

loss

Art action at Syntagma Square in Athens

The rebellious screeching of saws can be heard far away from Syntagma Square. The noise winds its way through the adjoining streets as if an invisible tsunami was seeking to come crashing down on something. It is both expression and impression of dissolving values and responsibilities. Our environment is being destroyed, political systems are being shaken to the foundations, our shared notion of commonwealth is increasingly being undermined, unthinkable views and standpoints are causing the community to unravel, exclusion and disrespect are rampant. It is difficult to discern any visions of the direction in which our societies should develop.

It is Destruction, a 2 x 2-meter panel decorated with gold leaf, painted by the German artist Winfried Muthesius, stemming from the picture series "golden field". Gold is an element symbolizing both spiritual elevation and secular power.

The intervention on Syntagma Square begins with the symbolic presentation of the "golden field" by the artist. Just as importantly, discussions in and about Greece have symbolised the erosion of social values as aptly as could be experienced at the famous Syntagma Square. Now they are coming to life.

On 16 March 2018, this panel made of wood is to be systematically cut into strips on the Square and then sawed into small rectangles. The process is to begin around 6 p. m. The whole thing is a very concentrated, precise process which is to end with the image dissolving - more than just a metaphor.

About Winfried Muthesius

Born in Berlin in 1957, Muthesius studied at the Hochschule der Künste (College of Fine Arts) in Berlin and was a student of Hermann Wiesler. The first stages in his artistic career led him to the Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence, where he did his first works in ink, watercolour, tempera and oil. In 1982, he began to elaborate his stylistic language by means of editing, setting out the groundwork for his present-day painting style. In the ensuing years, he received stipends to work in Salzburg and Berlin as well as various stays in New York, which led to his work entitled "Ground Zero". Around 1992, Muthesius began to develop the *pittura oscura* technique. This involves pictures with multiple layers, exhibiting a deep-view effect, coming about in several work processes and linking painting with photography.

The artist has been working with gold as a material from which to develop images for more than 20 years now. A large number of different articulations have emerged from this. Works have been shown in sacral rooms and there have also been permanent installations. Around 100 golden fields were installed in 14 Berlin underground stations in 2003. Later Muthesius began to gradually destroy the works after which they had been made, developing his own pictorial language along these lines, the so-called "broken gold" works. This direction is being resolutely refined and further developed with the intervention of "loss" at Syntagma Square.

Further actions are being planned at famous historical sites in Berlin, Brussels, Bucharest, London, Paris, Warsaw and Vienna.

The work "golden field" will be exhibited from the 9th to the 16th of March 2018 at the Numismatic Museum of Greece, Manto Oikonomidou Gallery, Panepistimiou 12, Athens.

The Numismatic Museum is one of the oldest state Museums in Greece and has been founded in 1834. Today, the Numismatic Museum is housed at the Iliou Melathron, the emblematic building of Ernst Ziller.



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