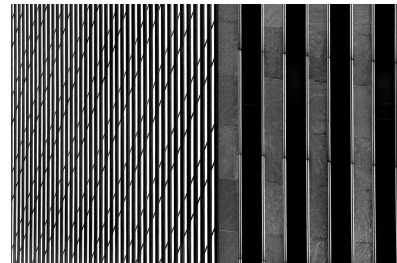


Press Release

Thalassini Douma
LINES
Photography



Opening: **Thursday April 19th, 19:30 – 23:00**
Exhibition duration: **April 19th until May 3rd 2018**

Curated by: **Kontaki Design**

The Kontaki Design Gallery presents Thalassini Douma's photographic exhibition entitled, "**Lines**", which will be inaugurated on **Thursday, April 19th** at **19:30** and will last until **Thursday, May 3rd**.

Art historian **Lorenzo Canova**, mentions: "...a research, connected to abstraction, prides itself, with the "**Lines**" cycle, where buildings' quadrangular glasses geometrical waving, ascends again to its genesis, connected to the architectonic rationalism, in a direct dialogue with research of geometric abstraction of historical avant-gardes, like for example shows excellently Mies Van der Rohe's *Saegram Building* masterpiece, in New York. In those photos, the metallic external trimmings, beside light and crystals, compose a highlight and reflection weaving effect, in a further expansion of the perspective that shuts and opens by an endless game of foreshortenings and flights that occupies the whole visible level, through its unsteady geometry, and insufficient spatiality..."

The black and white series "**Lines**", together with the "**Dissolving Travellers**" series and the "**Move In**" series, are part of the "**Journey in the Labyrinth**" trilogy. The first series was created in New York, the second in Greenland, and the third in underground canyons of Arizona. This trilogy is a multi-level journey through desolate landscapes of nature and futuristic buildings of the metropolis. Is a long journey that connects, for the understanding of nature and urban space, as they dialogue through a system of correspondences and relationships.

Thalassini Douma studied at the University for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Urbino and the Roberto Rossellini Institute in Rome. She lived in Italy between 1987 and 1998, where she came into contact with the contemporary art circles of San Lorenzo and the vecchia avant-garde art in Rome.

As a photojournalist, since 1991, she has covered crises in war zones and their impact on daily life on numerous assignments from the war in former Yugoslavia, to the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Her work has appeared in major international publications including The Observer, The Guardian, The Straits Times, L'Espresso, Il Manifesto, Archaeology magazine, Expressen, etc. In 1998, she began her collaboration with the Associated Press in Athens as a photojournalist and for two years (2002-2004) she worked for the photographic department of the Press office at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

Her artwork has been hosted in a series of solo and group exhibitions in Greece and abroad since 2006. She lives in Greece and travels frequently to create her photographic projects.

* **Lorenzo Canova** (Rome 1967), art historian, curator and art critic.

Ph.D. in art history from the University of Rome "La Sapienza"; associate professor of the History of Contemporary Art at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences at the University of Molise. He has curated exhibitions in Italian and international museums and public spaces. Founder and director of ARATRO – Archivio delle Arti Elettroniche- Laboratorio per l'Arte Contemporanea (Archive of Electronic Arts – Laboratory for Contemporary Art), Molise University, Campobasso. Member of the invitations committee of the XVth Rome Quadrennial in 2008. Collaborates with the daily newspaper *Avvenire*. He is member of the Scientific Council of the Giorgio e Isa de Chirico Foundation, Rome.

Kontaki Design Gallery

Mourouzi street is a small but historically significant street, which vertically links Herodou Attikou rd and Rigillis rd. At Herodou Attikou road, one can find the Presidential Mansion, built by famous architect Ernst Tziller between 1891 and 1897 to be used as the royal palace of king Konstantinos and princess Sofia, as well as the "Maximou Mansion" (1912), which currently hosts the prime minister's office. Both buildings are representative of the Neoclassical architectural movement that was prevailing at the time. Herodou Attikou, which runs on the side of the National gardens, is also the road that connects the Greek parliament mansion with the "Kalimarmaro stadium of Athens" where the first modern Olympic games took place in 1896. On the other side of Mourouzi str, Rigillis road is known for the "Aristotle's lyceum" (335 B.C), an archaeological site of major importance, discovered in 1996, as well as the Athens conservatory, a building that is a fine expression of the Bauhaus movement and the current form of which, was given by professor Ioannis Despotopoulos (student of the great Walter Gropius) in 1959. Just 200 meters away from the showroom, two of the most significant museums of the country are located along Vassilissis Sofias avenue: The Benakis museum and the Cycladic art museum. 10, Mourouzi street is believed to be the largest apartment building constructed in the early 30's. On the eastern side of the building, a private alley provides access to the showroom. The apartment was originally owned by novelist and theatrical writer Athanassios Petsalis-Diomedes (1904-1995) and has been the gathering point of

many artists and intellectuals of the 1930- 1950 era. It's architectural style is a fine blend of neo classicism and art deco. The apartment consists of two large and two smaller rooms, it has high ceilings and wide windows while it is decorated in a graciously detailed way with the use of plaster, wood and mat. The recent renovation done by Petsalis` descendants, carefully maintained the original character of the apartment as well as this magical 30`s atmosphere. That`s mainly why the designer **Spiros Kontakis** picked this very place in order to use it as a gallery that accommodates all his art work but also as his own home. Spiros` unique hand crafted objects, lightning`s and pieces of furniture co exist in harmony bringing a surreal balance between modernism and romanticism. The result, which betrays the artist`s intention to raise questions regarding the purpose of design in everyday life, is constantly challenging for the senses and stimulates the visitor emotionally and intellectually.

Wine sponsor: **Nopera Winery**



Exhibition Opening Reception: Thursday, April 19th, 19:30

Exhibition duration: April 19th – May 3rd, 2018

Gallery opening hours: Open by phone appointment

kontaki design gallery

kontaki
D E S I G N

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