

Athens Biennale 2015-2017

OMONOIA***Synapse 1: Introducing a laboratory for production post-2011*****INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT**

Synapse 1 is the first of a series of OMONOIA events or 'synapses' running over the next two years. The aim of Synapse 1 is to consider the common ground between groups of scholars, activists, self-managed organisations, cultural producers and other civic subjects involved in urban practices of commoning, solidarity, urban welfare and participatory democracy. Synapse 1 asks participants to imagine how these urban experiments developed in times of crisis may become permanent and sustainable alternatives to the dominant economic and political model. Synapse 1 also asks to imagine the grassroots economic and political practices developed in Greece and Europe's South as new common ground for an alternative European project.

November 18, 2015

A day organised in three sessions of moderated panel discussions where participants make short presentations and respond to questions.

VENUE: National Theatre – New Rex, 48 Panepistimiou Street

SCHEDULE: 15 minutes per speaker plus 20-30 minutes per panel for Q&A

09:00 – 09:30	Arrival of journalists, participants, conference attendees
09:30 – 10:20	Press conference
10:30 – 12:30	Session I
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch Break
13:15 – 15:45	Session I (continued)
15:45 – 16:00	Short Break
16:00 – 18:00	Session II
18:00 – 18:15	Short Break
18:15 – 20:00	Session III
21:00	National Theatre Play <i>Magda Goebbels</i> by George Veltos, directed by Angela Brouskou

Session I: Alternative Economies

This session will explore four institutions of human economy – alternative currencies, cooperativism, urban welfare and commons – and will reflect on how these forms can become permanent and sustainable alternatives.

Precarious Labour: Maurizio Atzeni, Dario Azzellini, Andrea Fumagalli

Cooperativism: Florent Berlioux, Thodoris Karyotis, Sharryn Kasmir

Commons & Urban welfare: Luigi Coppola, Sylvia de Fanti & Ilenia Caleo, Federica Giardini, Ugo Mattei

Alternative Currencies: Emanuele Braga & Paolo Caffoni, Robert Meister, Marco Sachy, Tiziana Terranova

Session II: Rethinking Institutions

The Athens Biennale acts both as host organisation and mediator between artists, cultural producers and local initiatives and institutional space where notions of self-organisation, cooperation, sustainability and grassroots democracy will be experimented. The aim is to develop new institutional configurations and alliances between cultural producers and art institutions across Europe.

Max Andrews & Mariana Cánepa Luna, Maria Hlavajova, Leo Panitch, Emily Pethick, Adam Szymczyk, Hilary Wainwright, Amalia Zepou (moderator)

Session III: The Performative in the Political

The invited speakers will look at relationships between aesthetics and politics –particularly at art and cultural production– and the role of artists and intellectuals in urban mobilisations and participatory democracy.

Athena Athanasiou, Angela Dimitrakaki, Costas Douzinas, Oliver Ressler, Kostis Stafylakis, Margarita Tsomou & Angela Melitopoulos, Katherine Watson (moderator)

November 19, 2015

An afternoon of public discussion and knowledge-exchange among scholars, activists, self-organised groups and cooperatives.

Participants meet in working groups based on themes discussed on the previous day and exchange knowledge and experiences. They are then gathered in an open assembly, where, under moderation, the proceedings of the Summit and potential future collaborations and actions will be discussed.

VENUE: Bageion Hotel, 18 Omonoia Square

SCHEDULE:

10:00 – 13:00 Working Group Meetings

13:00 – 14:00	Break
14:00 – 17:00	Open Assembly
17:00 –	Time for groups to network, visit Omonoia Square, Bageion Hotel etc.
22:00 –	OMONOIA After-party

The Bageion Hotel will be open from 12:00 to 21:00

STRUCTURE OF WORKING GROUPS:

40-60 participants working in 4 groups of 15-20

Each group is comprised of activists, scholars, cultural producers, representatives of various grassroots initiatives and cooperatives that share knowledge and experiences on the following themes:*

Cooperativism

With representatives of Vio.Me. (GR), Cooperativa Integral Athens (GR), Faircoop (GR), Efimerida ton Sidakton (GR), Fralib (FR), and Florent Berlioux, Dario Azzellini, Sharryn Kasmir

