

ANDREAS PAPAMICHAEL

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Lives and works in Greece and Cyprus

Andreas Papamichael (b. 1992) studied for one year at the University of Barcelona at Facultad de Bellas Artes in 2011. His completed his B.A Degree in Fine Art and New Media at Middlesex University during his three-year degree at AKTO College of Art in Athens. His work has been presented in various exhibitions in Athens and Cyprus. This year he had his first solo exhibition at Booze Cooperativa Base Gallery in Athens. This September he is going to pursue post-graduate studies in Art, Space and Nature at Edinburgh College of Art for two years.

Through the artistic practice of Andreas Papamichael, he explores and collects, carries, rearranges and alters rocks, fossils, lichens, fungus, soil and tree bark, all of which carry ravages of time. Through his arrangements of these findings and manipulations which offer the viewer an alternative perspective and pace with which to consider nature - as they wander through created environments - primordial questions are raised about death, chance, rebirth, and regeneration.

He explores and creates through observing the cycle of life and the diptych of nature. More specifically, Papamichael hones in on considering the study of natural phenomenon through erosion and reconstruction while reflecting on the meaning of existence (ἔσθ' ὄντων) and questioning the meaning of life (ὄντα ἰσχυρῆς).

"Disintegrations" is a multidimensional on-going project which explores nature and its phenomena. The artist collects bitter oranges growing on trees on the streets of Athens then gathers them in my studio and explores arrangements which allow him to observe and manipulate the conditions of their disintegration. Ultimately, the process of disintegration is an influential factor in the development and conservation of order and harmony.

The last year, Papamichael's work focuses on activities in public spaces, either by an immediate involvement of onlookers or by activating urban spaces or points of natural environment.

"Feast of sowing" looks at how Greece's economic breakdown has demolished many formerly lively spaces in the centre of Athens, creating inactive urban voids. It takes the role of a platform aiming to activate the public's participation and to bring life back to areas, such as Omonoia Square.

For "Sterquilinus", Andreas Papamichael has organized tree planting events in open neglected spaces in collaboration with local communities and groups, combining his artistic and environmental preoccupations. Planting not only aims at creating verdure but also to motivate people to take collective action and thought, and to help develop environmental sensitivity.



Disintegrations, wood, mold, fungi, maps, rocks, soil, plastic bag, dimensions variable, 2016

