

# Maria Fragoudaki

## Transformation-Reconstruction-Composition

Maria Fragoudaki is one of the most notable creators of the new generation. She initially studied Chemistry and Pharmacology in London, while working for Roche pharmaceuticals. She gained her Bachelor's and Master of Science degrees, specialising in the physical properties of materials from the University of London. Since 2012, she lives and works in New York, where she has completed residencies at the School of Visual Arts, and worked alongside Donald Sheridan, Andy Warhol's master printer, and Andrew Ginzel, a contemporary American artist known for his large-scale public art pieces and installations.

She identifies as an advocate of "process art", and her focus has gradually shifted from the use of paint to the material itself and how it interacts with space as well as with other materials. She uses her knowledge of chemistry in an attempt to break down materials and create fusions of ostensibly different materials upon her canvas. Plaster, rubber, feathers, bubble wrap are transformed in Maria's hands, creating remarkable compositions. Wood shavings, tape, wire and string, acrylic products and solvents are a few of the materials that gain a new lease of life through art. She is not afraid to tear, to burn, to add or subtract incongruous objects on the canvas, all in search of a final result that will satisfy her, imbuing her art with a visual and emotional complexity.

Her work - painting, dance, performance -has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, in museums and galleries throughout Europe, the US and Japan including the Royal Academy of Arts in London, Scope Miami, Scope Basel and the Jewish Museum of Athens (2016) where she exhibited works from her FORM/Less series. In 2017 she showed her latest body of work *BedSheets* at SG Art Gallery in Athens and performed at Syntagma Square the project titled *BedSheets – The Duality of Freedom*.

In July, 2018 Maria will return to exhibit in Greece at the island of Syros. Representative pieces from her evolutionary journey so far will be presented, alongside selected work by the pioneers of Greek abstraction, such as Yiannis Spyropoulos, Alekos Kontopoulos, Thanos Tsingos, Marios Prasinis, Theodoros Stamos, Yannis Gaitis, and Nikos Kessanlis. The exhibition will be held at the majestic space of the Gallery of the Cyclades in Ermoupoli in Syros, which once housed the warehouses of the former Customs building.

Exhibition Curator: Giorgos Altouvas

Private View: Saturday, July 21, 2018

Exhibition length: July 21 to August 26, 2018