



3rd Thessaloniki Biennale takes modern art to the streets

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A week jam-packed with thought-provoking performance art will mark the start of the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art on September 18, whose title is Old Intersections - Make it New.

The biennale involves a main and a parallel programme.

The Thessaloniki Performance Festival, to take place from September 19 to 25 at various indoor and outdoor venues, forms part of the biennale's parallel programme.

Natives of the northern port city and visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy unconventional performances by local talent as well as prominent artists from abroad, such as French avant-garde artist Orlan, Briton Kira O' Reilly, Palestinian Wafaa Yasin, Greek Michael Karikis and Italian Luigi Presicce.

Organisers hope that taking performance art to open-air locations throughout the city will open up this form of artistic expression to a broader audience and encourage interaction and communication between viewer and artist.

The performance festival also encompasses lectures, master classes, screenings, workshops, concerts, tributes and an exhibition.

Overall, the 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale's gaze is firmly focused on the Mediterranean region - its culture, its people, their emotions and the common problems they are facing. Reflecting a contemporary visual outlook, the biennale includes exhibitions, an international young artists' workshop, a symposium and various other artistic events.

The State Museum of Contemporary Art leads the team of institutions collaborating in the biennale, whose main programme was inspired by Thessaloniki itself, specifically the fascinating multicultural character of its history. Events are being held at 10 venues - five historical monuments and five museums, also marking the first joint venture of the 5 Museums Movement in Thessaloniki.

One of the biennale's main highlights is the fittingly-titled exhibition *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, which organisers say "captures the sense of fragility and jeopardy that looms over the wider politics of the Mediterranean and the psychology of the individual".

Numerous interesting exhibitions will feature at the biennale, including: *The Jews in Thessaloniki*.

Indelible marks in space at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki; *Byzantium and the Arabs* at the Museum of Byzantine Culture; and *Roaming Images. Crossroads of Greek and Arab Culture Through the Eyes of Contemporary Artists* at the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art.

An International Young Artists' Workshop, illustrating the city's role as a cultural crossroads with historical and broader dimensions, will be conducted between September 18 and October 7.

- The 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art will run from September 18 through December 18. For further information visit thessalonikiennale.gr

