

A photograph of a dirt path lined with green trees and bushes. Blue caution tape is strung across the path. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent green circle in the center.

Oi Mouries

Portfolio

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Chronology of produced works:

2021:

May:

Meeting with the Trees: participatory experience at Lykabettus hill as part of the Lykabettus Festival, Athens. <https://www.facebook.com/lycabettusfestival/>

June:

Reading sessions: weekly gatherings as part of our internal process of work. Self-organized.

September:

Mouries under the Trees: participatory experience at Pedion Tou Areos, as part of the Athens Garden Festival. Invited by the Institut français de Grèce and coproduced with the independent art space Yellow Brick. <https://www.yellowbrick.gr/>

October:

Workshop *Sketching rituals for forests' regeneration*, as part of the public program of the exhibition *Lost and Shared: Approaches to Collective Mourning Towards Transformative Politics*, at the independent art space One Minute Space. <https://one-minute-space.org/>

2022:

February - ongoing:

Care Council: weekly gatherings as part of our internal process of work. Self-organized.

April:

12sqm: Filopappou's Hidden Flowers: performative walk and exhibition at Or.artspace. <http://orartspace.com/>

May:

Exercises on Dwelling: participatory experience at Pedion Tou Areos as part of the Hills & Fields Festival. Invited by EIGHT / TO OXTΩ - Critical Institute for Arts and Politics



Meeting with the Trees

An invitation to listen together, read and recognise the knowledges, stories, memories and song shared between us and the trees, as part of the Lykabettus Festival 2021.

Fragment of the collective text we wrote:

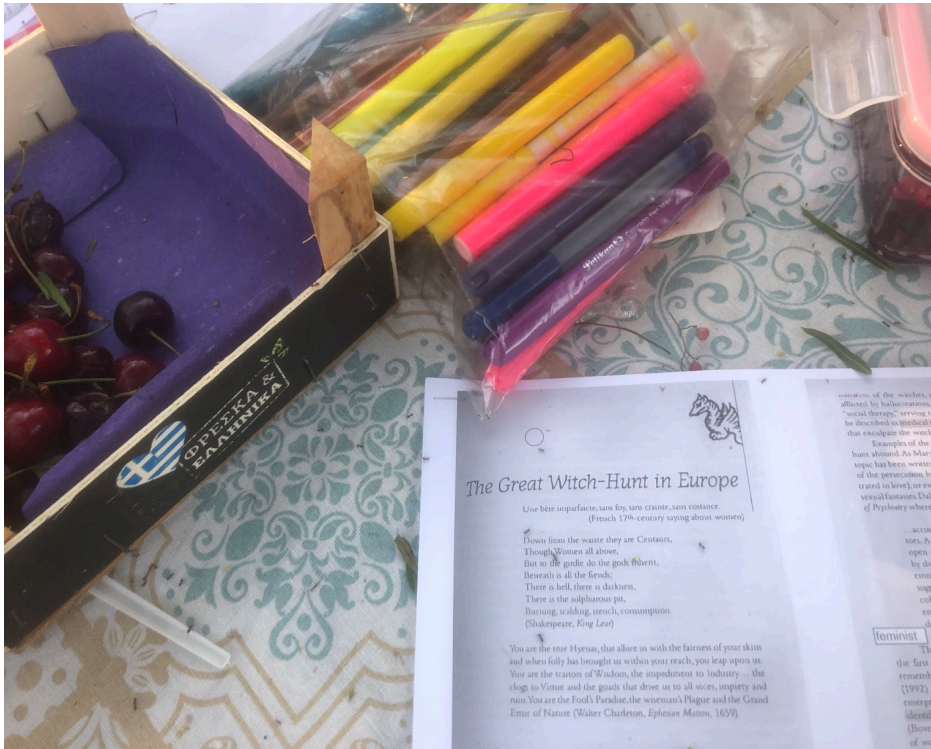
“We want to create a liberating space for the coexistence of different approaches that aim to the expanding and understanding of storytelling. We aim to deepen our perception and explore the connection between intimacy and public space and the hill as a filter of the city. By learning to hear the trees, we can also learn to hear each other. We explore our relationship with nature - and with each other. We are separate and different, but we are equally present on Lycabettus as beings who share this common space. We all have stories to tell about it, as we all live it in our way.”





