

*Kathimerini* answers

1. You have shown on quite a few occasions in Athens, do you feel there is an open dialogue between Athens and Istanbul? Maybe you feel that Athens is a place that is somehow like a "relative" to Istanbul?

Yes, I participated several very interesting shows in Greece such as Grand Promenade curated by Anna Kafetsi (2006) Thessaloniki Biennale by Adelina von Fürstenberg (2013) and the height of my relationship with Athens was in 2012 when I showed "The Apartment Building" as a commission from EMTS. To my surprise when I was involved with the creative point when I was doing a project for Greece, it always happened to be a story that linked our mutual geography. Therefore I am convinced that there is a strong dialogue between Athens and Istanbul.

2. The exhibition includes different expressive mediums, what does each one offer to you?

I love to use different mediums to express myself. This is something that I did for a long time even in small shows. Though there are paintings, collages, assemblages and a small video film in this show the viewer will find out that they altogether create one sentence in the end.

3. This exhibition refers to the history of a city in parallel also to your own personal story as depicted through the porcelain objects?

When I speak about my story it is inevitable that I speak about other stories as well because until mid 50s Istanbul was another city, a city that do not resemble much to what we experience now. A child, memory keeps the beautiful things in mind forever. The porcelain figurines remind me a small beautiful clean house, a vitrine in the living room full of those figurines which I admire and a dear neighbor aunt giving me a colored egg, wrapped in a beautiful embroidered handkerchief every Easter.

4. Could you please tell us more about the video and *Madam Marta*?

Madam Martha is a legend for Burgazada, one of the Prince Islands of Istanbul. Her origin seems different in every article I read but she is depicted more like a Coptic Egyptian. She fell in love and married an Armenian guy from the Island. She seems to be an independent and emancipated woman as she never cared about what people say. She loved the sea that was for sure

and the bay where she bathed naked was called Madam Marta Bay after her. Of course there were people around who admired her but at the same time one can feel there was also great hostility as she committed suicide in the end by leaving a note "Now you can make yourselves comfortable".

My small video film is an ode to her.

5. What are the themes that are being addressed through the exhibition *The Peculiar Song*?

The name of the exhibition was there from the beginning. The heavy relationship and the history of the two countries especially the Aegean stories always gave me the impression and the sound of an ongoing peculiar song. So I did not hesitate to name this exhibition as "The Peculiar Song".

6. Do you believe that the contemporary citizen has a need of open borders and maybe more than one 'homelands'?

This might be a great wish but in the conditions where governments are still willing to build more walls, I think we have to wait for a long time.