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THE DUET: IOANNA PANTAZOPOULOU & MAJA DJORDJEVIC

DIO HORIA GALLERY | SPACE B

September 3–8, 2025 | WSA, Downtown Manhattan

Dio Horia is pleased to present a two—person exhibition featuring Ioanna Pantazopoulou and Maja Djordjevic at WSA, a newly renovated arts venue in downtown Manhattan. The presentation is part of the special curatorial project 'Duet' led by Zoe Lukov and Kyle DeWoody, timed to coincide with The Armory Show and New York Art Week.

Greek artist **Ioanna Pantazopoulou** presents a sculptural installation composed of a suspended hammock and tamata — handmade votive offerings crafted from recycled aluminum cans and brass. They are displayed both as wall-mounted pieces and as elements suspended from the ceiling. Traditionally used in Greek Orthodox rituals to request divine help, these tamata are reimagined for the contemporary psyche: one protects a mobile phone, another defends free speech, another seeks to save a female coconut from extinction. Playful yet poignant, Pantazopoulou's charms embody the contradictions of modern life, where tech, nature, and identity all require protection. Pantazopoulou is known for transforming expired, found, or discarded materials—rugs, chewing gum, banknotes—into large—scale sculptural installations. Her work challenges ideas of value, space, and sustainability, creating immersive environments that suggest both fairytales and ruins.

At the same time, London-based Serbian artist **Maja Djordjevic** presents two new paintings from her new series of work called 'Backrooms', marking a significant evolution in her artistic practice. Renowned for her pixelated figures and digital-expressionist aesthetic, Djordjevic now shifts focus from the body to space—rendering surreal, emotionally charged interiors inspired by the internet mythology of "backrooms": endless, uncanny office-like environments that feel both banal and disorienting. In these new works, any human traces have disappeared, but their psychological imprint remains.

Through her signature pixelated brushwork, Djordjevic constructs dreamlike interiors pulsing with symbolic tension and emotional residue. These spaces feel flattened and eerily familiar—less designed by architecture than by mood, memory, and absence. Backrooms reflects a deepening introspection in her work, where the digital realm becomes a vessel for meditations on isolation, repetition, and disembodiment.

In response to the curators' call to explore the tension and intimacy of the "duet," Ioanna Pantazopoulou and Maja Djordjevic form a pairing that plays on contrast and resonance—two voices in harmony and dissonance. Pantazopoulou's sculptural

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installation reinterprets the sacred ritual of tamata through contemporary anxieties—environmental collapse, speech suppression, digital dependency—transforming devotional acts into playful yet urgent appeals for protection. Her work is tactile, handmade, and symbolic, foregrounding material transformation and the vulnerability of belief. Djordjevic, by contrast, moves into the immaterial and psychological: her Backrooms paintings depict sterile, surreal interiors where human presence has evaporated. These flattened, dreamlike digital spaces suggest emotional voids—symbols of detachment, routine, and the eerie texture of internet life. Where Pantazopoulou invokes a world filled with charms, offerings, and rituals, Djordjevic presents a space after the ritual has faded.

— **Ioanna Pantazopoulou** (b. 1984, Athens, Greece) lives and works in New York. Pantazopoulou's work has been exhibited at international art institutions including the Stavros Niarchos Hall–Greek National Opera in Athens, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum (MA), Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), SCAD Gutstein Gallery (GA), Culture Lab (West Palm Beach), SAFE Gallery, Situations, and Primetime Gallery (all in New York), JAG Projects (Hudson, NY), NADA Miami, Grand Union Gallery (UK), Alex Mylona–Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Hydra School Projects, and NEON Organization (Greece), among others. Her work is held in major collections including Fidelity Investments Corporate Art Collection, the D. Daskalopoulos Collection, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and MCA Chicago.

— **Maja Djordjevic** (b. 1990, Belgrade, Serbia) lives and works in London. Her work has been exhibited internationally at venues including Perrotin Gallery (Paris), Arsenal Contemporary (New York), Longtermhandstand (Budapest), Ludwig Museum (Köln), Philips X with Dynamisk (London), MODEM (Debrecen), Museum in Bellpark Kriens, and the October Art Salon Biennial (Belgrade).

SIMULTANEOUS PRESENTATION AT THE ARMORY SHOW ALLY ROSENBERG - BOOTH #P04

September 5–7, 2025 | Javits Center, 429 11th Ave, New York City

Concurrently, at The Armory Show 2025, Dio Horia is presenting a solo booth by Ally Rosenberg and a third work from Maja Djordjevic's 'Backrooms' series, highlighting a key moment for all three artists during New York Art Week.

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