



In EXPO Chicago Dio Horia Gallery shares stories from three European Storytellers.

Chicago, 17 September 2019 — In one of her papers about the healing power of storytelling, American scholar *Sun Wolf* reports that in West Africa, when a person in the village becomes sick, the Healer will ask them: "*When was the last time that you sang? When was the last time that you danced? When was the last time that you shared a story?*"

Sharing stories helps individuals heal, connect and grow. It also binds communities together, building a common history and understanding of the world. In Western popular culture, contemporary storytelling has taken many visual forms, including music video clips, cinema, theatre, illustration, street art and sequential art (comics). For the EXPOSURE section of Expo Chicago 2019, Dio Horia Contemporary Art Platform presents recent work by artists **Spyros Aggelopoulos**, **Javier Calleja** and **Maja Djordjevic**.

Coming from different cultural backgrounds, the three artists work with a variety of media and share their fascination with pop-culture aesthetics. Their work is also directly linked to contemporary storytelling: Aggelopoulos' ongoing series of hand-drawn figures is inspired by traditional Greek shadow-puppet theatre. Calleja's paintings feature childlike portraits that have the immediacy and intimacy of illustrated children's books. Djordjevic's subject matter is always playful, self-sarcastic and autobiographical, in the sense that she paints her own emotions and experiences.

Our curated booth surely has a high entertainment value and immediately draws the viewer in with its attractive colors and friendly imagery. But just like good storytelling, it will also stimulate reflection and encourage thoughtfulness. For us this is also a great opportunity to cultivate the cooperation between three South European artists and we are looking forward to bringing ideas and people together on the occasion of Expo Chicago 2019.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Spyros Aggelopoulos (b.1979 in Athens, Greece) is a Greek visual artist, actor and make-up artist. In his work he revisits the tradition of Greek shadow-puppet theatre to create functional puppets depicting pop-culture figures from film, literature, politics, art history and sports. These figures he then uses in his own shadow-puppet performances. He participated in the sixth Athens Biennial in 2018 and his work has been presented by ArtForum, Guardian and other media. He lives and works between Athens, Greece and Los Angeles, CA.



Javier Calleja (b.1971 in Malaga, Spain) studied fine arts at the University of Granada. In his paintings, drawings and sculpture he deploys the aesthetic conventions of cartoons and the illustrations of children's books. He is a very popular artist with 24 solo gallery exhibitions and participation in numerous group exhibitions around the world. His work has been featured on Juxtapoz, Hypebeast and many other art publications. He lives and works in Malaga.

Maja Djordjevic (b.1990 in Belgrade, Serbia) lives and works in Belgrade. She has completed her Bachelor and Master studies at Faculty of Fine Arts (Painting) in Belgrade. Her paintings are autobiographical and represent her visual diary. Although she paints in oil and enamel colors from afar her artworks resemble computer doodles. She has participated in various solo and international exhibitions including 57th October Art Salon, Belgrade. Her work has been featured on Juxtapoz, Abstract, Time Out London and many other art publications. She has received two awards for Painting the former being the Ristai Beta Vukanović prize and the latter from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade.

Dio Horia 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 in the second half of 2019 it will open a new location in Athens.

— **Booth 446**
Exposure Section

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— **Now showing at Dio Horia Mykonos**

Amir Fallah: Worlds Apart

Solo & residency show

August 23 - September 30, 2019

— **Upcoming at Dio Horia Athens**

Hulda Guzmán: Self-Care Self-Sabotage

Inaugural Show in Athens Space

October 23 – November 20, 2019

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