

PRESS RELEASE

**10. International Architecture Exhibition- La Biennale di Venezia**

# GREECE

## 'THE AEGEAN: A SCATTERED CITY'

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 10<sup>th</sup> September - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006 - Daily Opening Hours: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.**

**VENUES: Giardini della Biennale**

**COMMISSIONERS:** Elias Costantopoulos, Lois Papadopoulos

**CURATORS:** Elias Constantopoulos, Korina Filoxenides, Katerina Kotzias, Lois Papadopoulos

**ORGANISATION:** THE HELLENIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE, General Directorate of Modern Culture, Directorate of Visual Arts, Department for the Promotion of Contemporary Art (Tel: 0030 210 8201723).

**COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION:** ArtBOX.gr/ arts management (Ph: 0030 2310 224626; Fax: 0030 2310 25 0756; E-mail: artbox@hol.gr; archipel@otenet.gr; kfloxn@otenet.gr; Web site: www.aegeancity.gr)

**COORDINATION AND PRESS OFFICE IN VENICE:** Arte Communications

The governing concept of the Greek participation at the 10. International Architecture Exhibition- La Biennale di Venezia is a presentation of the Aegean as a city.

Making reference to the thought of Italian philosopher and mayor of the city of Venice Massimo Cacciari, the notion of the Archipelago is presented in the Greek pavilion as a vital allegory for mutual social understanding.

In the context of the discourse regarding the metacity, the Aegean is being introduced as a counter yet extant example of an aquatic city that is a radiating land of desire. Its allure does not stem from the sediments of nostalgia, but rather from the enduring character of a structure of habitation that contains the promise of a different metacity, one that intently embraces the call for freedom.

The fact that the islands are surrounded by the sea, exposed to light, the sun and mighty winds of the Aegean delineates the unconditional relationship of the Archipelagic city with its nature, proposing not an anachronism but a topical, alternative form of urbanity throbbing with the intrinsic tensions of the metacity.



## The exhibition

Apart from *established representations of the Aegean*: the blue of the sea, the landscape's lucidity, the bright, unsullied light, the winds and every possible allegory associated with its natural geography – youthfulness, health, sustainability – the Greek pavilion will also be presenting the islands' human geography, altering as it is under the pressure exerted by exceptional demographic conditions, and, of course, the special contribution of the *architecture of settlements and buildings* to shaping the islands' habitation models and particular physiognomy.

The exhibition is based on the *metaphor of the journey across the seas*.

And this, because the perception of the Aegean as a city and the drafting of the *mental map* of this city is based precisely on aquatic networks and the sea routes followed on this journey.

In the exhibition, the Archipelago is described as *a map of meanings*, the experience of the Aegean as an experience of moving from one place to another and the ships sailing in it as the city's floating squares, its assumed public spaces. As the hidden images in children's connect-the-dot sketches emerge through zigzag lines, so will the sense of cohesion, the shape and manifold meaning of *the sea* emerge and be recognized via those zigzag lines that connect the journey's various destinations.

The exhibition will feature electronic maps and models of the city that is the Aegean, which record its constantly shifting character. The way of reading the stars, identifying and interpreting constellations in the sky, will be employed here for the purpose of clarifying the city's multiple identities.

The main part of the project will be housed in *the Greek pavilion at the Giardini*. However, for the purpose of a more lucid representation of the exhibition's central concept (*the journey*), the exhibition's installation will be spilling over the Greek pavilion's *foregarden* as well as *the entire area of the Giardini della Biennale*, in varying degrees of density.

## INFORMATION:

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