

## Synthesis

The exhibition *Synthesis* (13 September – 26 October 2013) organized by the Greek curator Christina Petrinou displays works by fourteen artists\*, which mainly revolve around Klaus vom Bruch's wallpaper.

In this artistic and highly political wallpaper, beautiful yet dangerous lion's mane jellyfish shelter RAF members, lethal weapons spring from flowers. The bourgeois motive is broken entirely, the artist plays with the principle wallpaper.

Fourteen artists from Greece react to this, a country, which politically has its back against the wall. So, what is happening in this dialogue at Galerie Françoise Heitsch? An experiment in international understanding? A redefinition of what creates an image within an image? Or simply a play with contradictions?

The idea of this group show is derived from Klaus vom Bruch's wallpapers, which he created for all three rooms of the gallery. These works express political as well as private thoughts. In relation to this, the small-scale works created by the Greek artists function as a strong anti-pole.

Panos Charalambous ('56), a tobacco collector, arranged tobacco-leaves onto a canvas, which he consequently embellished with a shimmery golden tone.

The exhibited photographic work by Eleni Mylonas ('44) depicts an oil painting created by the young Goya (*Gallina Ciega* 1791). Since it is a folded wallpaper on cardboard, it assumes an object-like character.

Aliki Palaska ('62) paints on wallpapers in the style of the old masters such as Caspar David Friedrich. The outcome is both distancing and familiar.

Maro Michalakakos ('67) creates her drawings by scratching velours-surfaces. This process results in a work, which is simultaneously haptic and erotic.

Athanasia Vidali ('86) draws injured body parts. She also smashes ceramics in order to reassemble them anew.

The cakes and portraits by Poka-Yio ('70) consist of a rather bipolar nature: they are appealing and repulsive at one and the same time.

A thick layer of paste is applied to the large-scale objects and canvases created by Panos Famelis ('79). His works, therefore, develop a body-like appearance.

Valinia Svoronou ('91) is inspired by the city's subcultures; as a result, her work strongly evokes connotations revolving around the Internet and the field of fashion-design.

Yiannis Theodoropoulos ('62) is a photographer, who uses his parental home in order to depict and record his own biography.

Nikos Papadopoulos' ('70) drawings are identified by an irreconcilable contradiction: appearing photographic at first glance, the representation of an object is accomplished by a dot-like, yet idiosyncratic and time-consuming approach.

Lina Bebi ('57) is inspired by the forms, which emerge from shadow plays. Her drawings, therefore, display an immaterial transparency.

The drawing by Eva Marathaki ('77) is informed by the romantic narrative style of Emily Dickinson.

Initially drawn on several layers of transparent paper, Ioanna Ximeri ('79) trims these later randomly in places. She thus creates a perspectively exhilarating image.

The work produced by Myrto Xanthopoulou ('81) is simultaneously humorous and poetic. She works with trivial objects, which undergo a metamorphic process.

\* Lina Bebi, Panos Charalambous, Panos Famelis, Eva Marathaki, Maro Michalakakos, Eleni Mylonas, Aliko Palaska, Nikos Papadopoulos, Poka-Yio, Valinia Svoronou, Yiannis Theodoropoulos, Athanasia Vidali, Myrto Xanthopoulou, Ioanna Ximeri, Klaus vom Bruch.