All the pictures were taken by Nuno Cassola.





Pic-nic and collective reading

Weekly sessions of reading and discussion in public space of *Caliban and the Witch* by Silvia Federici, by initiative of Mouries' member Vasiliki Sifostatoudaki.



At the basis of magic was an animistic conception of nature that did not admit to any separation between matter and spirit, and thus imagined the cosmos as a living organism, populated by occult forces, where every element was in "sympathetic" relation with the rest. In this perspective, where nature was viewed as a universe of signs and signatures, marking invisible affinities that had to be deciphered, every element — herbs, plants, metals, and most of all the human body — hid virtues and powers peculiar to it.
Silvia Federici



Mouries under the Trees:

A participatory experience at Pedion Tou Areos, Athens Garden Festival. Fragment of the collective text we wrote:

“The trees on Pedion Tou Areos,, as well as the sky that hangs above it and the rock beneath those trees, may have a lot of knowledge that we as humans wandering on those hills, may not know. How can we learn from them? What do we want to learn from them? Are we ready to hear what they have to tell us? How do we relate to them, how do they relate to us? What is their experience of the city? How would we develop the means to hear their stories? We believe that by asking the right questions, one can begin to hear the stories of the trees. And as with any conversation, by listening to others we listen to ourselves. We aim to bring to light the stories, conscious and unconscious, that we relate to the hill, the trees, the parks, the public green spaces of our city.”





Sketching rituals for forests' regeneration

Performance, workshop, walk and discussion in the public space, as part of the public program of the exhibition *Lost and Shared*, curated by Mouries' member Eliana Otta.

Invitation text:

"A three hours workshop to imagine, discuss and put in practice ideas around the creation of rituals to accompany and support lost forests in their regeneration process. This encounter is inspired by the recent fires in Greece, and is an open invitation to those who, like us, felt the need to do "something" without knowing exactly what. Maybe we will find out together?"





12sqm: Filopappou's Hidden Flowers

Performative walk around the neighbourhood of Koukaki and Filopappou Hill and exhibition at Or.artspace.

Invitation text:

What can the flowers of Filopappou tell us about the secrets of the area? What is hidden? What stories do the flowers hold? What are their experiences at present, what do they hope for our future? Can trying to understand the flowers expand our experience of Koukaki? How can humans and flowers communicate with each other? The Mouries Collective invites you to explore these questions, and more, in a three-hour participatory, performative walk. We will begin by sharing stories of Koukaki and Filopappou, and reading short texts to focus and connect with the lives and experiences of flowers. Then we will transform Or Space's 12sqm spatial dimensions into a moving and embodied frame. Walking with attention and care, this temporary tool will amplify our ability to observe, listen, sense, register and speculate with and through the flora of the neighbourhood. The "bouquet" of materials gathered during the walk - drawings, notes and photographs - will be transferred back to Or Art Space where we will compose a collective mural to accompany the work of our fellow artists' pieces in the exhibition space. Proceeds from any possible sales will be shared with the workshop participants in the form of a collective meal at the end of the exhibition.



Exercises on Dwelling

Participatory experience at Pedion Tou Areos as part of the Hills & Fields Festival. Invited by EIGHT / TO OXTΩ - Critical Institute for Arts and Politics

Invitation text:

Mouries Collective invites you to participatory performances and ponderings on dwelling in the contemporary urban habitat. By bringing together words, temporary structures and movement research we will explore, through collective inhabitation inside the park, issues of comfort, safety, privacy, community, isolation, rest and routine.



