

Press release - 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2010

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**Nakis Panayotidis**

*Ivresse Rêvée*

11<sup>th</sup> June – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2010



*Rice fields, 2009, charcoal and pastel on canvas, 85x112x6 cm*

After the inaugural exhibition about Lucio Fontana and the one dedicated to Alighiero Boetti, described as “museum level” by Le Journal des Arts (“It is rare to struggle for breath for an exhibition in an art gallery. (...) Exceptionally, an exhibition in a gallery preceded the activity of institutional revaluation”, Roxana Azimi, April 2010), Tornabuoni Art will present a retrospective show dedicated to Nakis Panayotidis from the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, in its Parisian space.

The exhibition of Nakis Panayotidis artworks, bonded under the title « Ivresse rêvée » (literally Dream Euphoria), takes place under the direction of Bruno Corà, director of the Art Museum of Lugano.



The exhibition, composed by 24 important and chosen works, shows the most impressive phases of the greek artist career in the last thirty years. As we know, the greatest part of Panayotidis production is conceived under the sign of the light: in the paintings on photographic base as well as in the plastic works, the light, neon or halogen, is the constitutive element of his assemblages.

In the last years, from the exhibition in Genoa to the one in Thessaloniki, after the one of La Spezia, Rome, Bern, his production dialogues with Arte Povera poetry. It denotes the exigence to conceive the elaboration of his creative career in a dialectic way with the aspects of reality which affect our consciousness and our identity of contemporary: the media lies in the consumerism society, the violence and indifference, the dream repression and the absence of freedom and perspective.

In his visual concept, the presence of the memory, the journey, the exile and wandering condition are dominant: these elements are a pure poetic mood before being objective.

Panayotidis was born in Athens in 1947. In the 60's he studied Architecture in Turin, where he was close to the Arte Povera experimentation of Maurizio Mochetti, Mario and Marisa Merz. Since the 80's he started to create some photographic works with the addition of different materials, including metals and stones. Since 1989 he made the first installations with some words-signs on lead. In 1994 he has his first solo exhibition at Kunstmuseum of Bern, followed by several retrospectives in other important European cities.

Panayotidis works are included in the most important collections and international museums: Kunstmuseum of Bern, Museum of Modern Art Villa Croce of Genoa, Center for Contemporary Art Rethyno-Greece, Centre for Contemporary art of Carrara, and in prestigious private collection, such as Targetti Art Light in Florence and Donald Hess in California.

Solo exhibitions selection in institutions and international museums:

Kunstmuseum Bern, Swiss

Kunsthalle Erfurt, Germany

Palazzo Ducale Gênes, Italy

State Museum of Contemporary Art Thessaloniki, Greece

Centre d'art Contemporain, Epinal, France

CAMeC, Center for the Modern and Contemporary Art, La Spezia, Italy

The exhibition at Tornabuoni Art Gallery is documented by a catalogue of Forma Editions, with a critical text by Bruno Corà (108 pages, illustrations and colors).

10th June 2010: opening reception from 6.00 pm in the presence of the artist.

Open to the public: from 11th June, through 24<sup>th</sup> July, from Monday to Saturday, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm / 2.00 am – 6.30 pm.

High Resolution pictures, interviews and private views on demand:

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