Commons & Urban Welfare

With representatives of Avtonomi Akadimia (GR), CASA (GR), Faircoop (GR), Omada Metavasis / Transition (GR), SaveGreekWater (GR), Sarantaporo (GR), Votanikos Kipos Squat (GR), Luigi Coppola (Parco Commune dei Frutti Minori, IT), Sylvia de Fanti (Teatro Valle, IT) and Federica Giardini

Alternative Currencies

With representatives Faircoin (GR), TEM Volos (GR), Ilias Marmaras, Anna Lascari, Emanuele Braga & Paolo Caffoni (Macao) (IT), Marco Sachy (Radium) (IT) and Tiziana Terranova, Andrea Fumagalli

Solidarity Networks

With representatives of Faircoop (GR), Ὑλη[matter]HYLE (GR), Refugees Welcome (GR), Solidarity4all (GR), The Other Human (GR), Metropolitan Community Clinic at Helliniko (GR), European Village (GR), Ivor Stodolsky & Marita Muukkonen (Perpetuum Mobile) (NO), Zisis Kotionis, Tonia Katerini and Margarita Tsomou

** Please note that we are still in the process of confirming and adding groups to this list*

List of speakers:

Andrews, Max	Co-director, Co-founder and Curator at Latitudes, Barcelona, Spain
Athanasίου, Athena	Associate Professor of Social Anthropology at the Panteion University of Athens, Greece
Atzeni, Maurizio	Research Fellow and Lecturer in Labour and Industrial Relations at Loughborough University, UK
Azzellini, Dario	Director, Writer, and Assistant Professor for Sociology at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria
Berlioux, Florent	Doctoral Candidate at the Norbert Elias Centre, Marseille, France
Braga, Emanuele	Artist, Researcher, Activist and Co-founder of Macao, <i>new centre</i> for arts, culture and research, Milan, Italy
Caffoni, Paolo	Writer, Researcher, Member of Macao, <i>new centre</i> for arts, culture and research and Founder of Archive, Berlin, Germany
Caleo, Ilenia	Activist, Performer and Member of Teatro Valle, Rome, Italy
Coppola, Luigi	Artist, Member of Parco Comune dei Frutti Minori, Brussels, Belgium
De Fanti, Sylvia	Activist, Performer and Member of Teatro Valle, Rome, Italy
Dimitrakaki, Angela	Writer and Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Art History and Theory at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Douzinas, Costas	Professor of Law and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at Birkbeck University, London, UK
Fumagalli, Andrea	Professor of Political Economy at the University of Pavia, Italy
Giardini, Federica	Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Roma Tre, Italy
Hlavajova, Maria	Founder and Artistic Director of BAK Art Center, Utrecht, Netherlands
Karyotis, Thodoris	Sociologist, Activist and Member of the <i>Initiative of Solidarity</i> to the <i>Vio.Me., Thessaloniki, Greece</i>
Kasimir, Sharryn	Professor of Anthropology at Hofstra University of New York, USA
Luna, Mariana Cánepa	Co-director, Co-founder and Curator at Latitudes, Barcelona, Spain
Mattei, Ugo	Professor of International Law at the University of Turin, Italy
Meister, Robert	Professor of Social and Political Thought at the University of California Santa Cruz, USA
Melitopoulos, Angela	Artist and Researcher, Berlin, Germany
Panitch, Leo	Professor of Comparative Political Economy and Political Sciences at the University of York, Montreal, Canada
Pethick, Emily	Curator and Director of The Showroom, London, UK

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Ressler, Oliver	Artist and Filmmaker, Vienna, Austria
Sachy, Marco	Digital Currency Designer for Dyne.org Think & Do Tank, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Stafilakis, Kostis	Art Theorist, Artist, Researcher, Athens, Greece
Szymczyk, Adam	Artistic Director of Documenta 14, Athens, Greece
Terranova, Tiziana	Associate Professor of New Media and Cultural Theory at the University of Naples, Italy
Tsomou, Margarita	Artist, Journalist, Activist and Editor of Missy Magazine, Berlin, Germany
Wainwright, Hilary	Fellow of the Transnational Institute and Senior Research Associate at the University of Bradford, UK
Watson, Katherine	Director of the European Cultural Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
Zepou, Amalia	Vice Mayor for Civil Society and Municipality Decentralisation and Founder of SynAthina Platform, Athens, Greece