The Care Council:

Weekly meeting to discuss, share and work with our bodies and senses around notions of care, by initiative of Mouries' member Isabel Gutierrez. A fragment from her descriptive text:

"The Care Council is an experimental project that seeks to develop care practices and relationships that embrace radical re-interpretations of kinship. At its core, it asks: How and what type of care practices can help us become kin in healthy, sustainable and liberatory ways? It will attempt to collectively weave broader questions around how capitalism shapes the ways we relate with one another and with more-than-human beings, with situated experiences and personal stories reflecting about how "permanent-crisis" as a contemporary condition of (socio-economic and ecological) breakdown, loss, dispossession and fear affects our capacities to trust, share, engage, care, wish and desire, which modes of care we practice and experience in our everyday lives and how those could be expanded or intensified."



Sketching rituals for forests' regeneration

A three days exploration of a burned forest in Evia, near Edipsos. Departing from the workshops made at One Minute Space, we made performatic exercises, guided meditations, and collective approaches to mourning in this deeply affected area. Watch a teaser here: <https://youtu.be/2i1BmspKhtk>

BIOS

Auriane Blanc (France, 1996) (*//nitamortēi*) is a polymorphic artist based currently in Athens after living and creating in France where she was born and in Spain where her ancestors were born. She uses several creative tools like voice, pencil, body and more recently a big blue puppet wool. From streets to theater she mostly enjoys putting dream into reality. Collaboration is very important for her as art is a way to be together, sharing and imagining new creative, social, political experiences.

Maria Juliana Byck (United States, 1965) is a social practice artist engaging through video, installation, textiles and place-based interventions. Through workshops and community collaborations, she activates different social spheres to encourage cross-cultural and inter-generational exchanges. Her current projects focus on sustainable fashion, creative reuse, the commons, collectivity, and connections between art and nature. She recently published her first book *#projectsemedaki* (2022) exploring intersection of fashion, social change, gender and sustainability.

Thalia Dimitropoulou (Greece, 1982) is a Core Energetics body psychotherapy practitioner, an actress and an administrative employee at a law firm. With theatre studies and experience in dance and somatics her work focuses on the wisdom of the body as a vehicle for transformation.

Eliana Otta (Peru, 1981) is an artist with a Master in Cultural Studies by Universidad Católica del Perú and Candidate for the PhD in Practice Program at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. She co-founded the artists-run space Bisagra and coordinated the curatorial team at Lugar de la Memoria, Lima. She merges conversation, embodied experiences, drawing and writing to create collective visions about how to strengthen communities and build up bonds, especially connecting mourning to regeneration.

Isabel Gutiérrez Sánchez (Spain, 1986) is a researcher and educator with a background in anthropology and architecture. She teaches at The Bartlett School of Planning (UCL). She is interested in the study and production of counter-narratives and imaginaries through ethnography, political fictions, architectural design and art projects. She has collaborated with visual and performance artists in London and Athens, where their common work has been exhibited. She facilitates workshops on care and political fictions for social and cultural collectives and individuals interested.

Vasiliki Sifostatoudaki (Greece, 1979) is a visual artist, graphic designer and educator. She holds a degree from the Athens School of Fine Arts and a MA in Fine Arts from Piet Zwart Institute, Willem de Kooning Academy. Her artistic practice initiates “mechanisms of curiosity” by attempting to reconstruct new perceptual environments through spatial and performative interventions / notes. Throughout her practice she has been part in several research projects, residences, creating installations, events and performances in public space, as well as in collaboration with public, private and educational institutions.

Artemis Papageorgiou (Greece, 1981) is a media artist exploring the convergence of natural and computational systems inside the urban landscape, through interactive installations, playful architectural devices, textiles and performances. For the past decade she has collaborated with museums and festivals internationally, while on a city level she has worked for the Open Design School, Matera European Capital of Culture 2019.

Sanem Su Avcı (Turkey, 1989) is a social scientist, entrepreneur and artist. She has studied political science and related disciplines in the University of Bogazici, University of Ankara, the University of Athens, and is currently preparing to enter a PhD programme in history. Since 2018 she lives in Athens. Sanem writes, narrates, makes music and performs, and her works stand on the frontier between science and art. She creates her work individually and in collectives, around the themes of the commons, public space, care, sovereignty, identities and ideologies, religion and divination, death and futurity.