

## ***Athens sound walks – descriptions***

### **FONÉS COLLECTIVE**

#### ***City Link***

Nina Pappa & Nikos Bubaris – around the CityLink building : Panepistimiou Str., Amerikis Str., Stadiou Str., Voukourestiou Str.

Six Athenians stroll around this iconic building commenting on its present uses and recalling their childhood memories. The images of an affluent cosmopolitan lifestyle are often mentioned in these narrations. These images are idealized when they refer back to the past but are criticized when they are performed during the ongoing contemporary financial crisis.

#### ***Addressing Debt***

Elpida Rikou & George Samantas – Ermou and Aeolou areas

The central market streets Ermou and Aeolou are regarded as fields of economic exchange, as well as of social invocations between sellers, buyers, street vendors, beggars and street musicians. This sound-walk reflects on Elpida Rikou's artistic project "ESI" ("you") -in which these types of invocations are regarded as bodily and vocal performances- with the help of artist Despina Sarafidou. On a different layer of the soundwalk, we are introduced to a couple that directly comments on these performances, together with the transformations of urban space, enclosed in their familiar, private space of their mobile phone conversations.

#### ***Theater of Struggle***

George Samantas - Panepistimiou Street, Syntagma Square

Amidst the fundamental changes that transform Athens in the long run, everyday urban experience is often signified by political demonstrations, that also constitute urban space transformations, however temporary. This sound-walk deals with the emotional and sensory aspects of such protest, and the alternative temporalities, the polyphonies and cacophonies that are encapsulated within such temporary protest zones.

### **INDEPENDENT ARTISTS**

#### ***Island***

Zoi Arvaniti & Marios Vouros – Psirri area

The main theme is the relation between city and immigration which is being approached through three separate themes: luggage (cultural or not), movement and, lastly, common fields of interaction within the city. Thinking space as a small island, as a space of communication between all groups (immigrants' communities and natives) our soundwalk consists of words that we have appropriated, from photographs that we have recorded, while we are trying to describe the geography of this space.

#### ***Around the market***

Sofia Grigoriadou – Omonia Square, Athinas Str. area, Monastiraki Square

People, senses, stories are at the heart of the market. Voices -in various languages- of people moving there daily are an integral element of the local soundscape. Apart from the usual vocal routines, people have shared memories, descriptions, everyday tactics, performances related to the area. The walk is based on the ephemeral music of the place -a meshwork of natural and mediated voices, street music, machinery, birds, weather conditions. There are moments to drift and others to raise questions about the area, migration, politics.

#### ***Logoria***

Maria Methimaki and Mariza Parasyri – around Voulis

The sound walk is a literary play with the images, the poetry and the space of Voulis street. A public space meets with the private space of a poet. Words interact with the urban reality; apparently similar routes and similar stories in repetitive pattern reveal almost imperceptible differences, and make you aware that minor differences can make a big change.

#### ***Becoming bird – becoming other***

Dāna Papachristou – Syntagma square, Karytsi square, Commercial Triangle.

An imprint of the acoustic environment of an area previously known as the commercial triangle of the city, through combined time periods and circumstances (day, night, the carnival). The deleuzian notion of *becoming* is chosen in order to depict the idea that Athenians, like the stray birds of the city, use music and sounds to territorialize, open to the world, mate and confront with their fear of an ongoing financial crisis, throughout all their activities, such as commercial life; bar industry; recreation; sexual behaviour of a carefree night time; and the depersonalized carnival ecstasy.

#### ***Kollisi / Regeneration***

Stefanos Souvatzoglou & Poka – Psirri area

An ambience of destruction gradually transforms to a soothing sounds of regeneration that guide you throughout Psirri. A piercing sound of welding leads to rebirth, while birds songs underline nature's calmness and serenity. Wind casts a new place and time. A sound walk – sound poem invites the wanderer and enhances the mystique of the area. The optimistic perspective of the walk is the notion of rebirth and regeneration that exists seminally in a space that is subject to crisis.

### **UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY**

#### ***BIT – the Psirri Challenge***

Isabella Karouti & Antonia Lappa – Psirri area

The walker-listener can choose between two possible routes. According to his choice he plays a role in a video game, significant for today's Athens, but situated in the past: as a policeman or as an outlaw. The so called "koutsavakia" once reigned in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Psirri area. They were armed outlaws notorious for racketeering, and causing social unrest. The walker is caught in a cat-and-mouse hunt whether an outlaw or as policeman through the alleys of Psirri, under constant instructions and an 8-bit computer game soundtrack, leading him to his final destination.

#### ***Theatrou***

Melina Bona & Rodoula Monaki – around Theatrou Square

Three "moments in time" show the changes that shape the history of this square and of the city of Athens. Sounds of a run-down, decadent and mostly empty present of the area are redirected to three evocative soundscapes, each of a different layer: a future vision after its transformation to a small urban garden, a past vision, when the square hosted the School of Industrial Arts, Crafts and Design, and one listening back to the first Theater of Athens, also once located on the square.