

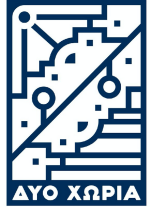
Aleksandar Todorovic's first solo show in Athens, talks politics and society through religious iconography.

Dio Horia is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition by Aleksandar Todorovic in Athens, after the artist's residency and solo show in Mykonos in 2017. The exhibition opens on November 18 in the presence of the artist.

Thinking about religious iconography, in particular, Byzantine art and Eastern Orthodox Christianity tradition, as a visual language used to talk about the contemporary political and societal issues from the humanist perspectives, creates a confusing, contradictory paradox. And it's likely just that baffling aspect, the clash of the sacred and the secular, mixed with the undeniable parallels between the political or economical structures and religious hierarchies that makes **Aleksandar Todorovic's** work so captivating, intriguing, and fundamentally on point. Staying away from the naturalistic way of representation and stepping towards surrealism or even abstraction, these ancient works were originally aiming to represent the Heavenly, unearthly, something beyond our mortal existence. And looking at the disbalance of influence between common people and mega-corporations, witnessing political leaders being perceived as messiahs or martyrs, or following the cults of misinformation sprouting from the black hole of information that is the Internet, prompted the Serbian artist to repurpose this proven methodology to comment on the absurd idolatry taking place in real-time. "Think of it as a funny house mirror - it gives the reflection of reality, but it's distorted and it's accentuating the parts which affect most of us in the wrong way," he explains the very basics of his concept in a nutshell.

Originally revolving around the Internet and the ways it conditions and navigates our existence, especially our personal relationships and interactions, **Brave New Normal World's** works got elevated by the global pandemic and the unforeseen ways that the global network influenced it. As the historically unseen scenarios started unfolding on the screens in front of our eyes, Todorovic's portrayal of our digital landscape got more convoluted and he resorted to creating a surrealist retelling of the pandemic with an accent on the role that digital technology played in it. Featuring a cast of renowned characters and scenes widely shared by the mainstream media, the works are adorned with countless references to the great and more often, most shameful moments from our recent past. Putting special attention on the suggestive details and evocative surfaces he is creating, the works are including everything from shiny wood grains or metal surfaces, thick smoke, over soft fur, to shiny suit fabrics. With the frequent appearance of everyday gadgets, both existing and imaginary technological achievements, and adorned with cleverly chosen and placed emojis or witty wordplays, **Todorovic** constructs a cultural and historic glitch of sorts, creating unprecedented real-time commentary of the most surreal scenes from our present-day reality show - life in 21st century. "Think of it as a Decameron, but via Zoom," the artist cleverly summarizes this clash of past traditions and relentless technological and societal change portrayed through the centuries-old lens originally developed by the chroniclers of the spiritual truths.

— END —



NOTES TO EDITORS

— **Aleksandar Todorovic** (b.1982, Belgrade) graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade. Growing up during the Balkan civil wars of the 1990's, he became sensitive about political systems and their effects on the world. At the very core of his artistic investigations lies the exploration of the concept of evil, its origins and ramifications. Todorovic has exhibited his works internationally, including exhibitions at various institutions and art galleries such as, the Contemporary Art Gallery at Smederevo Museum (Serbia), Richard Heller gallery in Los Angeles and Plan X gallery in Milan. He has been featured in several art publications including Artforum International, Juxtapoz, Widewalls and Risha among others.

— Exhibition info

Aleksandar Todorovic

Solo show: Brave New Normal World
Dio Horia Athens
November 18 – January 15, 2021

Dio Horia Project Space Athens

Mantzouraki 16, 11524,
Nea Filothei, Athens
Tel: +30 2106714827
Email: info@diohoria.com

Dio Horia Gallery Mykonos

Panahra Square, 846 00,
Hora Mykonos
Tel: +30 2106714827
Closed till April 2022
Email: info@diohoria.com

— Upcoming Exhibitions & Projects

ART021, Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair

Solo Booth: Maja Djordjevic
Booth #P05
November 11 – November 14, 2021

Untitled Art Fair, Miami

Group Booth: Chris Akordalitis, Pablo Benzo, Maja Djordjevic, Elias Kafouros
Booth #B5
November 29 – December 4, 2021

Polina Miliou

Solo show
Dio Horia Project Space Athens
January 27 – February 27, 2022

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