

March, 2011

## Press Release

### DESTE Prize 2011

#### Museum of Cycladic Art, May 25 – October 30, 2011

The DESTE Prize was established in 1999 and is awarded every two years to a Greek artist living in Greece or abroad. The Prize aims to showcase the work of a new and emerging generation of artists and it is an integral part of the Foundation's policy for supporting and promoting contemporary art in Greece.

The six shortlisted artists for the **DESTE Prize 2011** – **Alexandra Bachzetsis, Anastasia Douka, Irini Miga, Eftihis Patsourakis, Theodoros Stamatogiannis** and **Jannis Varelas** – will show their work in an exhibition that will take place for the second time at the **Museum of Cycladic Art** between May 25 and October 30, 2011. This collaboration between the DESTE Foundation and the Museum of Cycladic Art is part of the latter's "Young Views" program, which aims at launching a dialogue with a younger generation, at keeping the public up to date with the latest developments in contemporary cultural production and at ensuring the dynamic presence of a space for the exchange of ideas.

An international jury of six will select and announce the winner of this year's DESTE Prize on **September 14, 2011**. The Prize is accompanied by a grant of €10.000.

#### The DESTE Prize 2011 shortlisted artists:



**Alexandra Bachzetsis'** work constitutes an inquiry into genres of performing arts, techniques of choreography and forms of scenic behavior. Her main interest lies in codes that govern gestures, both in everyday life and on stage. Bachzetsis' choreography scrutinizes the

mutual influence between the use of gesture and movement in the 'low', 'commercial' genres – such as romantic comedy, TV soap, or hip-hop video-clip – and in 'arts', such as ballet, modern dance and performance. The artist tries to arrive at new ideas in dance performance inducing a productive crossing and translation between the hitherto isolated or even mutually exclusive cultural fields. In her performances, Bachzetsis takes on stereotyped modes of representation of female body in contemporary popular culture, show business and sex industry. She diverts clichés of commodified femininity and idolized masculinity to use them as building blocks in a new, consistent formal language that becomes tool of self-reflection and means to empowerment.



**Alexandra Bachzetsis, A Piece Danced Alone**  
 Photo: Melanie Hoffmann  
 Pictured: Alexandra Bachzetsis & Anne Paunonen

**Anastasia Douka** examines human procedures, along with whichever model of knowledge or retransmission of information, and their products: architectural elements and geographical models, ancient cultures and contemporary popular icons, precious and everyday objects, human anatomy and machine anatomy, fantasies and theories with their proofs. She constructs condensed objects out of joint that carry on different layers elements of the above. Hollow dies of familiar objects and symmetric wood fold-outs come together into a new unit. Every unit is after the hard-hidden gold in the bowels of the earth, the way adventurers do it.



Anastasia Douka, *FLIPPERS FAMILY 1*, 2008

Irini Miga, *A paradoxical Epicenter Of an Enchanting Entity Can Also Be Encountered If Only ou Just Stop*, 2010



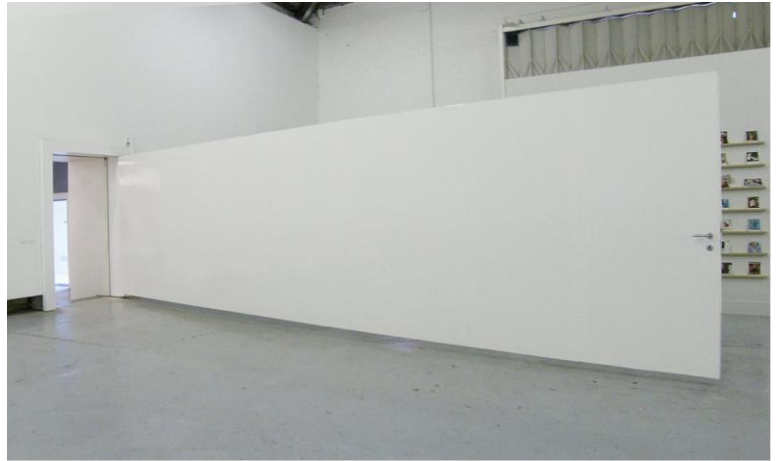
In her work, **Irini Miga** uses personal and historical references, always through an allegoric gaze at reality. One of her primary goals is to establish a dialogue between the past and the present. Miga is interested in discovering the poetry and romance, generated through the manipulation of old, distant events and cultural products, by giving birth to novel meanings and interpretations.

Eftihis Patsourakis, *Fest*, 2007



At the focal point of his multidimensional artistic practice, **Eftihis Patsourakis** delves into the individual and collective memory, into the relationship between identity and history and re-examines representation as a carrier of these matters, both through a net of actual social and cultural references and through particular reinterpretations regarding the history of art of modernism. Patsourakis uses in his work casual materials (for instance post-its, paper of burnt snipes, sheets from used photo albums), which mainly through their repetitive use become structural elements of the image. His work moves between the aesthetics of the sublime (*erhaben*), the mechanistic and abstract sensitivity of minimalism and a dimension of banal pop innovation.

**Theodoros Stamatogiannis'** work is a research of how sculptural objects can arise from the geometry and the function of architectural place. It is an interpretation of sculpture as a means of redistribution of space, interweaving the boundaries between architecture and sculpture, interior and exterior and also private and public space.



Theodoros Stamatogiannis, *Untitled*, 2010



Jannis Varelas, *Untitled*, RHP/Venice 812, 2010

The work of **Jannis Varelas** is defined by the pursuit of sets of historical references, with the purpose of recomposing and redefining them through new apperceptions. The artist is interested in the exploration of mechanisms that produce meaning within human perception, as well as the ways that meanings correlate, shift or collapse within human psychological state. In addition, he is also interested in the mechanism of self-definition resulting from every person's own mythologies. This searching directs Varelas every time in the use of different materials and media, like drawing, collage, video, sculptures.

### **DESTE Prize 2011 Selection Committee:**

**Polina Kosmadaki** – Curator, Benaki Museum; **Nikos Navrides** – Artist (DESTE Prize 2003 shortlist); **Dimitris Palaiokrassas** – Art Historian, Art Consultant; **Iasonas Tsakonas** – Collector, REMAP founder; **Stelios Vellis** – Journalist; **Yerasimos Yannopoulos** – Collector

### **DESTE Prize 2011 Jury:**

**Dakis Joannou** – President, The Deste Foundation; **Madeleine Grynsztejn** – Director, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; **Kasper Koenig** – Director, Museum Ludwig Koln; **Jessica Morgan** – Curator, Tate Modern, London; **Sarah Thornton** - Journalist; **Andro Wekua** – Artist

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