



PRESS RELEASE

## **The eye of the beholder: Personal Reality Sessions**

**Participative installation  
Gioula & Olga Papadopoulou  
Bandapart Studio, Kalamata**

**Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 of January 2023**

What would you take with you on a vacant planet to ensure happiness? How much is your happiness affected by the fluid conditions of reality? Do we have the responsibility of the whole world? Do we have the power to shape our own microcosm? Ultimately, is happiness a purely individual matter?

**Gioula and Olga Papadopoulou** are attempting to pose the above questions -and more- in their participatory installation **"The eye of the beholder"** at **Bandapart Studio** in Kalamata.

In the studio's recording space, an installation/environment is set up that will be experienced by each viewer individually, in terms that each viewer will enter separately, as an individual "session"

of specific duration. This interactive/participatory part of the project will last two days, while on the third day the results of the whole action will be displayed in the same space.

The project "**The eye of the beholder**" is the third part of a trilogy that includes two previous installations with the titles "**Field 54**" (2020) and "**The Unknown Masterpiece**" (2022). All the works of the trilogy are addressing issues that arose from our entry into the covid era, which we still experience as an impact on our daily lives and our way of thinking. In "Field 54" (2020), an installation in a field in the middle of nowhere, no spectators were invited due to the pandemic measures, only flocks of sheep and - exceptionally - a few friends, with an opening buffet of hay for the sheep. In "The Unknown Masterpiece" (2022), viewers participated individually in visual "therapy sessions" for stress -which skyrocketed in the covid era- based on the phenomenon of ASMR videos -the popularity of which also skyrocketed.

This time, the subject of "individual responsibility" of handling reality is raised, in connection to the digital/virtual reality in which we are increasingly immersed, perhaps because it is the only one that promises a possible escape to new conditions and new worlds in which we are in control, in contrast to the actual surrounding reality that drags us into increasingly difficult and unpredictable conditions and situations worldwide (wars, refugee crisis, energy crisis, environmental crisis, economic crisis, etc.).

In contradiction to the digital virtual reality, the personalized reality proposed in the installation "**The eye of the beholder**" invites each viewer individually to manually and tangibly construct their own condition, their own environment and their own artistic result, with the materials and objects that will be present in the space, but also with objects that they themselves can bring, if they wish. Thus, the project is fluid and completely different for each participant, depending on their own participation and interaction, and the variable results will be photographically documented and displayed all together on the last day.

With a humorous approach towards the notorious "individual responsibility" that has marked the political, social and health dialogue during the covid era, the viewer in this new installation additionally bears the "individual responsibility" of the visual result of an exhibition, through a social and creative play.

**Participatory installation:** Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 of January 2023, 16:00-23:00 (each "session" will last about 20min)

**Exhibition (results display) & party:** Thursday 5 of January 2023, 21:00

**Bandapart Recording Studio**, Anagnostara 20, Kalamata

**Free entrance** *\*The viewers are invited to bring with them (optionally) an item of their own choice (an object beloved, surreal, expressive etc)*

**Audiovisual support:** Kyriakos Marinis - Microtron, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos - Bandapart

**Graphic design:** Danny Kargas

**Flavor support:** Elena Bozantzi - Mamellada

**Gioula Papadopoulou** was born in Athens in 1974. She studied Painting at Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA) and holds an MA in Digital Arts (ASFA). Since 2019 she is working on her PhD thesis on video art in Greece (Technical University of Crete, School of Architecture). Her artistic practice focuses on video art. She has presented her work in many exhibitions in Greece and internationally. She is the artistic director of Video Art Festival Miden. She teaches New Media at the Faculty of Fine Arts of AUTH, School of Visual and Applied Arts.

**Olga Papadopoulou** was born in 1977. She studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts and video art theory at the School of Fine Arts of the University of Barcelona (Erasmus program). Her personal work focuses mainly on installations, painting and drawing and has been presented in various exhibitions in Greece and Cyprus. She is a member of the curatorial team of Video Art Miden and, in this frame, her curatorial work has been presented in the screenings of Miden as well as in collaborating video-art platforms and organizations in Greece and abroad.

**Bandapart Recording Studio** is a recording and rehearsal studio that operates in the center of Kalamata since 2015, but also an alternative meeting place for the arts, which hosts musical and audio-visual events, experimental theatrical performances, audiovisual art exhibitions and Video Art Miden screenings.

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