

# beds

*The idea of this project stemmed from discovering and observing sites in the city of Athens and identifying traces of each location's soul. We thought they would be perfect as venues to host performances of artists we met in time. Some of the places we have seen seem to be made of the same matter as these specific persons. This project is based on the desire and curiosity to see those locations come alive with their work.*

Beds is organized by artists Lucia Bricco (IT/GR) and Iulia Ghita (RO/IT) through JOHN, the artistic platform they created in 2018.

## Topic.

The whole project has and intends to have a strong human character. We refer to the concept of Humanitas, which defines the ethical value of understanding and assistance to those we recognize as our fellow human beings. We want to focus on the common matter belonging to every human manifestation, among different times and spaces, and to underline the proximity between ways of being that are apparently distant.

The title "Beds" comes, consequently, as a metaphor of an intimate and custom place, regarded as familiar even if far from home. Each artist will be given an imaginary bed in the form of a physical place in which to freely create her/his artwork.

## Beds.

The first edition of Beds will involve 5 performance artists and the city of Athens (GR): Lukas Kolm (LT), Sandra Johnston (UK), Antti-Juhani Manninen (FIN), Ximan Wang (CHN/IT), Macklin Kowal (USA/GR).

Each artist is invited to perform in a particular place in the city of Athens, chosen in relation to the deep similarities between the artist's practice and the assigned place.

Beds is based on three pillars: the chosen **place** (considered for its own specificities), the alive relationship created by **Performance art**, and **solidarity**.

## Beds in solidarity.

The idea of Beds intends to intersect the "structure" of an artistic event with the human facts that have determined and determine the past and contemporary history of a city, in this case Athens. As a natural consequence of the approach adopted, we combine the art project with the choice to create a strong contact between the artists and some of the realities that are facing humanitarian problems in Athens in recent years.

## **Beds program.**

The artists will stay in Athens from **September 27 to October 5, 2021** during which they will be supported in the preparation of the performance art piece and invited to hold an artist talk in one of the five participating art spaces currently active in the Athenian art scene.

In addition to what is concerning the personal artistic practice, the artist is invited to collaborate or simply get involved with some organizations committed to providing basic necessities, support, and closeness to people in need.

## **Partnerships.**

Beds project is patronized by the **City of Athens**. The project has established partnerships and collaborations with several institutions/organizations including the **Performance studio** of the Department of Fine Arts, School of Art, University of Western Macedonia, the **Fine Art Academy of Rome, Und.Athens**, Athenian alternative art guide; Athenian art spaces active in the contemporary art scene: **Potential Project, Fokianou Art Space, Automatic Transmission, Yellow Brick, Noucmas; Club Unesco Romania**; solidarity organizations: **Khora** (social kitchen in Athens), and **Pilipala** (art association active in refugee camps).

## **Ending...**

We believe that this project, even if small in size, is able to highlight both private and collective debate.

Through the artist's body Performance art brings aliveness, temporality, and instability to the artwork. The live presence of the artist's body becomes central to the notion of "the real". We believe that Beds can trigger a process that leads to a more articulated perception of what is considered familiar.



## Artists and Spaces.

Here a brief presentation of the 5 artists through some images of their previous works combined with the Athenian places associated with them.



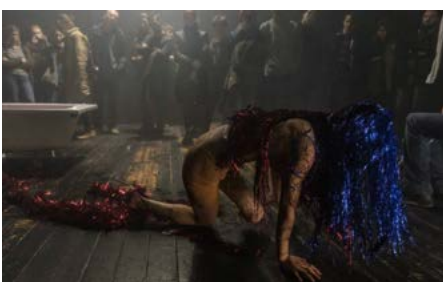
Lukaskolm - The Mycenaean  
Tholos Tomb of Acharnes



Sandra Johnston  
Socrates' prison



Antti-Juhani Manninen  
Gym in the showcase



Ximan Wang  
Abandoned fountain

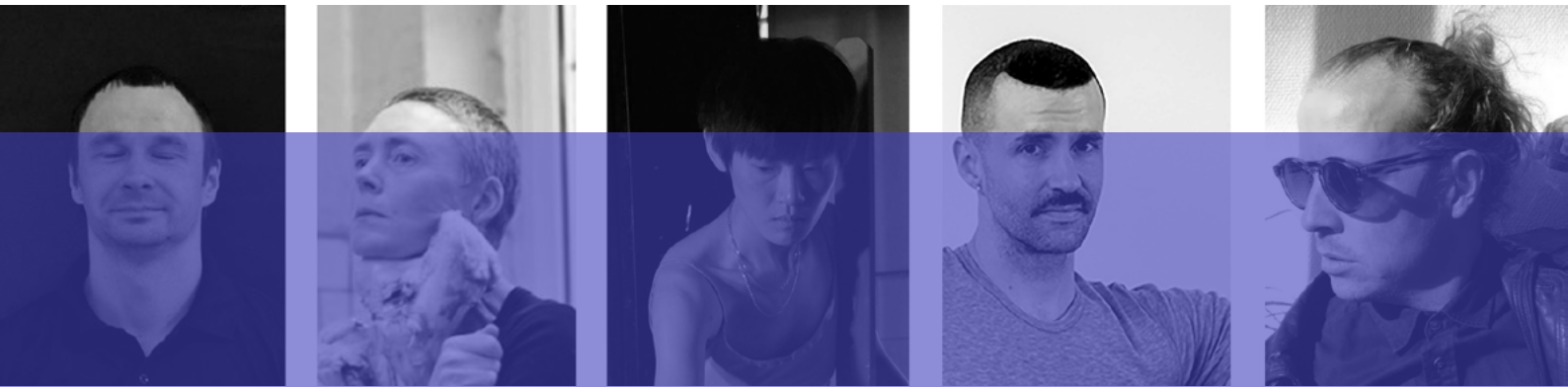


Macklin Kowal  
Korai,4 Bunker



## beds.interviews

collaboration with Performance Studio



Beds.interview is the initiative born from the collaboration between Beds project with Angeliki Avgitidou and her students of the Performance studio of the Department of Fine Arts, School of Art, University of Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece.

The intent is to create direct contact between the 5 artists invited and the art students, through a series of one-to-one meetings and collective roundtables preceding the performance event. These encounters offer an opportunity of exchange with Greece before the physical arrival of the artist, under the form of creative interviews.

Participating students: Zoe Antypa, Tonia Korsak, Nasia Karatsiraki, Marilena Papadakaki, Inna (Marina Voutsas), Basiliki Koukli, Chrisiida Daniilidou.

The whole process and its result, in terms of production of artistic material, will be gathered in the webpage of the artistic platform *JOHN-spaceandgroup*, promoter of the event. It will be also publicly disseminated through a digital publication and its inclusion inside the catalogue of the Beds performance event in Athens.

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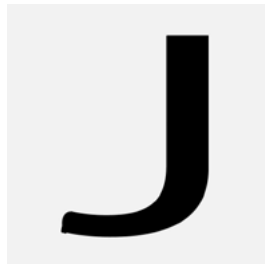
*Performance Studio* is part of the curriculum of undergraduate studies of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Western Macedonia, which was the first to establish performance art studies at a fine arts department in Greece.

## Contacts

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UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA  
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