

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Kalliopi Lemos

All is to Be Dared Kalliopi Lemos

Private View: Thursday 15th March, 6–8pm

Exhibition: 16th March–29th April, 2018

*“I don’t know what to do
two states of mind in me”* - Sappho

Gazelli Art House is delighted to announce Kalliopi Lemos’ second solo show, titled *All is to Be Dared*, curated by Christian Oxenius. The Greek born, London-based sculptor, painter and installation artist unveils a new body of work investigating the essence of desire and pain.

Oxenius points that, filtered through verses of the ancient Greek poetess Sappho, Kalliopi Lemos, with *All is to Be Dared*, explores and unveils the thin space occupied by our most intimate obsessions, our objects of desire; a space that Lemos questions in all its complexity leading us from a soft and tender embrace to its sharpest and most dark edges; a space in which we find our psyche cut open by the burning arrows delivering their erotic drive. Lemos presents us with an intimate juxtaposition of sensuality and pain, desire and constraint, love and death, rendered universal and timeless through the inspiration of Sappho and her capacity to capture the human psyche in all its facets, in all its complexities. In this new series of work, Lemos introduces linen bandages, woven with fragments of Sappho’s poetic verses, used as an apparent healing for the wounded body and psyche, which quickly turn into suffocating constraints delivering the harshness of those inner borders we are unable to overcome.

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Lemos elaborates, *“At this very interesting and important time in history, with women celebrating 100 years of having the right to vote in the UK, while having summoned the courage to talk about abuse and seek justice, I use my new body of work to introduce the magnificent verses of Sappho, the celebrated ancient Greek poetess. Her immediacy, sincerity and eloquence have established her as the symbol of feminine discourse for almost 3,000 years and I find the surviving fragments of her poems extremely powerful and poignant. Her humanity, her love for life, as well as the passion and frustration when desire is not reciprocated, makes one feel very close to her.”*

Professor of philosophy Simon Critchley comments on this juxtaposition, *“The Greekness here lies in the proximity to darkness, the openness to a reality that is complex, violent and ambiguous...”*

I find Kalliopi’s work intensely erotic, fiercely and strangely erotic, where eros is understood as a deep, subterranean - indeed terrifying - force that moves behind and beyond puny human forms, something that is human and more than human at once. There is an erotic intensity in Kalliopi’s work that reminds me of Sappho when she writes of eros, ‘Sweat pours down me, I shake / all over, I go pale as green / grass. I’m that close to being dead.’ Contact with eros can be fatal and devastating, which is why so many ancient traditions see eros as a deathly god or a goddess. Even little cupid’s arrows pierce the flesh.”

Kalliopi Lemos’ work continues to participate within a visual sphere of knowledge, perception and awareness into a global narrative. Approaching women’s issues with an acute sensitivity, *All is to Be Dared* opens up an important contemporary discourse about the role of femininity - both historically and in today’s world.

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Notes to Editors

Kalliopi Lemos has exhibited extensively and is currently involved in a number of acclaimed projects in international venues. Her most recent projects include her participation in the exhibition *Lieux Saints Partagés* at the Palais de la Porte Dorée with the installation piece *Pledges*; her involvement with Spitalfields' rolling art programme through her installation *Wooden Boat with Seven People*, a project which has recently been extended for an additional three months; and her contribution to the second edition of Çanakkale Art Walk at the Osnabruck Biennial with her video work, *Irrevocable Transformations*. Her paintings, sculpture, and installations have explored the narrative of existential journeys, displacement and the politics of forced migration.

Three celebrated works from an on-going series *Tools of Endearment - Bra* (previously displayed at Les Moulins, France alongside a number of widely celebrated artists); *Stiletto Heel* (previously displayed at Golden Square, London); and *Corset* are currently on show at London's Greenwich Peninsula. The public placement of the thought-provoking series opens up an important contemporary discourse about the role of femininity.

Lemos' permanent installation at Attis Theatre in Athens, Greece, recently unveiled alongside work by acclaimed artists Yiannis Kounelis and Joseph Beuys, notably marked the celebration of the auditorium's 30 year anniversary.

Previous noteworthy projects also include Lemos' off-site exhibition *I Am I, Between Worlds and Between Shadows* at the Ioakimion School for Girls in Fener, Istanbul. Realised in the scope of the 13th Istanbul Biennial Parallel Events Programme, Lemos points to human dignity as the inner-core of humanity, and the effort of women to uphold it.

About Kalliopi Lemos

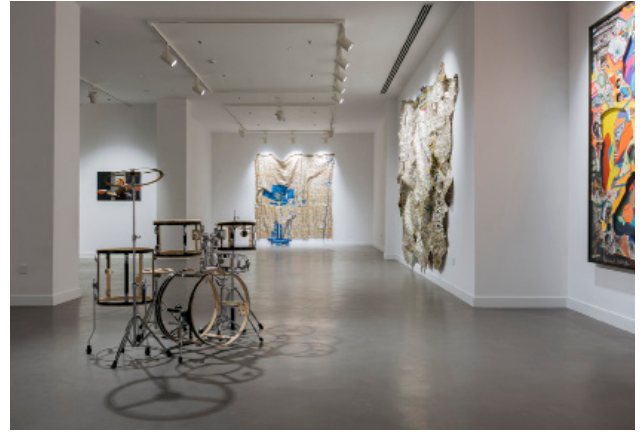
Kalliopi Lemos is a Greek-born, London-based sculptor, painter and installation artist. She studied painting and printing at Byam Shaw School of Art, University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins, where she also pursued post-graduate studies. For 15 years, she studied the art of Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangement, steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness with nature. Over the last decade, her paintings, sculpture, and installations have explored the narrative of existential journeys, displacement and the politics of forced migration. During the last decade Lemos has exhibited extensively in various international venues and her work can be found in numerous private collections and permanent displays.

Many of her works reflect Kalliopi Lemos's persistent interest in the dignity and fate of destitute and power-stricken multitudes, victims of immeasurable neo-capitalism and irresponsibility of political powers. This is correspondingly one of the most projected concerns of UN Commission. Kalliopi Lemos's work decisively intends to open a visual sphere of knowledge, perception and awareness into this reality.

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About

Contemporary gallery Gazelli Art House supports a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and critically acclaimed programme of exhibitions to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. From 2010, having hosted conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, Founder and Director Mila Askarova opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. The same year, the Window Project was launched utilising the frontage of the gallery as additional display platform. In 2015, the initiative was remodeled to solely accommodate art school graduates through open call competitions three times a year. In 2015, the gallery launched its Digital Art House www.gazell.io, an online residency for artists working in the digital realm. As part of the gallery's on-going commitment to art education, a series of events and talks are organised to run alongside each exhibition.

For further information on *All is to Be Dared*,
please contact: press@gazelliarthouse.com