

Press Release

Athens, 19 September 2003

The 3rd DESTE Prize was awarded

The Minister of Culture, Prof. Evangelos Venizelos, awarded the 3rd DESTE Prize to Maria Papadimitriou, in a special ceremony that took place on Thursday, September 11th at 9:30 pm at the DESTE Foundation, Centre for Contemporary Art.

With suspense hovering, the gathered crowd of art people was circulating around the works of the six (6) candidate artists: **Nikos Alexiou, Apostolos Georgiou, Dimitris Kozaris, Nikos Navridis, Maria Papadimitriou, Nikos Tranos**. A video presentation of the works and the artists, produced by ALPHA Television, exclusive sponsor of the 3rd Prize, was shown on a giant projection screen, in the specially arranged space of the ground floor.

Mr. Dakis Joannou, President of the DESTE Foundation, amidst the six candidates and just before the announcement, expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Culture for his presence, while welcoming the guests and the President of the INTERAMERICAN Group of Companies, Mr. Dimitris Kontominas, thanking him, as well, for his constant support to the institution.

In replying, Mr. Kontominas praised the institution of the DESTE Prize, mentioning that "he will always support this important endeavor".

Following, Mr. Dakis Joannou read the grounds which the decision of the Jury was based upon and presented the envelop with the winner's name to the Minister of Culture to announce and grant the award (along with the reward of 10.000,00 €).

According to the statement of the Jury, whose four members (*Tuula Arkio*, Director, Finnish National Galleries, *Maurizio Cattelan*, Artist, *Massimiliano Gioni*, Curator & Artistic Director, Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Milan, *Lars Nittve*, Director, Moderna Museet, Stockholm) traveled for the occasion from abroad, the 3rd DESTE Prize was awarded to **Maria Papadimitriou**. Papadimitriou's work is being characterised by a continuous engagement with social and cultural issues that are essential to the understanding of our contemporary life, as well as by an ability to create powerful yet poetic metaphors, as revealed in T.A.M.A. Sentimental 2002, her work on view in the 3rd Deste Prize exhibition.

Organizing Committee:

Dakis Joannou, President, DESTE Foundation, *Orestes Doumanis*, Publisher-Director, «Architectural Topics», *Yorgos Tzirtzilakis*, Architect, *Ileana Tounta*, Director, Ileana Tounta Con/Temporary, *Katerina Gregos*, Independent Curator, Art Critic

Selection Committee:

Katerina Koskina, Curator, The J. F. Costopoulos Foundation, *Konstantinos Papageorgiou*, Collector, *Rena Papaspyrou*, Painter, Professor, Athens School of Fine Arts, *Yorgos Tzirtzilakis*, Architect, *Marina Fokidis*, Independent Curator, Art Critic

Jury:

Dakis Joannou, President, DESTE Foundation, *Tuula Arkio*, Director, Finnish National Galleries, *Maurizio Cattelan*, Artist, *Massimiliano Gioni*, Curator & Artistic Director, Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Milan, *Lars Nittve*, Director, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

Duration of the exhibition up until 1 November 2003

Monday - Friday 10:00 – 18:00, Saturday 12:00 – 16:00

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