

**Press Release**

June 21, 2013

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**ART SPACE  
PYTHAGORION  
SLAVS AND  
TATARS  
20.7.-10.10.13**

**Installation by Slavs and Tatars from July 20 – October 10, 2013**

This summer, the Greek island of Samos will host a key event for the international art scene. Starting on July 20, 2013, the picturesque coastal town of Pythagorio will be the center of attraction for all those interested in art and culture.

In 2012 a former hotel was extensively renovated and converted into a modern exhibition space. Located on the harbor, the Art Space Pythagorion is set against magnificent natural scenery. Situated a mere two kilometers away from Turkey, this “white cube” is an intellectually conducive setting, offering a stunning perspective, both figuratively and literally, of the border between Europe and Asia. Here, contemporary artists are being offered the opportunity to converse with the specific nature of this particular location.

The Art Space Pythagorion opened last summer with an exhibition by artist and filmmaker Harun Farocki, whose video works deal with borders and migration problems, an important issue for Samos, because this European outpost is a frequent point of arrival for immigrants from countries as diverse as Syria, Iraq and Eritrea.

This year, Slavs and Tatars, an art collective founded in 2006, will present a multimedia installation commissioned specifically by the Art Space Pythagorion. This particular venue along with Samos’ unique location as a meeting point between the East and the West will serve as an appropriate platform for the multidisciplinary projects by these young artists, whose work has been exhibited in several leading museums around the world, including the Tate Modern, MoMa, NY, and the Centre George Pompidou. With a long list of publications, lectures, works of public sculpture and textile art to their name, Slavs and

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Tatars define themselves as “a faction of polemics and intimacies” based in Eurasia.

Language is a constant focus of Slavs and Tatars’ work. Simultaneously a source of identity and a means of communication, language, can be used to both conceal and reveal meaning, clarify as well as manipulate. Language is seductive and dazzling – never unambiguous. This year we are proud to present Slavs and Tatars’ *Long Legged Linguistics*, their latest body of work, which also happens to be the first solo exhibition in Greece, about the complex world of language politics.

With its trademark mix of high and low media, and irreverent and esoteric discourse, Slavs and Tatars’ *Long Legged Linguistics* is a sensual account of language politics in Turkey, the former Soviet Union, and southern Europe through the unlikely perspective of sexuality. Taking aim at the power play and passions hidden behind certain letters and phonemes, the exhibition addresses language head-on via the terminologies of submission and resistance.

Slavs and Tatars make use of their trademark performativity to full effect in *Long Legged Linguistics*. In a playful and discreet manner, they engage the viewer in a seductive grid of symbols, emotions, and meanings. In this process they use linguistic devices such as humor, travesty, slang or parody to both celebrate and criticize the complexity of language.

The young artists use diverse media and materials, resulting in a vivid and colorful body of work. Not just an artistic strategy, maximalism is an essential by-product of their resolutely transnational identity scope, as they devote themselves to “an area east of the former Berlin Wall and west of the Great

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Wall of China known as Eurasia". In *Long Legged Linguistics*, the artists illustrate the differences between two cultures, in this case Greek and Turkish.

The exhibition takes place under the auspices of the popular Samos Young Artists Festival (August 7 – 13). For the fourth consecutive year, leading young musicians from all over the world will be performing in the historic amphitheater and all over the city of Samos.

The masterminds of the exhibition and festival are native Greek Chiona Xanthopoulou-Schwarz and her husband Dr. Kurt Schwarz, who wanted to make an annual contribution to international understanding through the universal languages of art and music. Their intention is to bring together young artists, the general public and a culturally astute audience in Samos, thus reactivating the island's rich cultural history.

Samos has indeed a rich history and cultural heritage; mathematician, philosopher and musician Pythagoras was born here, as was the philosopher Epicurus. The Hera Temple is a monument of ancient architecture and has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The two founders of the festival wish to highlight these national treasures and provide participants with the opportunity to create something new and positive in a crisis-ridden time. The festival and exhibition intend to illustrate the cultural wealth of Greece, which has suffered a great economic shock as well as major damage to its image due to the Euro crisis.

The Slavs and Tatars exhibition is held in close cooperation with the Berlin gallery Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler.

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Munich art historian Dr. Andrea Lukas selected the artists for the 2013 exhibition on behalf of the Schwarz Foundation.

The festival and exhibition are financed exclusively by private donations and supported by local organizations and associations, particularly the Cultural Association and Municipal Administration of Samos.

Marina Fokidis, founding director of the Kunsthalle Athena, is the curatorial consultant and exhibition organizer for the Art Space Pythagorion.

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**Further information about the exhibition:**

The exhibition *Long Legged Linguistics* begins on July 20 and ends on October 10. Visiting hours are 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 1 a.m. daily. The vernissage will take place on August 4 in the presence of the artists.

**Also visit:**

[www.schwarzfoundation.com/en/](http://www.schwarzfoundation.com/en/)

[www.facebook.com/ArtSpacePythagorion](https://www.facebook.com/ArtSpacePythagorion)

Images for downloading are available here:

[www.dropbox.com/sh/cgxvw6stc7zajov/KvtdGC6ayd](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cgxvw6stc7zajov/KvtdGC6ayd)

**Press contact Greece:**

Chara Zouma | t.210 3224765 | m. 6980 571057 | e. [chara@zumacom.gr](mailto:chara@zumacom.gr)

**Press contact Germany:**

Anna Wichmann Communications | Isestrasse 11, 20144 Hamburg  
+49/(0)40 741 067 68 | [me@annawichmann.de](mailto:me@annawichmann.de)