



Thessaloniki, October 3, 2014

**Press Release**

**Exhibition “Visual March to Prespa 2007 – 2014.**

**A process of experiencing the landscape”**

**October 10, 2014 – January 10, 2015**

**SMCA-Moni Lazariston**

**Opening: Friday October 10, 2014, 19:00**

Prespa in... Thessaloniki, or else, a visual march that mapped and activated primal artistic processes around the border region of Prespa. The outcome and documentation of this extremely peculiar project will be presented through an exhibition “*Visual March to Prespa 2007 – 2014. A process of experiencing the landscape*” at the State Museum of Contemporary Art in Moni Lazariston, from **October 10, 2014 to January 10, 2015 (opening: October 10 AT 19:00. Days and hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-18:00)**. The exhibition will be accompanied by workshops for children and adults, a march to Dendropotamos (Thessaloniki) and a Conference towards the end of the exhibition. It is organized by the Department of Visual and Applied Arts of the University of Western Macedonia (1<sup>st</sup> Painting Studio).

**The story of a ...march.**

*Visual March to Prespa* is a diverse creative activity that began in 2007 aiming to activate primary visual processes in the border region of Prespa. Ever since, it explores the approach of artistic experience as a locus in which places, ideas and images are met by people. Marching to the natural environment of Prespa is a peripatetic meditative contemplation that has two references: those who are involved and the environment discovered along the way. Albeit the process appears relative to the procedures of the *flâneurs* of romanticism or the landscape artists, the difference lays in the fact that here the natural environment is neither a forgotten paradise of a lost innocence nor a place where someone can feel the sublime, but rather a meeting place for contemporary people.

Initially the main focus of *Visual March to Prespa* has been the activation of a process that would introduce the students of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts University of Western Macedonia to modern concepts and practices. The main aim was to explore the surrounding area of Florina using the theoretical approaches of critical thinking. In its development, *Visual March to Prespa* expanded beyond its educational role and spatial locality and has been transformed into both an artistic and social experience of landscape. The process later acquired international status through the invitation of guest artists and theorists from Greece and abroad, activities in neighboring countries (Albania, FYROM), participation in international conferences (USA, Netherlands, Cyprus), and cooperation with foreign institutions such as the Art Department of the University of New Mexico (USA) that develops similar projects in the frontier of Texas / Mexico (Land Arts of the American West).

*Visual March to Prespa* introduces terms which either have been forgotten in recent years or have not been explored yet. Mainly, however, it proposes a model of the artist as a researcher/thinker; an individual whose practices are a consequential derivative of the experience and critical thinking. *Visual March* has two principal aims: the creation of art works based on locality and the adoption of a relational art practices bearing on a social dimension.

The exhibition *Visual March to Prespa 2007 – 2014: A process of experiencing the landscape*, records the initial-experience (the decisive events) of those who worked in Prespa, as well as the projects they have realized. In this way, Prespa is transformed into a field of contemporary archeology under exploration.

**Coordinator of the Visual March:** Yannis Ziogas

**Curators:** Yannis Ziogas, Penelope Petsini

**Scientific Committee:** Yannis Ziogas, Nikos Panayiotopoulos, Penelope Petsini,

**Coordinator SMCA:** Eirini Papakonstantinou

### **Educational workshops**

#### ***nature/borders/materials 3***

The educational workshops *nature/borders/materials 3* aim to focus on the encounter, approach and creative engagement with the primal materials and traditional construction techniques of objects deriving from the region of Prespa.

The workshops are addressed to children from 7 to 12 years old, apart from the one on Saturday, November 1, 2014 that is addressed to adults.

Saturday, November 01, 2014: *Cosmetics made by natural materials*

Saturday, November 08, 2014: *Paper made by natural materials*

Saturday, November 15, 2014: *Natural colors/applications*

Saturday, November 22, 2014: *Legends Myths Stories*

Saturday, November 29, 2014: *Weaving techniques using the loom*

**Coordinator:** Kiki Stoumbou

**Coordinators SMCA:** Evi Papavergou, Katerina Paraskeva

Info. 2310589222, SMCA Department of Educational Programs

### **Visual March to Dendropotamos**

Saturday, December 13, 2014 (TBA)

### **Conference «LANDSCAPE: HISTORIES, POLITICS, REPRESENTATIONS»**

9 Saturday & 10 Sunday, January 2015 (TBA)

During the conference a live music improvisation piece will be presented from the FETA quintet based on soundscapes from the Prespa area.

## Organizers



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## SMCA Communication Sponsors



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