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ΔΕΣΤΕ DESTE 2003



PRESS RELEASE

3rd DESTE PRIZE

NIKOS ALEXIOU (b. 1960)

APOSTOLOS GEORGIU (b. 1952)

DIMITRIS KOZARIS (b. 1960)

NIKOS NAVRIDIS (b. 1958)

MARIA PAPADIMITRIU (b. 1957)

NIKOS TRANOS (b. 1957)

Sponsor: INTERAMERICAN

The DESTE Prize for contemporary Greek art was launched in 1999 with the aim of supporting and promoting developments in contemporary Greek art. The Prize, which is awarded every two years to a Greek artist whose work has made a significant contribution to artistic discourse in Greece, intends to encourage and reinforce the spirit of innovation in contemporary art.

In selecting the shortlisted artists, the selection committee, comprised of five Greek curators and art specialists, deemed the following areas to be of particular interest: the relation of socio-cultural identity to global issues and current international realities; the examination of contemporary local reality and specificity; the question of personal identity and private narratives.

The following six shortlisted artists will be the subject of an exhibition at the DESTE Foundation's, Centre for Contemporary Art in the summer of 2003 and are all candidates for the Prize. The DESTE Prize is €10.000.

Nikos Alexiou's recent work is based on the appropriation of religious symbols in icon painting. Using paper cutouts and the technique of re-assembly and re-cycling (of his own work), he creates fragile, poetic and highly personal ethereal sculptural arrangements that reference architecture, geometry as well as questions of cultural heritage.

Apostolos Georgiou's paintings center on the examination of human behavior and relationships. His hermetic microcosms are populated by a



variety of deadpan characters and operate as a dry, cynical and often humorous comment on social interaction, personal impasses, estrangement and the alienation of the individual in society.

Dimitris Kozaris works in a wide variety of media including video, installation and photography. His videos which often appropriate clips from well-known films as well as the artist's own footage, examine the intersection of commercial cinema, advertising and art, while his sculptures often reference architecture as a means of articulating our perception of space.

Nikos Navridis' work is an ongoing investigation into the notion and definition of space and how we occupy it. In his poignant, distinctive video installations Navridis probes the encounters of bodies in space, the notion of sensual perception, states of being, and the possibility or impossibility of communication.

Maria Papadimitriou's inter-disciplinary practice centers on issues of personal as well as socio-cultural identity and is often based on the artist's own experiences and encounters. Her recent project T.A.M.A (Temporary Autonomous Museum for All) examines questions of migration, nomadism, displacement and marginalized social groups.

Nikos Tranos' recent work is concerned with the politics and poetics of the everyday and urban identities. He operates as a kind of contemporary *flâneur* and ethnographer, documenting his surroundings by means of photography and video in order to highlight the specific physiognomy of the environment and spaces he inhabits, whether public or private.

The 3rd DESTE Prize will be awarded in June 2003 to the artist whose work attempts to open up new ways for art and contributes to the discourse and the development of contemporary art in Greece according to the abovementioned criteria.

The **Jury** for the 2003 DESTE Prize consists of:

Dakis Joannou, President, DESTE Foundation

Tuula Arkio, Director, Finnish National Galleries

Maurizio Cattelan, artist

Massimiliano Gioni, Curator and Artistic Director of the Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Milan

Lars Nittve, Director, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

EXHIBITION DATES

The DESTE Prize exhibition will open at the beginning of May and run to the end of September 2003.

INTERAMERICAN sponsors the DESTETE Prize, for the third time.

As a group, Interamerican has actively supported a wide variety of cultural events and is known for its effort in reinforcing artistic creation across all cultural disciplines. As exclusive sponsor of the DESTETE Prize, since its inception, it aims to extend its support and champion the production of cutting edge contemporary art.

For more information please contact the DESTETE Foundation on:

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