athens, in addition to its regular location in Kassel, for the first time. These events, exhibitions, and publications highlighted the importance of understanding our collective histories, and aimed to open up discussion on the relationship between the classical past and the present moment.

In June, DESTE presents *THE ATHENS DIALOGUES*, an evening of interviews, conversations, performances, and screenings conceived by Hans Ulrich Obrist that explore the critical and creative connections between antiquity and contemporary art. *THE ATHENS DIALOGUES* brings together an array of practitioners whose research and practice have responded to this complex relationship in the city that is the embodiment of antiquity par excellence.

*THE ATHENS DIALOGUES* presents conversations between Hans Ulrich Obrist and Danai Anesiadou, James Bridle, Liz Diller, Apostolos Georgiou, Raqs Media Collective, Adrián Villar Rojas, Christiana Soulou, and Hito Steyerl. In addition, it will feature a scenography by Ranjana Leyendecker, a video created specially for *THE ATHENS DIALOGUES* by Charles Ray, and a poster designed by Ari Marcopoulos. A book designed by Ari Marcopoulos with a photo essay that documents the tension between the new and the old Athens will be published following the event.

Organized by the DESTE Foundation | Hosted by the Benaki Museum  
Coordinated by Karen Marta and Tommaso Speretta  
Research by Tim Gentles and Kostas Stasinopoulos



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#### Participant biographies:

**Danai Anesiadou** (born 1977) is a Greco-Belgian artist who works in the adjoining fields of performance, social sculpture, and video art. Her work and performances have been featured at Documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017); the Swiss Institute, New York (2016); Nottingham Contemporary (2015); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); Kunsthalle Basel (2011); Wiels Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels (2008–11); and the 5th Berlin Biennial (2008).

**James Bridle** (born 1980) is a British artist and writer based in Athens. His work, which investigates the social impact of new technologies, has been shown at Serpentine Galleries, London (2016); Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2013); and the Istanbul Design Biennial (2012). His writing has appeared in *Frieze*, *Wired*, the *New Statesman*, and the *Atlantic*.

**Elizabeth Diller** (born 1954) is a founding partner of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R), a New York City–based design studio that works at the intersection of architecture, the visual arts, and the performing arts. Diller and her partner Ricardo Scofidio were the first recipients in the field of architecture to receive the MacArthur Foundation’s “genius” grant. DS+R’s work includes the High Line and the Lincoln Center performing arts redevelopment, both in New York; the Broad, Los Angeles; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; and Blur Building at the Swiss Expo 2002, Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland. The studio’s in-progress projects include the Shed, and the Museum of Modern Art renovation and expansion, both in New York City. Diller is a professor of architecture at Princeton University.

**Apostolos Georgiou** (born 1952) is a Greek figurative painter. His work has been exhibited at Documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2016); the 10th Gwangju Biennale (2014); and the DESTE Foundation (2013).

**Ranjana Leyendecker** (born 1984) was born in Wuppertal, Germany, and works in Mumbai and Erlangen, Germany. She studied mathematics and literature in New York. From 2004 to 2007 she was the assistant to novelist Frederic Tuten. Leyendecker is a regular contributor to the *Indian Express* and the *Hindustan Times* and a consultant to the Alfio Foundation.



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**Ari Marcopoulos** (born 1957) is an Amsterdam–born, New York–based photographer and filmmaker. He has had solo exhibitions of his work at White Columns, New York (2011); Foam Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam (2010); Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, California (2009); and MoMA PS1, New York (2005). He has participated in the Whitney Biennial (2002 and 2010) and in other international group exhibitions. He has made many books, including *Stone Mountain, Georgia* (Etudes Books, 2017), *Not Yet* (Rizzoli, 2016), *Fumes* (Karma, 2015), *Anyway* (Dashwood Books, 2012), *Out to Lunch* (PPP Editions, 2012), *Within Arm’s Reach* (JRP|Ringier, 2010), and *The Chance Is Higher* (Dashwood Books, 2008), as well as many zines and limited editions.

**Hans Ulrich Obrist** (born 1968) is artistic director of the Serpentine Galleries, London. Prior to this, he was the curator of the Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show, “World Soup (The Kitchen Show),” in 1991, he has curated more than 300 shows. His recent publications include *Conversations in Mexico* (Fundación Alumnos47, 2016), *The Age of Earthquakes: A Guide to the Extreme Present* (Blue Rider Press, 2015) with Douglas Coupland and Shumon Basar, *Lives of the Artists, Lives of the Architects* (Allen Lane, 2015), and *Ways of Curating* (Allen Lane, 2014).

**The Raqs Media Collective** was founded in New Delhi, India, in 1992 by Jeebesh Bagchi, Monica Narula, and Shuddhabrata Sengupta. Their work has taken the form of contemporary art, films, curated exhibitions, books, staged events, and projects with architects. Recent projects have included a participatory installation at Tate Modern, London (2016); serving as chief curators of the 11th Shanghai Biennale (2016); and a solo exhibition at the Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City (2013). They have participated in Sharjah Biennial 13 (2017); the 11th Gwangju Biennale (2016); the 56th Venice Biennale (2015); and the 29th São Paulo Bienal (2010).

**Charles Ray** (born 1953) is an American artist best known for his sculptures of altered and refashioned familiar objects. He has had solo museum exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago (2015); Kunstmuseum Basel (2014); Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo (2006); and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New



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York (1998). His work has been included in Documenta 9 (1992), three iterations of the Venice Biennale (1993, 2003, 2013), and five installments of the Whitney Biennial (1989, 1993, 1995, 1997, 2010).

**Adrián Villar Rojas** (born 1980) is from Rosario, Argentina. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2017); Kunsthhaus Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria (2017); NEON Foundation, Athens (2017); Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2015); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2015); High Line at the Rail Yards, New York (2014); Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich (2013); and Serpentine Galleries, London (2013). Villar Rojas participated in Documenta 13 (2012) and represented Argentina in the 54th Venice Biennale (2011). He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Sharjah Biennial Prize, given by the Sharjah Art Foundation (2015), the Zurich Art Prize at the Museum Haus Konstruktiv (2013); and the 9th Benesse Prize in the 54th Venice Biennale (2011).

**Christiana Soulou** (born 1961) is an Athens-based artist who makes expressive and complex drawings. She has recently had solo presentations of her work at Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne; BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK; and Sadie Coles HQ, London (all 2016).

**Hito Steyerl** (born 1966) is an artist, filmmaker, and writer whose work examines the contemporary status of images and their impact on politics. Her work has been shown at HMKV, Dortmund, Germany (2016); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2016); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (2015); Artists Space, New York (2015); the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2014); and the 55th Venice Biennale (2013).