



ONASSIS STEGI

Love Solidarity Death (L.S.D.)
The Callas

EAST BEAT
200 x 700 x 20 cm, embroidered tapestries, wood, 2022

2022

Love Solidarity Death (L.S.D.)

The Callas

Mediterranean psychedelia, fluorescent carpets, catwalks, concerts, and film screenings by the subversive artistic collective.

A polymorphic, kaleidoscopic, visual arts exhibition by The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas, with embroideries, installations, painting works, live performance, and a book publication.

Founding figures of the Greek DIY scene, musicians, visual artists, performers, publishers, organizers of urban and rural festivals, filmmakers and video creators, welcoming hosts at their own spaces and restless explorers of other places and approaches, ever ingenious and versatilely faithful to a developmental artistic experience, standing in solidarity with counter-hegemonic collective practices, The Callas delve into the source materials of their co-animating actions.

Commissioned and Produced by ONASSIS STEGI 2022

→
Watch the trailer
pass: thecallaslsd



RAINBOW MESS
180 x 170 cm, embroidered tapestry, 2022



Exhibition Curator Nadja Argyropoulou about “L.S.D.”

Twenty years since their first appearance, The Callas (Lakis and Aris Ionas) offer a compendium of their polymorphic presence in the art scene with L.S.D.: an episodic exhibition like a flashback to the future, a total synesthetic work or a picture book that is conceptually and experientially defined by the title L.S.D. (Love Solidarity Death).

The liquid, fractal geometry and sustained suspension of their embroidery work (punk scribbles-wallpapers and capes-cum-portals at the same time), the mixture of the sacred and the profane in their frantic references, the fragile and fragmentary anti-monumentality of their constructions, seduction, as a fruit-grabbing net and flânerie in their improvisational communal practice, the innocent convictions and latent lust in their film works, the strange bittersweet element and unpretentious extravagance in their artistic experience, the wordless noise and visual frequencies of their music, the strayed, anti-didactic, anti-authoritarian radicalism of their attitude, the triptych ‘love-solidarity-death’ in their uto(e)pic realism; The Callas are heirs and harbingers of many.

But above all, they are mainly consistent carriers-researchers of a crucial political and personal inquiry: Is another art world possible? As such, they belong to this long tradition of artists who became involved through different avenues in the revolutionary revision of the globalized life and the breakaway from mere representation, while they evaded systematically, sometimes without a sound and always resourcefully, their appropriation by powers of all kinds, included that of the art world.



WORKING CLASS MADONNAS series / MADONNA OF DEATH
190 x 280 cm, embroidered tapestries on canvas, 2022

Artists' Note

The sense of community and the frantic, constant birth of small temporary utopias as a weapon of resistance and survival, like continuous fragile bunkers of utopia, bubble shelters or chapels, Mother's Embrace, our Female and Male Friends, the fragmentation and the mysteries of Heraclitus, In Lust We Trust as a muffled mantra and murmur, Superstudio and the Radical Italian Discos, the respect for the uniqueness of each tiny element over a grand Byzantine wall, the cut-up literary and film methods, the Domes, the psychedelic and anarchic architecture in Thomas Pynchon's "Gravity's Rainbow," the sensual urban dystopia of J. G. Ballard, Sonic Youth along with Sotiria Bellou and Marika Papagika, the sensual frottage of Cycladic architecture, the lo-fi and tender geometry of a post-punk song, the Working Class Madonnas next door, the muted energy of Giorgio Morandi, the day-to-day life poetry of Frank O'Hara, Cyriacus of Ancona's acid Proto-Renaissance dérive in archaeological sites and the flânerie of the Situationists through their psychogeography.

Love, Solidarity & Death

-The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas, November 2022

"So many things have shaped the landscape of contemporary art in Greece since the 2000s, from the Athens Biennale's agitprop and Dakis Joannou's DESTE Foundation's summertime slaughterhouse shows on Hydra, to Gregory Markopoulos' unfolding magnum opus in Arcadia, Eniaios. Then there's The Callas."

Ocula art Magazine

Punk Under the Parthenon: The Callas Drop L.S.D. in Athens

By Stephanie Bailey | Athens, 21 December 2022

→ [Read the article](#)



MRSS LONELY

190 x 170 cm, embroidered tapestry, 2022



TOO MANY SUNSETS

190 x 190 cm, embroidered tapestry, 2022



@Pinelopi Gerasimou

Love Solidarity Death (L.S.D.)

EAST BEAT
200 x 700 x 20 cm, embroidered tapestries, wood, 2022
(on the background of the image we see the Madonnas series)



@Pinelopi Gerasimou

Love Solidarity Death (L.S.D.)

