



INTERREG V–A GREECE ITALY 2014–2020

Park of literary travels in Greece and Magna Graecia “POLYSEMI”

PRESS RELEASE

“Bari, Corfu, Taranto: Invisible threads - Visible ties”

**Bari, Vallisa Church, Ferrarese Square,
Saturday 8th of February 2020, start time 18:30**

Three **Video Art Installations** that will unite three different **historical buildings** in three **cities** in Greece (Corfu) and Magna Graecia (Bari, Taranto)

The **Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports**, as a partner in the European Program of Greek - Italian Cooperation “**Park of literary travels in Greece and Magna Graecia**” entitled **POLYSEMI**, organizes an action in public space, with works made by international artists of Video Art. The action will be about the creation of **three Video Art Installations**, displayed on **external building surfaces** - landmarks of the **three cities** from the Ionian Islands and Apulia: **Corfu, Bari and Taranto**. These three cities present a strong interplay between the two cultures in their monuments, language and way of life.

The **public space** encompasses multiple **perspectives** and complex **identities**: social, political, economic, cultural, demographic, environmental. Some of them we can see, experience and understand. Others are found on a symbolic, imaginative level. They are the hidden fragments, the ghosts of the locals’ stories, of their dreams and their disappointments, of the collective memory and the associations it retrieves.

This action aims to connect some of these perspectives with **invisible threads**, and allow the **residents - viewers** to have the same, but also, different experiences, depending entirely on the unique nature of each city. At the same time, it will reveal new, imaginative and emotional landscapes, **new routes** of the park of literary travels POLYSEMI.



The **second stop** of the action will be **Bari**, and more specifically the exterior surface of the Vallisa church. The church of Vallisa (previously Raveddise, “of the Ravellesi”) was named on account of the presence of groups of merchants from Amalfi and Ravello in the city. Today the building looks very different from its past appearance due to its “stylistic” restoration carried out between 1957 and 1962, which eliminated all of the baroque embellishments, leaving exposed walls. However, this medieval remodelling did not restore the church its original appearance, which would have been largely frescoed, as can be seen from the few remaining decorative elements preserved on parts of the walls. Nevertheless, it remains an important medieval monument within the old town, built in honour of a community which first appeared in Bari in the 9th century.

The following artworks will be presented in this space, on the 8th of February 2020, from 18:30:

1. “**Floating in Space**” by the Greek video artist **Angelina Voskopoulou**.
2. “**Mire**” and “**Invisible Threads**” by the Irish video artist **David Ian Bickley**.

There was a similar event in Corfu, on January and soon, there will be another one, in Taranto.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM FOR THE PROJECT POLYSEMI FROM THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS

Marios Kostakis, Head of General Directorate of Contemporary Culture

Niki Monika Tsiliberti, Head of Directorate for Development of Contemporary Creation, as the team coordinator

Eleni Andreou, Ioannis Andreou, Vasiliki Asimakopoulou, Anna Kalafataki, Kiriakos Koutroulias, Spiridonas Makkas, Eleni Toumpanaki, Vasileios Tsivakis.

IDEA CONCEPTION, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VIDEO INSTALLATIONS

Eleni Toumpanaki, Head of Department of Cinema and Audiovisual Media.

ART PRODUCTION CURATOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCTION



Filia Milidaki and the creative team of Eye's Walk Digital Festival.



The Vallisa church in Bari



The panoramic view of the church



THE ARTWORKS - THE ARTISTS



Angelina Voskopoulou, *Floating in Space*, video, 03:32 min, given by the artist for the action

Angelina Voskopoulou was born in Athens. She is a graduate from Middlesex University (BA in Fine Arts and Technology, 2005) and she holds a masters degree in Digital Arts from the London University of the Arts (Arts London - MA in Digital Arts).

She has achieved numerous entries into international exhibitions and events of modern art. Her work is exhibited at different collections and art venues, both in Greece and abroad.

Among other things, she has been awarded twice at the London International Creative Competition (LICC) (2009, in the video art category και 2019, in the installation art / sculpture category).

She has received the international Caravaggio award for her general art contribution (Milan, 2018), the award at the International Biennale of Art in Bari, in video art category (BIBART) (2019) and the third place award in the 8th International Biennial of Contemporary Textile Art in Madrid, in the category small format (2019).



David Ian Bickley, *Invisible Threads*, video, 10:14 min, given by the artist for the action



David Ian Bickley, *Mire*, video, 06:07 min, given by the artist for the action

Born in Manchester on 1961, **David Ian Bickley** is an artist, director, musician and producer with over 30 years of experience in the field of art creation and production.

As a producer and director of film and TV, he has received the BBC award for short films. He has, also, received the award for video at the Sony Film Festival, the award for best documentary / best director at the Fastnet Film Festival and two awards for his films at the



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Arts Council of Ireland. Among other things, he has worked for the Irish National Television and Radio Station RTE and, while working as a filmmaker, he has presented his work alongside other great artists, such as Tracey Emin, Mat Collishaw and Ron Arad.

THE PROGRAM POLYSEMI

The program POLYSEMI is implemented within the framework of the Territorial Cooperation Program (INTERREG) Greece - Italy 2014-2020 and it is co-funded by the European Union.

POLYSEMI is an invisible park, a set of proposed cultural routes and walks that, mostly, follow the traces of the life and work of important people from the Ionian Islands and Apulia. Its ultimate goal is a viable and regional tourism.

POLYSEMI partners are the following:

- *University of Bari Aldo Moro, Department of Literature, Languages, Arts. Italianistics and Comparative Cultures*
- *Ionian University, Department of Informatics*
- *Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports*
- *Municipality of Taranto*
- *Region of Ionian Islands.*

For more information: <https://polysemi.di.ionio.gr/>