

GAZELLI ART HOUSE



Francesco Jodice, *What We Want*, Osaka, T49, 2008. Courtesy Gazelli Art House.

Borders

Aziz + Cucher, Francesco Jodice, Kalliopi Lemos

Private view: April 24th, 6-8pm (BST)

Exhibition: April 25th – May 31st, 2020

Where in this vast interconnected world do borders fit, what is their real purpose and how might they change in the world after Covid-19? Do they separate us or help us belong?

With its physical spaces closed, Gazelli Art House's work continues online. On 24th April, the gallery will launch its online exhibition 'Borders', hosted entirely digitally by the gallery for the first time, with groundbreaking work by artists including Aziz + Cucher, Francesco Jodice, and Kalliopi Lemos. The exhibition tackles themes including the European refugee crisis and the destabilising effects of globalisation, highlighting the contested nature of borders at a time of renewed global crisis and inequality.

The exhibition will host a three-dimensional video work by each artist. These include Aziz + Cucher's *In Some Country Under a Sun and Some Clouds* (2012), a four-channel video installation originally commissioned by the Indianapolis Museum of Art using a mixture of performance and video compositing techniques to engage with the psychological aftermath of conflict and displacement. Francesco Jodice's *Morocco Affair* (2004) is formed from a series of 82 portraits of European holiday homes in Morocco. Kalliopi Lemos and collaborator Nancy Atakan's *Necklace in Time* (2020) sees the two women wear heavy golden necklaces adorned with colorful jewels referencing Ottoman designs; the artists remove the jewels and replace them with embroidered words reflecting their experiences of birth, love, friendship and marriage.

Accompanying this groundbreaking digital exhibition will be a series of live takeovers of the gallery's Instagram channel by performance artists including London-based Whiskey Chow; talks with exhibiting artists via digital conferencing platforms including Zoom and Twitch, along with digital guided tours through online viewing rooms. The exhibition will return when Gazelli Art House reopens in physical form later this year.

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Gazelli Art House founder and director Mila Askarova said: “With the recent examples of countries competing for resources in the wake of Covid-19, we have never lived in a more globalized yet separated world. The universality of the subject invites us to reflect on human nature and society today. Our show aims to question the definition of borders and how we can all embrace each other’s understanding of them without becoming polarized in the process. These exciting artists are searching for an aesthetic that can express both the anxieties and expectations of living in such a moment”.

Aziz + Cucher’s *In Some Country Under a Sun and Some Clouds* (2012) depicts figures in western and Middle Eastern dress in ambiguous movements of prayer and dance. It is shown alongside their works on paper *Frieze series* (2018-2019), made using mixed media ink and silkscreen printing. This builds upon the pair’s tapestry work, including the *Some People Tapestry Cycle* shown at Gazelli Art House in 2018.

Francesco Jodice, a photographer based in Italy, explores art and geopolitics in *Morocco Affair* (2004), showing houses in the suburbs of Oujda, a city 30km from the African coast on the Mediterranean, close to the Algerian border. It was shot using infrared film at night. Most such houses belong to MRE (Marocains Résidants à l’Etranger), from countries including Belgium, Germany, Holland, France and Spain. The exhibition also features his *What We Want* (2000–) inkjet on cotton paper series of images from cities including Osaka, Bethlehem, Hong Kong and São Paulo.

Other artwork on show from Kalliopi Lemos includes her compelling mixed media *Boxed World* works made from photographs, figures, paper, clay and wire installed inside wooden boxes made from material reclaimed from the roof of an old Georgian house. The work draws on the artist’s interest in social and personal confinement. Her *Collage Drawings* (2016) blend photography, colour pencil drawings on handmade Japanese paper and newspaper captions referring to global geopolitics including mass migration and war.

For access to the exhibition’s launch online and for details of events please email press@gazelliarthouse.com to be added to our mailing list.

About the Artists

Anthony Aziz (b. 1961, USA) and **Sammy Cucher** (B. 1958, Peru) live and work in New York, USA. Anthony Aziz + Sammy Cucher begun their career together in 1992 after meeting at the San Francisco Art Institute, and have worked in a variety of media including digital imaging, sculpture, animation, and video-installation. They have exhibited at events and institutions including the 1995 Venice Biennale, Los Angeles County Museum of Art and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. They are now members of the Fine Arts faculty at the Parsons School of Design in New York. The original video installation *Some People* premiered at the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 2012.

Francesco Jodice (b. 1967, Naples, Italy) is a contemporary photographer based in Italy. He is on the faculty of the MA programmes in Visual Arts and Curatorial Studies and Photography and Visual Design at NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan, and of Scuola Holden in Turin. He was among the founders of the Multiplicity and Zapruder groups. He has been in major group exhibitions such as Documenta, the Venice Biennale, the São Paulo Biennial, the ICP Triennial in New York, and has shown his work at the Castello di

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Rivoli in Turin, Tate Modern in London and the Prado in Madrid. His main projects include What We Want, a photographic atlas; The Secret Traces, an archive of urban experiments in shadowing; and Citytellers, a film trilogy about new forms of urbanization.

Kalliopi Lemos (b. 1951, Oinousses, Greece) lives and works in London, UK. Kalliopi Lemos is a Greek-born, London-based sculptor, painter and installation artist. She studied painting and printing at Byam Shaw School of Art, University of the Arts London, Central Saint Martins, where she also pursued post-graduate studies. Many of her works reflect Kalliopi Lemos's persistent interest in the dignity and fate of destitute and power-stricken multitudes, victims of immeasurable neo-capitalism and irresponsibility of political powers. In 2015 she won the Borusan Contemporary Art Collection Prize in Istanbul, Turkey. She has exhibited at Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris, France, and the Byzantine & Christian Museum in Athens, Greece. Her work is held in collections including the Borusan Collection, Istanbul, Turkey; Perpetual Transitions, Onassis Cultural Foundation, New York, USA, and Round Voyage, santralistanbul, Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey.

About the Gallery

Gazelli Art House is a commercial gallery with a wide range of international artists, presenting a broad and dynamic programme to a diverse audience through global public projects and exhibition spaces in London and Baku. Gazelli Art House was founded in 2003 in Baku, Azerbaijan where it held exhibitions with Azeri artists. Having hosted conceptually interlinked off-site exhibitions across London, founder and director of Gazelli Art House, Mila Askarova, opened a permanent space on Dover Street, London in March 2012. In 2017, the redesigned gallery space reopened in Baku, with an ambitious annual program showcasing both local and international artists. Representing artists Aziz+Cucher, Derek Boshier, Stanley Casselman, Francesco Jodice, Recycle Group, Kalliopi Lemos and Niyaz Najafov amongst others, the gallery has built a consistent and diverse program with artists working in sculpture, photography, painting, video, performance and virtual reality.

<http://www.gazelliarthouse.com>

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