Archive Crisis: Shaking Up the Shelves of History

Stefanos Tsivopoulos
Visual Artist and Filmmaker

Discussion with the artist will follow

*Archive Crisis* is a visual essay based on a series of previously unpublished images from Greek (media) archives. Tsivopoulos collected and appropriated the material, after extensive research in private and public media archives over a period of seven years. The book explores the mechanisms of visual culture in a mediated democracy and their effect on the production of collective memory.

*The Precarious Archive* consists of two interlocked components: (a) a physical space for an archive that consists of 900 images, and (b) a continuous live performance that activates it. The Precarious Archive constitutes an idiosyncratic archive that touches upon atypical archival strategies, questions methods of representation, and reflects on images as multi-dimensional, economy driven hyper-commodities.

*Project Syntagma* (ONE STEP FORWARD TWO STEPS BACK) focuses on the political uses and the history of the famous Syntagma Square in Athens. At the core of the work are archival photographs, audio documents and political speeches that Tsivopoulos uses in a series of public interventions around the public space of the Square itself. With these happenings-interventions, Tsivopoulos aims for a dialogue with the history of political changes and the claiming of the square as a public arena for political activism and the idea of Democracy.

*Stefanos Tsivopoulos* is a Greek visual artist and filmmaker living and working in Amsterdam, Athens, and New York. His films and other works often result from long-term research into historical documents, libraries, and photographic archives, and are typified by a poetic cinematic language and the use of allegoric narratives. One of the most prominent Greek artists of his generation, Tsivopoulos is interested in Greek historical archives as visual by-products of tumultuous political times, marked by, among other things, nationalist propaganda, crypto-colonialism, and terrorism. He reintroduces archival materials in his works, as the reminders of an unsettling past and a present in crisis. His films are presented in Art Museums and Film Festivals around the world, with over 200 group and solo exhibitions. In 2013 he represented Greece at the 55th Venice Biennial with his video installation *History Zero*, to wide acclaim from both the public and the critics. *History Zero* has been presented in over 15 countries and was the subject of extensive research, lectures, publications, screenings, by both academic and artistic circles.


Thursday, May 5, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Scheide Caldwell House, Room 103

Supported by The Christos G. and Rhoda Papaioannou Modern Greek Studies Fund