

PRESS RELEASE - 19 June 2020

KARFITSES/PINS

A dance performance by Arianna Economou / ECHO ARTS/ Homage to Christoforos Savva

Wednesday 24 June, Thursday 25 June, Friday 26 June (2 performances each day at 20:00 & 21.00)

STATE GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART - SPEL

The performances take place on the occasion of the exhibition “REBIRTH - THE RETURN OF 219 WORKS OF ART FROM THE TURKISH CYPRIOT TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY” at the State Gallery of Contemporary Art – SPEL (16 June – 1 August 2020), with the support of the Cultural Services, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth.

Choreographer’s note:

I was immediately drawn to the studies with pins by Christoforos Savva, at the large retrospective show “UNTIMELY ON TIME: CHRISTOFOROS SAVVA (1924–1968)”, presented at the newly renovated State Gallery – SPEL, Lefkosia, between 31 January and 31 March 2019. Three pieces have inspired my choreography: *Circles & Squares* (1967-68), *Sphere* (1968) and *Rising Form* (1967-68). The fluidity, the play of light and movement within the thickly canvas of pins, reminds one of the uncertainty principle.

“The more precisely the position of some particle is determined, the less precisely its momentum can be predicted from initial conditions” (Werner Heisenberg, quantum physicist).

The pins also appeared to me like cells, and how our bodies consist of millions of cells: *“Cells are the microcosm of our individual self. Each cell is an aspect of our self, of our unconscious and conscious behaviour, and manifests as both our body and our mind”* (Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen, movement artist, researcher, educator and therapist).

Working closely within the abstraction set in Savva’s works and the many geometrical forms overlapping and melting into each other, the dancers explore their body’s spherical space. They play with directions whilst traveling in space, they explore the dialogue between vertical and horizontal planes in the body, and work with or against gravity whilst rising and falling.

the forms are illusive / shaping a dance

we think we have seen the square / the circle, the triangle

they rise and fall / overlap and merge

transferring weight from pin to pin / we follow the space in between

we move in the space in between / the pins resemble notations

we gaze at piercing details / the precision

immateriality / materiality within our space

we dance to concrete sounds

Arianna Economou

KARFITSES / PINS are works using Pins inserted across stretched canvas on Styrofoam (1967-68). The 3 selected works: *Circles and Squares*, *Sphere and Rising Form* belong to these series of 14 works by Chr. Savva, presented first at the Goethe Institute retrospective and then at the 34th Venice Biennial in 1968. The pins mark a new phase in Savva's endless search for new forms, colour and techniques. Their very fragile nature and the use of modest materials, allows one to compare them with *yfasmatografies* and cement reliefs, the latter group of works sharing with the pins the use of styrophone matter.

Christoforos Savva Christoforos Savva b. 1924 in Marathovounos village, Cyprus stepped into the art world after his military contribution during the Second World War. It was in 1947 when he arrived in post-war London and began his education in art, mainly at Heatherley School of Fine Art. He continued in Paris with an even greater interest at the atelier Andre Lhote. After several visits and exhibitions in Cyprus, he settled in Nicosia 1959 and during the next decade he produced a vast body of multi-various works. He died suddenly in 1968, a few weeks after the opening of his last exhibition at the 1st Cyprus Pavilion in Venice. His study with pins became his very last exploration in style and material.

Music for Karfitses by Antonis Antoniou Inspired by Halim El-Dabh. Interestingly, while Savva was stationed in Cairo in 1944 – 1945, an Egyptian composer unbeknown to him, by the name of Halim El-Dabh, had been experimenting with sounds and had performances of his pioneer compositions *Crossing into the Electric Magnetic* and *The Expression of Zaar* (1944). Arianna Economou invited Cypriot electronic music composer Antonis Antoniou to write a new piece, inspired by Halim El-Dabh 's works, to accompany her performance Karfitses / Pins.

CREDITS

Choreographer: Arianna Economou **Dancers:** Alexia Nicolaou, Panagiotis Tofi, Georgia Constantinou- Clark **Styling:** Chara Savvidou **Music:** Antonis Antoniou /Homage to Halim El Dabh **Dramaturgue adviser:** Alexandra Waierstall **Lighting & Technical Support:** Yiorgos Lazoglou **Poster design:** Andreas Spyropoulos **Production Manager:** Pantelis Georghiou
Production: ECHO ARTS

Booking your seat is essential: Tel: 22 479600
(Tuesday – Friday 10.00 – 18.00 /Saturday 11.00 – 19.00).