



ANDREAS SAVVA – martyrdom

8 November 2012 – 19 January 2013

The capturing of political phenomena and events is a central theme in the work of Andreas Savva [Cyprus, 1970]. Initially motivated by the ongoing events in Greece, his latest installation at Françoise Heitsch deals with the current European political landscape as a whole. With materials typical for his work, such as ropes and everyday objects, the relations and reciprocal effects between the single member states of the European Union are represented. Savva's installation is also dominated by the fierce state of uncertainty current European politics are trapped in – 12 chairs, representatives for each star of the European flag, are woven into a large-scale network of stretched ropes. The chairs, whose original function suggests stability and tranquillity, are diverted from their intended use – instead, they float in ambiguity, and remain suspended in a dangerous situation similar to that of a spider web. And just as exhausting and labour-intensive it is for a spider to construct her net, so is the physical act of erecting such a work for the artist. The manual act of weaving and tying, which demands exact calculations and measurements, symbolises not only the previous path the union took, but also the expectations we have from present-day's politics in order to find a solution proper. The construct is simultaneously a system in which every element has its functional place contributing to the preservation of this mechanism as a whole.

An additional installation composed of crimson-coloured velvet bows, which are tied into a steel frame, will also be on display. Here, it is the artist's intention to reveal the duality of physical objects. Velvet as a precious and glamorous fabric is beautiful, however, only when seen from the front. Its reverse is meagre and unimpressively common. With his metaphorical parables Andreas Savva captures truth, which, in life, is often hidden behind glossy and constructed surfaces – precisely those surfaces his works seek to tremble.