



4th Deste Prize 2005

Athens, 3rd May 2005

The opening of the 4th Deste Prize exhibition will take place on Thursday, 19th May, at 8.30 pm, at the Deste Foundation's Centre for Contemporary Art. The Deste Prize is awarded every two years to a Greek artist living and working either in Greece or abroad.

The exhibition, scheduled to run until Saturday, 29th October, will be presenting works of the six (6) short-listed artists that have been unanimously selected by the Selection Committee, which convened especially for this purpose on 22nd March 2005.

The six (6) short-listed artists: Dora Economou, Dimitris Foutris, Christodoulos Panayiotou, Poka-Yio, Stefanos Tsivopoulos and Kostis Velonis, are now in the process of preparing the work they will be presenting to the public.

The Selection Committee, consisting of Orestis Doumanis – Publisher-Director, Design + Art in Greece & Architecture in Greece, Christoforos Marinos – Art Critic-Curator, Gregory Papadimitriou – Collector, Maria Papadimitriou – Artist, Yiannis Toumazis – Director, the Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre and Augustine Zenakos – Art Critic, To Vima Newspaper, unanimously noted the high standard of nominations, which is telling of contemporary art's dynamic prospects in Greece.

An international five-member Jury, consisting of distinguished museum directors, curators, art critics, as well as Mr. Dakis Joannou, President of the Deste Foundation, will select and announce the winner of the Prize in mid-September 2005.

The Deste Prize is accompanied by a grant of €10.000.

In his foreword to the exhibition's catalogue, Mr. Dakis Joannou, President of the Deste Foundation, notes: "This year marks the fourth presentation of the DESTE Prize. Since its inception the Prize has been awarded to: Panayota Tzamourani (1999), Georgia Sagri (2001) and Maria Papadimitriou (2003). The exhibition of the 4th Deste Prize will also mark the closing of Deste's first permanent site in Neo Psychico, which was inaugurated in May 1998, as the Foundation will be moving to its new space in Nea Ionia at the end of the year.

Taking into consideration the objectives and aspirations behind the creation both of a Contemporary Art Foundation as well as a Greek Art prize, it feels utterly appropriate to the Foundation's original mission and a happy coincidence that an exhibition like the Deste Prize exhibition will be the last show presented in this space."

This year's Prize is sponsored by Cosmoline, a member of the INTERAMERICAN Group of Companies, which has through its President, Mr. Dimitris Kontominas, offered continual support to this institution.

ALPHA Television Network, a member of the same Group, is the Prize's Communications Sponsor.

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For information on the selection procedure and criteria as well as on biographies of the short-listed artists, please visit the Deste Foundation's website: www.deste.gr

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