"PUNKTHENON"
750 x 250 x 300 cm, athenian pavement marbles, concrete, 2022

PARALLEL EVENTS

Live music, performance, talk, films

The Callas performance: Live Music Concert and Catwalk with The Callasettes

(40')

Three new songs by The Callas accompanying the performance. The Callasettes, use the exhibition's facilities as a stage presenting a hybrid catwalk.

Performance credits

The Callas band members

Aris Ionas, Lakis Ionas, Chrysanthi Tsoukala, Chris Bekiris

The Callas guest members

Marilena Petridou, Kostas Stergiou

Music

The Callas

Performance Direction

The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas

Choreography

Angeliki Hatzi

Dancers

Martha Pasakopoulou, Christina Karagianni, Angeliki Hatzi

Performers

Philippa Dimitriadi, Dionysia Bosmi, Anita Polychroni, Lina Rokou, Daphne Kyriakidou

Guests

Escape-ism | Ian F. Svenonius, live

(30')

Ian F. Svenonius, talk

(30') Talk conducted in English.

Ian Svenonius, through his Radical Elite multifaceted journey in music and books, presents his latest book "Against the Written Word" and talks about the text he has written for the publication "The Callas – Notes on L. S. D." taking the work 'Punkthenon' by The Callas as a reference point.

PapithedogTV, live

(30')

PapithedogTV are an underground dog pop group from Athens that lands at Onassis Stegi for a 30min woof blast.



THE CALLASETTES PERFORMING WITH HAND KNITTED WEARABLE TAPESTRIES L.S.D. CAPES

aprox. 80 x 150 cm, hand knitted, 2022



Love Solidarity Death (L.S.D.)

THE CALLASSETTES PERFORMING WITH HAND KNITTED WEARABLE
TAPESTRIES L.S.D. CAPES
aprox. 80 x 150 cm, hand knitted, 2022

Film screenings

The entire film work by Lakis and Aris Ionas, aka The Callas.

The Callas and their friends/ collaborators / partners, acting as a cinematic guerilla collective, have been presenting handmade, existential, direct, and emotional films for the last ten years, always ending with a comma rather than a full stop.

(All films available with subtitles in English)

Marble is cut with water (or the crying game)

2023

Runtime: 6' (suitable for ages 16 and up)

A hi8 film for the Callas by Jackie Lentzou.

Written & Directed by Jackie Lentzou

Cast Sofia Kokkali, Nikolas Papadomichelakis

Cinematography Konstandinos Koukoulis

Editing & Title Designer Despina Alexopoulou

Produced by Faye Minopetrou-Kasimati,

Nikolas Kouloglou

Lustlands

2013

Runtime: 73' (suitable for ages 16 and up)

A film noir under the hot Mediterranean sun. During mid-summer, four female friends leave the city and unemployment behind and find shelter on a seaside farm. Male friends from the past invade the girls' lives, teen romances are rekindled, friendships are tested, and long-forgotten secrets resurface as threats.

Written & Directed by The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas

Cast Angeliki Hatzi, Terpsihore Savvala, Anita Polychroni,

Aphrodite Psarra, Kostas Varotsos, Ilias Papazaharias,

Anastasia Drouza, Dimitris Kotselis

Cinematography Dimitris Kotselis

Editing Dimitris Kotselis

Produced by The Studio Art Projects /

Velvet Room Projects – Haos film

The Great Eastern

2017

Runtime: 83' (suitable for ages 16 and up)

Isolation, hope, lust, and darkness. Five people standing like trees are waiting on an isolated island for the ocean liner "The Great Eastern" to pick them up for a journey towards some kind of hope. A tiny butterfly flies between them and everything turns shit.

Written & Directed by The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas

Cast Iro Sofoulaki, Dimitris Politakis, Katia Dimopoulou,

Valisia Odell, Elias Papazacharias

Cinematography Dimitris Kotselis

Editing Dimitris Kotselis

Executive Producer Venia Vergou

Produced by The Studio Art Projects /

Velvet Room Projects

Sick

2021

Runtime: 73'(suitable for ages 16 and up)

An experimental, handmade movie filmed with mobile phones and selfies during lockdown in Athens and Los Angeles. A poetic, internet romance dealing with isolation, staring at ceilings, memory's fragmentation, and existential problems arising from ball-shaped or straight cheese puffs.

