



PRESS RELEASE

Video Art Festival Miden: a meeting with contemporary video art in Kalamata

Video Art Festival Miden is ready to fill again the traditional neighborhoods of Kalamata's Historic Centre with art images, colors and sounds and, more importantly, with fresh thoughts and creative ideas by numerous artists and video-creators from all over the world- in another summer video art meeting, in the heart of July, at the city of Kalamata, Greece.

In its 5th anniversary edition, Festival Miden presents the most interesting trends of contemporary video creation, with the participation of many acclaimed international artists, while also creating a significant platform for students and young creators to present their artistic work.

This year, the basic program of the festival includes theme screenings curated by Gioula Papadopoulou and Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos (**Tranforming the ordinary, Strange Thoughts Missing Text, 17 Continents, Video Art + Dance, Urban (R)evolutions**), as well as a special selection from videos presented in the previous editions of the festival, in a celebration of its 5years anniversary.

Festival Miden 2009 will also present several special collaborations (**Cologne OFF Video & Film Festival, VideoChannel, Globalscreen, Ionian University**) and tributes:

- A special presentation of the international group **Globalscreen** new project "Simulations". "Simulations" is an artistic examination of questions of perception and of the Zeitgeist in an era of inundation by pictures and by simulations of reality. The artists in this project have been invited to develop a specific perspective in reflecting individually these technological and cultural processes, be it in a political, aesthetic or philosophical approach. The genres

extend from experiment to the interactive and animation and to work in documentary mode.

- In collaboration with NewMediaArtProjectNetwork (based in Cologne, Germany), Festival Miden will present 2 screening projects: “Here We Are!” - a selection from **CologneOFF IV Video & Film Festival**- and “Women Directors Cut 13-13-13 ((13 videos by 13 female directors from 13 countries) - a video program from the online platform **VideoChannel**, curated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne.
- Every year, student videos from the **Department of Audio and Visual Arts**, Ionian University, present their works in a special presentation for Festival Miden, curated by acclaimed Greek video-artist and Professor Marianna Strapatsaki.
- Presentation of the single-channel installation “Gespraum”, by **DEPART**.
- A special tribute to **Videodance**, participating visual and new media artists, choreographers, performers and dance groups, mainly from Europe, investigating possible relations between video and dance, using video not only as a documentation medium, but also as a co-operative creative tool.
- Finally, Festival Miden focuses on the relation of video and visual arts with architecture and urban space, presenting a special project entitled **Urban (R)evolutions**. The project includes videos and static images (in the form of slideshow screenings) from over 100 visual and new media artists, photographers, architects, groups and students from 26 countries from all over the world, presenting a variety of different views and proposals and creating a dialogue on contemporary urban space.
- A video by Greek visual artist **Dimos Dimitriou** about the city of Kalamata, will be created in-situ during the festival, in the context of Urban (R)evolutions, and will be presented in the closure of this year’s events.

Festival Miden 2009 will take place in open spaces (with free entrance for the public) at the **Historic Centre of Kalamata**, Amfeia’s Square, **10-12 of July**. Screenings start at 21.20.

Additionally, the creative team of Festival Miden and Sea Level organize a series of meetings with new media artists, starting a week before Festival Miden 2009 annual screenings in Kalamata’s Historic Centre and continuing during the festival.

These meetings, which aim to introduce young artists and creative youngsters of Kalamata to the creative use of new media, will set the basis for a continuing collaboration for a future project, organized by Sea Level (the non-profit organization that organizes Festival Miden) and supported by the European Program “Youth in Action”, entitled “**Dreaming of my city: an open social web action for art and culture in urban environment**”. The project will extend “Urban (R)evolutions”, which begun as a collective video and images screening, to a wider communication platform for urban environment on the web.

First artists invited are **Manthos Santorineos**, **Harikleia Hari**, **Tzimis Efthimiou** and the group **Personal Cinema**. The artists will make presentations and lead a series of workshops on the creative use of video art, web 0.2 and social media for collective projects in the context of the program “Dreaming of my city”. The program will be completed in November 2009.

The admission to the workshops and the participation in the project is open and free for anyone interested.

Organization-production: Sea Level (Urban-Non profit Company)
Supported by the **Historic Centre Organization** and the **Messinian Chamber of Commerce**

Art curators: Gioula Papadopoulou, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos

This year's poster is designed by Dimitra Polychronis. Image by Silvia Giambrone.

For more info and full program please visit www.festivalmiden.gr.

Or contact info@festivalmiden.gr

Sponsor:



Communication sponsors:



Supporters:

