

Ad hoc Orchestra

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My practice draws inspiration from disparate musical traditions, attempting to create a space made up of auditory and visual elements. New modes of association and communication are born through the assemblage of seemingly incompatible worlds. From the revolutionary energy of today's punk scenes to the harmonious collaboration of the members of a symphonic orchestra, to the exaggerated, almost delirious, joy of post-war film musicals.

The interconnection of disparate, and at first glance incongruous worlds, as realized within the exhibition space, is achieved through the visual, sound and three-dimensional works. It is an attempt to disturb the invocation of predetermined interpretive schemes, while opening up the prospect of new modes of reaction.

Through the juxtaposition of images, orchestral sounds and the repurposing of paraphernalia, my practice aims to transform the exhibition space into an arena, a scene of protest and free expression, where through the rupture of the established state of affairs, new perspectives of communication and peaceful coexistence can be born.

The Magic Flute

This orchestral work is composed from the discarded music notes from the original manuscript of the opera "The Magic Flute" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. These notes which the composer deemed as redundant, reveal an unexpected and hitherto unheard aspect of one of the most interpreted operas in history. The sound piece presented in this exhibition is a live recording of the performance «Rejected Sounds of the Magic Flute», which was presented in October 2021, in the garden of the Municipal University Library in Limassol. The performance was performed by an ad hoc symphony orchestra, composed of nineteen instruments and three sopranos, led by a conductor. Each instrument and voice corresponded to the discarded notes, creating a polyphonic ensemble, formed with the sole purpose of bringing these marginalized sounds to life.

Mozart's final operatic work, "The Magic Flute", is a timeless allegory celebrating the triumph of reason and virtue over absurdity and evil. In the plot of the opera, the magic flute is an instrument that symbolizes the restoration of harmony and balance, as its sound manages to impose order on chaos.

The Movie Musical!

The selected silkscreen prints in this series depict scenes from iconic films from the golden age of musicals: "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1944), "Ziegfeld Follies" (1945), "The Barkleys of Broadway" (1949), and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (1954).

The production of these prints is the result of a long-time preoccupation and extensive research project on the method of silkscreen printing, and a detailed study of the films of the musical genre produced in America during and immediately after World War II.

A musical is a structured world where music, movement and narrative are combined harmoniously to create an emotional experience. The musical genre follows its own logic, where sudden bursting into singing and dancing, seems perfectly natural while reality is elevated through rhythm and spectacle.

Music Festival Paraphernalia

The selected photographs and repurposed collectible objects of this series stem from the DIY Punk Rock Festival, Puntala-Rock, that takes place every July in Lempäälä, Finland, and which has been the focus of my research interest for over a decade (2011-2024). The festival, one of the longest-running and largest of its kind in the Nordic countries, embodies the spirit of self-organization and resistance that has been a timeless feature of the punk movement.

The word “punk” has its roots in the English vocabulary of the 16th century, and it is used to refer to people without a social position or role, associating the word with marginalization and contempt. In the 1970s, the word took on new meaning through music culture, as punks adopted it to signify their opposition to establishment and convention, with a sense of rebelliousness and unconventionality.

Evelyn Anastasiou, March 2025