Written & Directed by The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas

Cast Melia Kreiling, Nikos Zeginoglou

Cinematography Lakis and Aris Ionas

Editing Lakis and Aris Ionas, Melina Tavoulari

Produced by The Studio Art Projects /

Velvet Room Projects



I DIE YOU DIE ETC ETC
280 x 190 cm, spray colors on canvas, 2022

Credits | Exhibition And Parallel Events

Curated by

Nadja Argyropoulou, The Callas/ Lakis And Aris Ionas

Embroidery & Knitting

Ioanna Iona, Anastasia Drouza, Dionisia Bosmi

Technical Study, Mechanical Planning, and Construction Of Punkthenon Work

Dimitris Korres – Korres Engineering

The Callas Band Members

Aris Ionas, Lakis Ionas, Chrysanthi Tsoukala,
Chris Bekiris

The Callas Guest Members

Marilena Petridou, Kostas Stergiou

Music

The Callas

Sound Engineer

Nikos Triantafyllou

Sound Mix

Iraklis Vlachakis

Direction

The Callas / Lakis and Aris Ionas

Choreography

Aggeliki Hatzi

Dancers

Martha Pasakopoulou, Christina Karagianni,
Angeliki Hatzi

Performers

Philippa Dimitriadi, Dionysia Bosmi, Anita Polychroni,
Lina Rokou, Daphne Kyriakidou

Guests, Collaborators

(Live) Ian F. Svenonius, Papithedogtv

Contributors With Texts for “Notes on L.S.D.” Publication

Jim Sclavunos, Ian F. Svenonius, Paul Artrocker,
Myriam Ben Salah, Nadja Argyropoulou,
Afroditi Panagiotakou

Contributor with Video Clip

Jackie Lentzou

Graphic Design

Anda Theodorakaki, Irene Zografou

Photography, Video Documentation

Aggelos Kaltsis

Production

Irene Zografou, The Studio - Velvet Room Projects

Commissioned and Produced by

Onassis Stegi
2022



Meet the artists

Lakis & Aris Ionas / The Callas have been active in the fine arts, film, and music scenes since 2002. They have presented work as part of solo and group exhibitions at the Benaki Museum (Athens) / New Museum (New York) – DESTE Foundation, Documenta 14, the Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Family Business (New York), the Athens Biennale, Andreas Melas Projects (Athens), State of Concept (Athens), The Breeder (Athens), Kustera Projects (New York), Atopos CVC (Athens), and the Yinka Shinobare Space (London). The Callas have worked with Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) and Jim Sclavunos (Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds) on albums and live music performances. Their first feature film, “LUSTLANDS” (produced by Haos Film), premiered at the 7th Athens Avant-Garde Film Festival. Their second film, “The Great Western”, was shot at the DESTE Foundation Project Space – Slaughterhouse on Hydra island; it premiered at Onassis Stegi, and also screened at Documenta 14. Their third film, “SICK”, premiered at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival. They have given live performances at the Liverpool Psych Fest, the Great Escape Festival (Brighton), and Reeperbahn Festival (Hamburg), and have also appeared with Thurston Moore, The Brian Jonestown Massacre, Ty Segall, and Grinderman. Their studio space – which goes by the name Velvet Room – is one of the most active D.I.Y. arts and music spaces in Athens.

Onassis Outward Turn Program

ONASSIS STEGI

Our Mission

Fostering and supporting artists on a constant and long-term basis lie at the core of the existence of Onassis Stegi. Our mission through the “Outward Turn” program is to strengthen the presence and status of artists in every corner of the world and throughout Greece, and at the same time forge innovative networks tightly intertwined with the nexus of the international scene, with and for the artists.

Onassis Stegi boosts the prominence and visibility of contemporary Greek works of dance, theater, music, and visual arts on an international level, helping artists unleash their full potential. In practice, this is achieved with the coordination of international and national tours for the Onassis Stegi productions; the realization of co-productions in collaboration with cultural institutions across the world; the participation of artists in international networks; the support in furthering the artists’ capacities and learning pathways as they expand their audiences; and the enhancement at large of their interpersonal contacts with international programmers.

With the support of the “Outward Turn” program, Greek artists turn their gaze outwards. In the last decade, more than 80 Onassis Stegi productions have been celebrated across hundreds of performances hosted by cultural venues all over the world.

The program is tailored to each production and offers its support to works of artists and groups who live and create in Greece primarily and on the condition that they have been included in the programming of the Onassis Stegi.

To learn more about our supported artists and works, you can contact at:

c.liata@onassis.org

Office +30 213 017 8116 | Mobile +30 694 687 1899

psotirchou@onassis.org

Office +30 213 017 8122 | Mobile +30 698 487 0423