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PRESS RELEASE

2ND DESTE PRIZE FOR CONTEMPORARY GREEK ART

THE PRIZE

One of the primary aims of the DESTE Foundation is to support and promote the production of contemporary Greek art as well as expand the audience of contemporary art in Greece.

To this end, the Foundation decided in 1999 to **institute a prize for contemporary Greek art**, the DESTE Prize, **to be awarded every two years to a young Greek artist.**

The Prize intends to encourage and reinforce the spirit of innovation in Greek contemporary art and to highlight the latest developments, bringing the achievements of young and emerging artists to the attention of a wider public.

In selecting the seven finalists, the following areas were deemed to be of particular interest:

- (a) the relation of national identity (cultural as well as social) to international realities, current issues and the phenomenon of globalisation;
- (b) the examination of contemporary reality in Greece
- (c) the examination of the question of personal identity.

The Deste Prize is given to the artist who contributes to the discourse and development of contemporary art in Greece and who attempts to open new horizons in contemporary artistic practice according to the above criteria.

Artists eligible for the Prize should be up to 40 years of age, Greek citizens or nationals, graduates of Fine Arts Schools in Greece and abroad, or artists who have a proven record of a continuous career in art.

THE PROCEDURE

The selection procedure for the **seven short listed artists** for the 2001 Deste Prize Exhibition is as follows:

A total of 35 artists are nominated by a *Selection Committee* of five - seven by each of the five members. The Committee meets after all nominations have been submitted and shortlists seven artists who are to be the candidates for the Prize and participants in the Prize Exhibition. The winner will be decided by an international jury.

THE COMMITTEES

The **Selection Committee** for the Deste Prize 2001 consisted of:

- **Katerina Gregos** – Director, Deste Foundation, Centre for Contemporary Art
- **Nikos Xydakis** – Art Critic
- **Sania Papa** – Director, State Centre for Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
- **Effi Strouza** – Curator
- **Nikos Tranos** – Assistant Professor, Athens School of Fine Arts

The seven shortlisted artists for 2001 are:

- **Christos Athanassiades**
- **Despina Christou**
- **Athanasia Kyriakakos**
- **Dimitra Lazaridou**
- **Eleni Lyra**
- **Georgia Sagri**
- **Andreas Savva**

The members of the **Jury** for the Deste Prize 2001 are:

- **Dakis Joannou** – President, Deste Foundation
- **Christos M. Joachimides** – Exhibitions Organiser
- **James Rondeau** – Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Art Institute of Chicago
- **Alison Gingeras** – Curator of Contemporary Art, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- **Jennifer Higgie** – Reviews Editor, Frieze, London

The Deste Prize will be announced on 21st June by the Minister of Culture, Mr. Evangelos Venizelos.

The Prize is 3.000.000 drachmas.

Duration of exhibition: 8 June – 30 September

S p o n s o r : I N T E R A M E R I C A N

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