



PRESS RELEASE

The Jewish Museum of Greece is pleased to present *Form/Less*, an exhibition of works by interdisciplinary artist Maria Fragoudaki (b. 1983), curated by Saranna Biel-Cohen.

Drawing from Plato's "Theory of Forms", the artist explores the ability of the senses to convey Ideas. Whereas in Plato's *Phaedo* the senses are seen as an impediment to the understanding of truth, this exhibition is a study of our capacity to perceive through the senses. Thus, sense perception becomes an instrument of knowledge, and the physical, material objects become a manifestation of abstract Ideas.

Fragoudaki, interacts with the materials seeking Forms or Ideas indirectly associated with their conventional intent or purpose. She delves into the greater concept of materiality questioning what we see, what we feel and what we are able to understand.

Through her interaction with the material she is trying to reveal Forms that are inherent to the objects, but hidden at first sight. **"What is a stone? It is hard, but not always strong. It can be fragile; it can be brittle. As I interact with it, incorporating it in my paintings, different characteristics and emotions are revealed. Sometimes obvious, sometimes surprising."** Says Maria Fragoudaki.

Once the artist interacts with materials, she becomes aware of what they are and their properties and often transforms them, challenging our notion of reality. **"Rope is stubborn; it has its own personality. I like to work with it, reveal its character. Rope can be curled; it can be hauled. It can stay soft, it can get tensed, hardened like steel. It is something that often needs strength to interact with and it becomes very physical to work with."** (M.F.) Therefore all interactions with materials become a full, physical, experiential process.

The works in this exhibition were inspired by artifacts from the permanent exhibition of the Jewish Museum of Greece. They express the artist's interpretation of the tactile, material culture of two thousand years of Jewish history in Greece through stone, wood, paint, paper and textile objects.

Exhibition duration: September 28 – November 14 2016.

Opening hours: Daily 09.00 – 14.30, Saturday: Closed, Sunday: 10.00 –14.00.

Admission fees: adults 6€, students 3€

Free admission for the opening.

For further information and photographic or printed material, please contact the Jewish Museum of Greece, 39 Nikis st., 105 57 Athens, tel: +30 210 32 25 582, fax: +30 210 32 31 577, info@jewishmuseum.gr, www.jewishmuseum.gr and Ms. Saranna Biel-Cohen Saranna@Sarannabelcohen.com.

Artist Biography:

Maria Fragoudaki (b. 1983, Greece). The New York based interdisciplinary artist engages a variety of visual languages such as painting, sculpture, dance and performance, to create narratives that are brought to life using materials that include rubber, rope, tape and paint. Inspired by the art movement of the 1960's known as Process Art, her focus has gradually shifted from the use of paint to the material itself and it's interaction with space as well as with other materials. Maria Fragoudaki has presented her work in numerous group and solo shows throughout Europe and the US and her works have also been featured at; The Royal Academy, London, the Historical and Folklore Museum of Aegina in Greece and the Goulandris Natural History Museum in Athens.

She holds a Bachelor and a Master degree of Science in Chemistry, specializing on the physical properties of materials, from the University of London and completed residencies at the School of Visual Arts, New York, in painting and mixed media.