

The Gini Coefficient

Lydia Dambassina

**11th October – 19th November 2016, Geni mosque (Yeni Jami),
Thessaloniki**



The ***Gini coefficient***, title of the new exhibition by **Lydia Dambassina** at the Geni Mosque (Yeni Jami), Thessaloniki (11th October – 19th November 2016), is a statistical measurement of revenue and the distribution of wealth. Is a number between 0 and 1, where 0 indicates the perfect equality and 1 indicates the perfect inequality.

During her last nine years of work, **Lydia Dambassina** focuses on the global economic and moral crisis and the inequalities that unfold impetuously as well as on her intimate correspondence.

The recent works that she exhibits at the Geni Mosque (Yeni Jami) compose, jointly, a uniform installation.

Her work "*The Omphalos*", in the middle of the Ottoman monument is the nucleus of the installation. It expresses a somber and cynical ascertainment. The embalmed head of a massive deer, over which there is a sheet of paper hanging, with the phrase: "*The world's 62 richest people have as much as half of the world's population – that is 3.5 billion people*".

The series with the scales, is developed in the area creating a labyrinth. Dambassina proceeds to "weigh" her personal experiences and truths, her memories and descent, to refer to the current situation in an epoque where numbers, measures, sizes, tables of statistics and analyses are omnipotent .

Her photographs, positioned on either side of the entrance in the central part of the mosque, portray versions of the same area which was intended for women, in distinct separation from men who occupied the whole of the central part. In direct connection and in a dialogue with the photographs, the installation of doors with black windowpanes is deployed, in order resembling an impassable wall.

They function as “cartographies” of the limits between a woman’s and a man’s position, and as a signal to the impetuously expanding refugee issue.

The component that determines the works of the exhibition is duality: an “establishing”, primordial and fundamental world-viewing concept that contains antithesis, co-existence, equilibrium.

With a non-negotiable viewpoint and timely deliberation, avoiding description and recounting in her work and at the same time maintaining a moral stand, Lydia Dambassina acknowledges her vital liaison with world, she detects incomplete endeavours at personal and collective levels, in a reality where: *“The world’s 62 richest people have as much as half of the world’s population – that is 3.5 billion people”*.

On the opening night, Joachim Latarjet, a musician, multiple instrument player – trombone, guitar, bass – will perform some of his compositions to accompany and talk with the works of Lydia Dambassina.

Amongst other exhibitions, Lydia Dambassina has exhibited at the Centre of Contemporary Art of Thessaloniki (2014), at the State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, the Museum Alex Mylonas, Athens (2012), the 2nd Biennale of Athens (2009), the 1st Biennale of Thessaloniki and the Nuit Blanche at the church of Saint Eustache in Paris (2007).

Exhibition Curator

Yiannis Bolis,

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Catalogue texts

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