

apollonia, european art exchanges  
presents an exhibition

**“TRILOGY,  
BIRTH – LIFE – DEATH”**  
of  
**Marianne Strapatsakis**

*within the project “One critic, one artist, one artwork”*

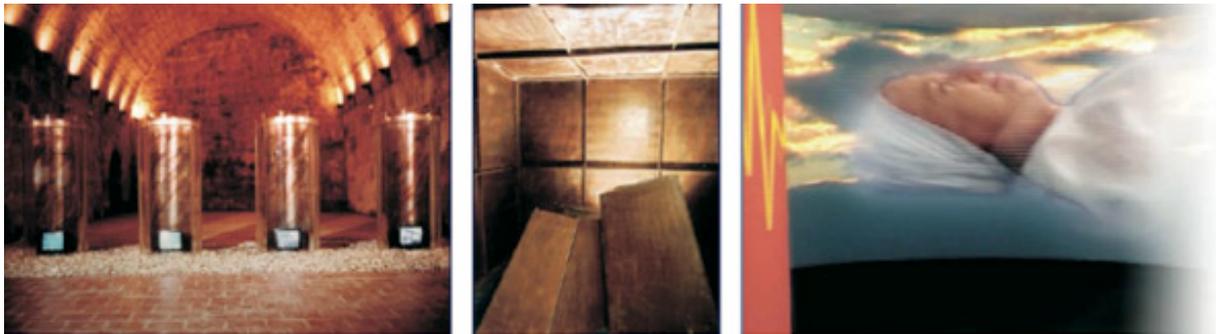
**Opening on Friday 6 March 2009 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Exhibition from 7 March to 4 April 2009**

Monday - Friday: 10-12 a.m. / 3-6 p.m.

Saturday: 3-6 p.m.

Free entrance



In the framework of ARTVENTURE, Visual Art Network supported by the European Commission Culture 2000 program.

Partners: la DRAC Alsace, la Région Alsace, la Ville de Strasbourg, l'UFR Arts de l'Université Marc Bloch de Strasbourg, l'ESAD de Strasbourg, Communauté Hellénique d'Alsace et Environs, l'Association Alsace-Crète, Le Cercle d'Amitiés Franco-hellénique, la Fondation « Maria Tsakou », le Restaurant - Bar Le Cyrano

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## ***TRILOGY, BIRTH – LIFE – DEATH***

The trilogy *Birth – Life – Death* by Marianne Strapatsakis started in 1989, as a work in progress, which is now completed with the creation of the bird part and the combined presentation the three works. The time transition between the three parts created in 1989, 1997, 2008, allows multiple readings of the work, on both conceptual and historical level.

Marianne Strapatsakis' Trilogy, the fruit of an enduring commitment to the visual arts, is a sophisticated blend of reflection, experimentation and achievement. Her work is deeply anthropocentric. The human being is at the heart of her formal and conceptual investigations, which often focus on man's relationship to time, as well as on an interpretation of human emotions.



Her Trilogy comprises three video installations on the subjects of Birth – Life – Death, ideas which seem to materialize in the exhibition space through successive references to the elements of water, earth and air, each having a leading role in the respective installations.

It is a trilogy orchestrated and staged by means of a diachronic narrative; a narrative addressing the triad of past, present and future.

The first part of the trilogy consists of the video installation ***The Phantasms of the Mediterranean or The Reflections of the Past*** (1989). The main element of the installation is **Water**, “reservoir of all the possibilities existence” – **BIRTH** – focusing on water, an element that “precedes each form and is institution of each creation”. The temple of Aphaia in Aegina acted as a point of reference – inspiration, where sketches, paintings, sculptures and video footage originated.

In the second part, video installation ***Secret Passages – Lavrion*** (1997), the main elements are **Earth** and Lavrion, one of the ancient places of exploitation. **LIFE** is created and evolves on earth. The Lavrion area, its underground galleries, mines and minerals, acted as point of reference that inspired all

sketches, paintings, sculptures and video footage. This is also the place of origin on the first silver Athenian coins in the 5th century B.C.

In the third **part *Invisible Places – The Vast White*** (2008), the main elements are the **Air** and the **Light**. **DEATH** does not constitute disappearance, but a transformation of the level of existence that is at the same time. The phenomenon of natural death is only a metamorphosis of conscience, the tripartite relation: Thesis – Antithesis – Synthesis. Hence, death equates to the return to the initial source, the **Light**. The human is transformed again in an airy blow, **Air**. This work consists of an interactive video installation, in which the spectator is invited to participate in the emotional journey of “death”.

Through her work, Marianne Strapatsakis takes us back to a universal place of origin, the heart of the Mediterranean, the cradle of philosophy and dialectics.

So presented in its complete form, the Trilogy signals the end of an adventure embarked upon years ago. As the exhibition offers the possibility of a journey by means of the work itself, indeed a consummate visual proposal, it seems first and foremost to be showcasing an idiosyncratic product of visual culture that promotes exchange and sharing.

It thus becomes a platform for dialogue, which may have been incited by the work at hand, yet has its roots in a timeless condition of exchange between image and object, between the artist and the audience of art.

Widely exhibited in Europe, with more than thirty solo exhibitions and fifty-two group shows, **Marianne Strapatsakis**, Greek artist born in Athens in 1947, evolves in the contemporary art world as by her work that by her participation in conferences, committees plastic criticism, or through her Audiovisual arts teaching in Corfu.

