

THE COLLECTIVE PURR (10 October – 24 November 2024)

PUBLIC PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The public program of the exhibition “the collective purr” picks up from the one realized during the “outraged by pleasure” exhibition at the Nobel building (Fall 2023), and more specifically the events titled “the resistance of fireflies.”

It points to the multidimensionality of everyday resistance, defiance and refusal, and to leaderless, unregulated movements toward a world of mutual aid, justice and freedom. Through a low purr, a bigger roar, a flicker or a hum, the stories, the facts and fiction, the series of interacting events shared through this program of events and artworks are but a tiny fraction of the pluriverse of radical practices and imaginaries which constitute the insurgent grounds of response-ability from which change will come. The program refers to such change as “the time of fireflies,” honoring the chaotic dances of the flickering beetles with the metamorphic abilities as well as the thought of Pier Paolo Pasolini, Howard Caygill, Saidiya Hartman, and others.

Thursday, October 31:

19:30 – 21:30 “Ecocides, genocides, the investigative collective and response-ability”

The evening will start with a focus on Forensic Architecture (FA) as an interdisciplinary agency that operates across human rights, journalism, architecture, art and aesthetics, academia and the law, and helps foster a larger community of interconnected struggles and investigative commons.

FA has been invited by “the collective purr” to present two investigations that unveil the ties between ecocides and genocides across the globe and expose the lethal policies of autocratic regimes that affect the life of people and their environments alike:

Gold mining and violence in the Amazon rainforest (10’55)

FA, in partnership with the Climate Litigation Accelerator (CLX), investigated the timeline and patterns of destruction and threats on Yanomami territory along the Uraricoera River due to gold mining. Since Jair Bolsonaro became president of Brazil in 2019, vast tracts of the Amazon rainforest, and the indigenous communities who live within and care for it, have been subjected to increasing violence and a rapid rise in illegal gold mining, encouraged by the rhetoric and policies of his administration.

No Traces of Life: Israel’s ecocide in Gaza, 2023-2024 (7’25)

FA self-initiated investigation.

Since 2014, Palestinian farmers along Gaza’s perimeter have seen their crops sprayed by airborne herbicides and regularly bulldozed, and have themselves faced

sniper fire by the Israeli occupation forces. Since October 2023, Israel's ground invasion has uprooted most of these orchards and systematically targeted agricultural farmlands and infrastructure throughout the besieged Strip. Stefanos Levidis, researcher, visual practitioner and research fellow with the agency, will introduce the FA practice before the two screenings and answer questions by the public in the end.

The screenings will be in English and the talk in Greek.

The evening will conclude with a 10 min recorded presentation titled "Gaza: Genocide / Ecocide / Aestheticide" by T.J.Demos.

The collective purr invited T. J. Demos, professor and chair of the Department of History of Art and Visual Culture Director, and director of the [Center for Creative Ecologies](#) at UC Santa Cruz, to contribute in its public program with emphasis on the war in Gaza, the responses it has engendered and the implications on how 'the collective' is perceived and manifested in art and life. The presentation is in English.

Thursday, November 7

An evening of performative speeches on para-human collectives

19:45 "Toads, frogs, zoonyms, superstitions and other stories"

Leonidas Embiricos, historian

20:30 "To a friend, his friend is not a problem: he is mysterious"

Curator Nadja Argyropoulou channelling Vampyroteuthis Infernalis on his participation at the collective purr, and on Vilém Flusser's and Louis Bec's work "Treatise with a Report by the Institut Scientifique de Recherche Paranaturaliste" (first published in Germany in 1987 and re-published in english in 2012 by University of Minnesota Press, transl. Valentine A. Pakis)

Saturday, November 9

16:30 screening of the work *If I Ever Get A Monument Chickens Will Do It For Me (Requiem#3)*, 2021, by Janis Rafa (7'23)

A brass band is invited to play Enigma Variation by Elgar to a clutch of chickens inside a factory. The requiem is performed the night before the animals are transported to their final destination in the early hours of the morning.

17:00 "My Tender Chicken Nugget"

Do chickens feel solidarity against their human oppressors? How do we experience pain, love, anger, grief when we don't have the vocabulary to express them? Like fascism, the climate crisis wipes out and invisibilises the weakest first — while the rest of us watch in dumb-struck numbness until our turn comes. Is there room for love, for grief, for emotion in a world on fire?

A performance of ecocritical poetics. Participants: Chris Vrettos, Dimitra Miheli, Eleana Strouthou, Giorgos Zestanakis

Friday, November 15

20:00 – 21:15 "The Great Invisibles"

An evening of unannounced events and unexpected meetings with fugitive and relatively 'invisible' forms of collective action in different fields of public life.

Sunday, November 17

17:00 "Maze"

Antonis Vais, joined by a group of performers from Lab12 / Poka Yio of the Athens School of Fine Arts, co-create a performance that explores the concept of diving into the unconscious and the visible or invisible transformations that this may engender. The Nobel building, as an unexplored maze, distorts the presence of the bodies that vibrate and roar, tumble and fall.

Duration: 20'

Concept: Antonis Vais

Performance, co-creation: Students of the Athens School of Fine Arts Lab12

Artistic co-direction: Haris Savvopoulos

Musical composition: Nonika

Thursday, Nov. 21

19:30 – 21.30 "Always for the first time"

A night celebrating the centenary of the publication of the first "Manifesto of Surrealism" by André Breton (1924)

- "Rereading the manifestos and political texts of surrealism: The stray meanings of surrealist revolution"
Nikos Sigalas, historian, Institute for Mediterranean Studies/FORTH
- "The Cabbage is a Rose: Poetics of ecognosis and symbiosis in Surrealism"
Victoria Ferentinou, Assistant Professor of Art Theory, University of Ioannina
- «*L' Art Magique* by André Breton, the radical symposium of the surrealist inquiries and their agency today"
Nadja Argyropoulou, independent curator, art theorist

Sunday, November 24

17:30 "Disenchantment"

Dora Economou together with Vicky Kyriakoulakou and Kostas Tsioukas will bid farewell to the installation "The Day of the Dead Anthropologist" in a ceremonial and celebratory way, by disassembling, gathering and carrying its parts to their next homeplace.

The program is subject to updates/changes as we move closer to the date of each event.

Guided tours offered by curator Nadja Argyropoulou are scheduled for:

Sunday, Nov. 3, and Sunday, Nov. 17, at 13:00.

The tours will be in Greek and last approximately 90 minutes.

A guided tour in English is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 9 at 13:00, provided that enough people have expressed their interest.

Email us to register for a guided tour: thecollectivepurr@gmail.com

Admission to all spaces and events is free.

Please note that the screening of the work *I Betrayed Your Mouth Endlessly* (2024) by Janis Rafa will be suspended during public program events realized at the auditorium of the Nobel building.

“Nobel” building – cultural space in the City of Chalandri

Ivis 30 & Tymphristou, 152 34 Chalandri

M3, Chalandri stop | OASA, line 447, Ardittou stop

The building is accessible for the disabled only on its ground floor.

Contact: thecollectivepurr@gmail.com

Follow us on Instagram: @thecollectivepurr

Production: Saprophyta

Organization: City of Chalandri

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