

Laure Mary-Couégnias's Time Out opens at Dio Horia in Athens

Athens, September 30, 2021 – Dio Horia is pleased to present **Time Out**, a new series of works by Paris-based artist **Laure Mary-Couégnias**. Marking the artist's first solo exhibition in Greece, "Time Out" opens on October 7, in the presence of the artist. The exhibition includes new paintings by Mary-Couégnias, two of which were created in Mykonos during her participation in Dio Horia's residency program.

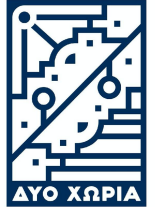
Time Out, Mary-Couégnias observes, was set in motion with a moment in her Parisian studio when there was "a promise to meet and an invitation to escape":

Alone in this house, emptied since this morning of an imaginary visitor, I watch the solar prism of an invisible window. The heart embarrassed by a wind that has blown away a Parisian memory that thousands of luminous points dance and finish in dust. Some correspondence with the silence settles, creating the definition of the limits to be able to run away, and to abandon itself in a conversation that we didn't have. Everything crystallized around a dream coming from an immobile disorder that physically represents the infinite, as if we could escape the laws of absence. Beginning an unknown journey, whose path we have lost, reminds us of how far we have been from ourselves. This way is liberating.

The exhibition begins with her signature motif of depicting familiar objects and spaces in surrealistic arrangements, reminiscent of Magritte's pictorial and linguistic puzzles—making the familiar disturbing and strange, posing questions about the nature of representation and reality. With a pictorial non-judgmental communication, the thematic terrain it addresses is presented as an inevitable continuation of **Mary-Couégnias's** ongoing observation of the nature of the civilized world, the traces of life on the planet and the spectacle of it all.

Time Out is the profoundly moving attempt to zoom in on the story of a journey. It boldly imagines a world in which no humans are portrayed, and no two creatures are shown together sustained by their love. In **Time Out's** pieces, unified landscapes and various couplings of objects are pictured in uninhabited spaces clearly suggesting that someone was once there but probably isn't anymore. Small traces in the works, such as the scorching hot coffee in *Nobody's Breakfast*, 2021, or the clean water in the fishbowl of *Lonely River*, 2021, seem to suggest that the person who was there has escaped voluntarily and is now willingly somewhere else. Awesome in the totality of their vision, the works of **Mary-Couégnias** are an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that is needed to keep people [or love] alive in the face of the world.

It was late summer when the artist arrived in Mykonos for her residency with Dio Horia, so she encountered a landscape that was mostly parched and windy. Being



confident that she could find new dreamlike inspiration in the country's rich history, landscape and architecture, she set out looking for living ruins to connect with. It only took her a couple of days to invent new silent spaces with uneasy encounters and add local elements and colors to her work. The Ancient Greek columns, the Cycladic windmills and a special tone of yellow are little discoveries that appear in some of the works and are inspired from the artist's residency with Dio Horia.

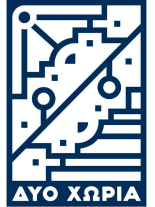
In a manner that follows in the footsteps of Naïve Art, Pop Art, and Surrealism, **Laure Mary-Couégnias** continues to create an idiosyncratic oeuvre that justly measures up to that ancestry, while creating a profoundly complex practice that is empowering and uniquely hers.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

— **Laure Mary-Couégnias** (b1989, France) has received her Bachelor and Masters studies from the National School of Fine Arts of Lyon in France. Mary-Couégnias has participated in various solo and group exhibitions. Selected solo exhibitions include 'Escape Lane', Richard Heller Gallery, California, USA; 'Dream Bank', Domaine de Rouerie, Contemporary Art Center, Sud Hérault, France; 'Hi, How Are You?', Septieme Gallery, Paris, France; 'Love is a beach', Contemporary Art Center le Vog, Fontaine, France; 'J'irai Fleurir sous tes reins', International Biennale of Contemporary Art, among others. Selected group exhibitions include: 'Quixotic', Ramp Gallery, London, United Kingdom; 'Black & White vs. Color', Richard Heller Gallery, California, USA; 'Rendez-vous à la Havane', Centro de Arte Contemporaneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba; 'La Littorale #7', Chambre(s) d'Amour, curated by Richard Leydier, International Biennale of Contemporary Art of Anglet, Côte Basque, Anglet, France; International Biennale of Contemporary Art of Lyon - Institute of Contemporary Art IAC - Villeurbanne, France; La synchronicité des éléments - CACN, Contemporary Art Center of Nîmes - Nîmes, France. Mary-Couégnias was awarded winner of the visual arts commission at International City of Arts, Paris, France. Her work is featured in numerous public and private collections, such as Association Les Harpailleurs, Switzerland, The Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, USA, the Château de Courterolles, France, the Domaine de Rouëire, Sud-Hérault, France, The Hall Art Fondation, USA. Mary-Couégnias's works have been presented by international art publications such as Juxtapoz, Artpress, Elle, Le Monde, among others.

—**Dio Horia Art Platform** is a gallery for contemporary art and culture that was inaugurated in 2015. Dio Horia Gallery strives to be at the forefront of cultural experimentation both in Greece and the world beyond, by representing young emerging artists from small peripheral countries. At the same time, Dio Horia is running an international residency program and also organizes group shows and publications with established and emerging artists that have not exhibited in Greece.



Finally, Dio Horia engages in collaborative projects developed as a result of associations with artists, curators, non-profit organizations and cultural carriers. These fall into categories ranging from social, cultural and literary studies to music and performing arts. The gallery is based in Mykonos, Greece, and has two exhibition spaces in Athens, Greece.

— Exhibition info

Laure Mary-Couégnias

Residency show | Solo Show: Time Out
Dio Horia Athens
October 7 – November 7, 2021

Dio Horia Project Space Athens

Mantzouraki 16, 11524,
Nea Filothei, Athens
Tel: +30 2106714827
Opening Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 - 19:00
Saturday, 11:00 - 15:00
Email: info@diohoriam.com

— November Exhibitions and Art Fairs

Aleksandar Todorovic

Solo show: Brave New Normal World
Dio Horia Athens
November 11 – December 10, 2021

Lauren Wy

Solo Project: Autodesire Volume 2
Dio Horia Athens
November 11 – December 10, 2021

Maja Djordjevic

Solo Booth: Renaissance Humanism
Booth #P05
ART021, Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
November 11 – November 14, 2021

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