

Andreas Constantinou and Annika B. Lewis
Report about Residency at The Danish Institute in Athens
13-30th November 2017

Our two and a half week residency at The Danish Institute in Athens had a focus on supporting an artistic research period for our coming performance project with the working title "History of sexuality".

Our time at the residency was extremely productive and contained many different strands of activity.

In co-ordination with the institute we had arranged an initial artistic sharing of two of our performance works "Redoing Gender" and "Let's Get Personal", which were presented at the auditorium space, with support from The Danish Arts Foundation and Aarhus Municipality.

This initial performance presentation had a function of an "icebreaker" into the local artistic community and networks to meet us by introducing our practice and to kick start an initial networking event.

Doing this was a very positive experience and we met a handful of different interesting people who later on during our residency period formed contact with us for artistic exchange about our common interests and our latest research.



During our time here we made a vital point of exploring the cities "underground" performance locations to familiarize our selves with the artistic climate and to meet further Athens based artists. In doing this we attended: two local performances at different venues, an underground drag venue, a photographic exhibition, museums, the Nordic library for academic research, historic spots, and a multitude of local shops and bars in which creative individuals hang out.

Regarding our current research for our coming performance project the residency allowed us to dig into historic contexts around topics of sexuality by visiting museums and familiarizing ourselves with the content of sexuality through the eyes of ancient art. Along side this research we found the much needed time to home in on our artistic ideas and outline our concept and beginning to form funding applications for the production period of the finalization of the performance.

Outside of our collaborative artistic research for History of sexuality, both Andreas and Annika made a number of contacts for our own individual art projects that we have coming up in 2018-19. These included:

Andreas hosted a workshop audition at a local dance studio for professional performers. This audition was made possible and set up by two contacts (two professional dancers) made during the residency period. Seven professional dancers attended the audition and Andreas hired two of them to join his company in Denmark for a coming production in 2019 titled Carcass – Mass Effect.

Andreas and Annika made an informal artistic exchange and jamming session with an Athens based musician (pianist) organized by Annika. After this meeting Andreas decided invite him to Aarhus, Denmark to work with the coming stage production titled The MANhouse 2.0, and Annika will continue their already established artistic dialog and developing of a new work in 2018.

Annika made several meetings with her collaborator and Athens based theater director, concerning their next phase and development of Happiness UNLDT, a Danish/Greece collaboration which is taking place in autumn 2018. This is a development of their Happiness Salon that took place at Benaki museum in the autumn 2016.

Further more Annika met up with a local photographer about collaboration in "The History of Sexuality", and had meetings with an Athens based theater director about a new performance work in 2019.

To conclude our residency period we hosted an informal sharing and summary of our research at The Danish Institute that was open to the public. This sharing included a performance experiment and discussions about our artistic ideas and the upcoming project.

We are very thankful for the residency period and we hope to come back and further collaborations.

- *Andreas Constantinou and Annika B. Lewis, November 30, 2017.*

