

NIKOS ALEXIOU – THE END  
8 September – 21 October 2017

It was 1995 when Nikos Alexiou (1960, Rethymnon – 2011, Athens) first came to the monastery of Iviron, located on the peninsula of Mount Athos. His intention was to study the drawings of the monk Vasily Grigorovich Barsky from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Yet, little did he know at this point that he was going to stay for five months and that, in fact, it was the marble floor mosaic from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, instead of the drawings he initially came to visit for, which became the most captivating feature of the monastery. From this moment onwards, he meticulously studied the Byzantine mosaic. Alexiou returned to Mount Athos to intensively study the floor mosaic in great detail once again in the year 2000. Subsequently, he made use of all available artistic media in order to create new work. By establishing a daily routine, he embarked on a partially meditative involvement with the mosaic's pattern, which was originally only accessible to the monks. Alexiou thus created a multitude of works employing highly diverse media. Amongst these materials from which he could extract so much are paper, fabric, bamboo, and steel. He translated his experiences for us, his feelings and emotions on Mount Athos, and thus preserved a part of the past by taking it into the present age. At last, at the end of his very own journey, he created a video projection, consisting of a changeable matrix, which was composed of the most diverse colour combinations of the mosaic's details. These fragments rotate consistently and display the variable groupings of Euclidean geometry's basic forms.

This year's Documenta displays the video projection in the entrance area of the Fridericianum. Galerie Françoise Heitsch will present a video animation in combination with digital prints. The interplay between video animation and print medium creates a great doubling of the works' overall colour completion. Hence, art that is linked to Byzantium, yet utterly modern.

Already 10 years ago, in September 2007, did Galerie Françoise Heitsch exhibit Nikos Alexiou's video installation. At around the same time, the complete works of "The END" could be seen at the Greek pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Now, 10 years later, while "The END" can still be visited at the Documenta in Kassel, where it is projected as a digital animation onto the floor of the Fridericianum, the gallery here in Munich will again show another part of "The END," comprising of digital prints and other media.