

ΔΕΣΤΕ

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Ίδρυμα ΔΕΣΤΕ
Εμ. Παππά & Φιλελλήνων 11.
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April 2019

kiki smith : memory

DESTE Foundation Project Space
Slaughterhouse, Hydra

Duration: June 18–September 30, 2019



Kiki Smith, *The light of the world*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist

“The slaughterhouse connects the goats to the sea by their blood and entrails being offered. The Capricorn is a goat climbing a mountain whose snake-fish tail enters the sea. The milk is an offering to the goats and the sea. In the Hydra constellation, similar to the island and to the old island's flag, sits the owl, the cat, the crow, the sextant and the offering chalice.”

- Kiki Smith, 2019



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Every summer since 2009, DESTE has invited an artist or group of artists to create an exhibition in the Foundation's Project Space, a former slaughterhouse on the island of Hydra. This year, DESTE is happy to present a site-specific project by **Kiki Smith** titled *Memory*, which will be on view at the DESTE Foundation Project Space, Slaughterhouse, Hydra between June 18 and September 30, 2019.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

"When the sky comes down from heaven and the blood shall fill the sea."
That has been happening for time immemorial.

A woman yesterday told me she remembers as a child summering in Hydra the sea being red as blood.

I was once on the Island of Bequia, of St. Vincent and Grenadines, where they hunted whales from small boats and slaughtered goats. One day a goat's entrails floated in the water as we swam, and then washed up on the sands.

I made photographs and drawings of the organs, which got me drawing again after several years of not doing so.

Later that month, a hurricane came and took away two or three meters of the sand beach.

Bring an offering to the Greek sea from New York.

The rooms should be bathed in pink light.

The basin can have water instead of milk as it will catch the pink, also.

Rubio Pink glass is the heaviest glass as it is made with gold.



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The sea goat appears 21,000 years ago.
Primordial god of the sea

Vocation.
North Star to guide.

The goat insides offered to the sea or disposed of into.
Give the blood and organs to feed the fish.

The fish, along the way, acquired the body of a goat, to allow it to span
both realms, where somewhere along the lines between heaven and the
sea, the snake of the earth maybe visited.

Hydra, the water snake, is the largest constellation.
The crow (Corvus), the owl (Noctua), the chalice (Crater), the sextant
(Sextans) and the cat (Felis), all accompany her through the sky.

I made films of the East River in New York in 2005 of glints of light on
the river. I made them into cyanotypes this year and from them into
flags to fly back at the sea on Hydra.

Small elements will accompany the travel. One donkey, one clowder of
cats, one owl, one observation look-out to the sea, and hopefully a
lighthouse of sorts.



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ABOUT KIKI SMITH

Kiki Smith (American, b. 1954, Nuremberg, Germany) has been known since the 1980s for her multidisciplinary practice relating to the human condition and the natural world. She uses a broad variety of materials to continuously expand and evolve a body of work that includes sculpture, printmaking, photography, drawing, and textiles.

Smith has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions worldwide including over 25 museum exhibitions. Her work has been featured at five Venice Biennales, including the 2017 edition. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2017 was awarded the title of Honorary Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Previously, Smith was recognized in 2006 by TIME Magazine as one of the “TIME 100: The People Who Shape Our World.” Other awards include the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture in 2000; the 2009 Edward MacDowell Medal; the 2010 Nelson A. Rockefeller Award, Purchase College School of the Arts; the 2013 U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts, conferred by Hillary Clinton; and the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center, among others. She is an adjunct professor at NYU and Columbia University.