



Serbian artist Maja Djordjevic celebrates Love and all of Life's challenges.

Athens, November 27, 2019 — Dio Horia gallery announces the first solo exhibition of Serbian artist Maja Djordjevic, in Athens called 'I Am Always a Different Person'. The exhibition opens on November 29, in the presence of the artist.

In her practice, **Maja Djordjevic** works in painting and sculpture, combining oil and enamel, to weave narratives of private experience, her own and that of others. Djordjevic's artistic practice began in 2014 when she decided to copy the shapes and colors of the doodles that one makes when painting in the computer. Ever since, this became her primary artistic tactic. Formally, her artworks look like simple drawings. In some parts they have concrete representational meanings and in other parts they are composed of random and abstract lines. Technically they are challenging compositions created with multiple layers of enamel, executed on the floor, without the use of tape or projection.

For her first major project, that was a residency at Dio Horia Gallery in Mykonos in 2015, Djordjevic followed strangers in the island and documented their stay with the use of doodles and painted imagery. Then she painted herself living her subjects' experiences. The combination of voyeurism, portraiture and the public exposure of private experiences became hallmarks of Djordjevic's subsequent work. A blonde girl (the artist is blonde), usually naked so as to look developed and not childish, came to life. For the next 5 years Djordjevic presented herself in various situations that she collected, following narratives of other people and positioning herself in their stories. The artist used painting to understand how she would act if these stories were her own.

In the exhibition '**I Am Always a Different Person**', Djordjevic looks into her own current emotional experience for her subject matter. Djordjevic is in love and so is the blonde alter ego in her artworks. Her love is not a romantic one but a realistic condition that has changed her daily life and needs constant effort and maneuvering to maintain itself. Wobbly Ancient Greek columns and exercise weights portrayed in the works, act as props and refer to these efforts. The central work of the exhibition called also '*I Am Always a Different Person*' portrays Djordjevic's girl holding her head upside down in her hands. Possibly, the work acts as a portrayal of love as a dangerous condition that has edges, cuts deeps – and that is why it feels like nothing else on earth. Other works in the exhibition like the two large sculptural works of a couple courting each other with flowers, focus on questions of absence and desire in her personal relationship.

Finally, for the exhibition Djordjevic has portrayed a series of small-scale portraits of girls in different emotional states that seem to be laughing or screaming, depending on the viewer's interpretation of each one. Some of these portraits have very basic diary entries of text on them that the artist has written down in the past year. All texts are copied in the artworks as were written in her journal and



that is why some have grammatical and spelling errors that Djordjevic who is not a Native English speaker, unconsciously makes.

In 'I Am Always A Different Person' **Maja Djordjevic** invites the viewer to feel, perceive and experience love— as well as to understand the excitement, the fear and the ephemerality of all sentiments — and encounter them as life challenges that reveal the magic of existence. Finally, through the representation of the challenges and adaptations of love, the artist seeks to talk about the constant efforts and flexibility needed to handle all kind of life's challenges.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

— **Maja Djordjevic** (b. 1990, Belgrade) lives and works in Belgrade and London. She has completed her Bachelor and Master studies at Faculty of Fine Arts (Painting) in Belgrade. She has participated in various solo and international exhibitions including Look At This, group Show, Skip Gallery, Arts Building, London, 2019, Nothing to Wear, Installation, Selfridges Department Store, 2019, Post Digital Pop, group show curated by Sasha Bogojev with Mark Chalmers, The Garage, Amsterdam, 2019, Malmö Sessions, group exhibition, Carl Kostyál Gallery, Malmo 2019 and at the 57th October Art Salon, Biennial exhibition, 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 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 headquarters are based in Mykonos, Greece.



— **Dio Horia in Athens** is the third pop up space Dio Horia Platform opens in Athens. Following exhibitions in the center of Athens in the previous years, Dio Horia opened in October 2019, in the suburbs of Athens, and specifically in the Neo Psychiko area. Psychiko is a popular commercial area known also for its many embassies and historical mansions. Dio Horia is opening the only academic cultural space in the area, just as it opened the first cultural platform in Mykonos back in 2015. This brings international contemporary art back to Psychiko some 15 years after the legendary contemporary art space of DESTE Foundation, which used to be located just a block away, closed its doors and moved to a new building. Establishing cultural institutions in communities that lie beyond the central cultural districts of a city or region is part of a worldwide change in cultural planning and one of the ways culture is distributed today. Dio Horia Athens is located on the ground floor of a modern commercial building sitting right at the heart of Psychiko, overlooking one of Athens' busiest avenues. The space is very bright, with two sides covered with impressive floor to-ceiling windows. The view from these windows is double and acts as a background to the art: the traffic and urban landscape of Kifissias Avenue on one side; and the quiet market street of Psychiko with the local supermarket, a flower shop and other small businesses on the other. This is the next chapter in the colorful history of Dio Horia as a vibrant, community-made art platform that remains curious, international and inclusive at heart.

Download press images here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/DIO%20HORIA%20Team%20Folder/PRESS%20KITS%20FOR%20JOURNALISTS/2019%20PRESS%20KIT/6.%20NOVEMBER>



— Exhibition info

Maja Djordjevic
I am Always a Different Person
November 29 - January 15, 2020

Dio Horia Gallery
Olimpionikon 220 & Likourgou,
Neo Psychiko 15451 (Faros) Athens
Greece
Tel: +30 210 6714827

Opening Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 10:00-18:00
Tuesday & Thursday & Friday: 10:00-21:00
Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 - 19:00

Email: info@diohoria.com
<http://www.diohoria.com/>

— Upcoming

UNTITLED Miami, 2019
Hulda Guzman, Aleksandar
Todorovic, Despina Stokou
December 3 –December 8, 2019

Lummus Park
Ocean Dr &, 12th St, Miami Beach, FL
33139

For additional information please contact the gallery.