



Berlin, 9 August 2018

WALL TEXTS OF THE EXHIBITION

Museum Europäischer Kulturen

European Cultural Days: Thessaloniki. Facets of a City

9 August – 9 September 2018

with an exhibition by the Thessaloniki Museum of Photography

Thessaloniki: Looking at time through moments | Photographs 1900–2017

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A photographic tribute to Thessaloniki in the recent past is challenging as the material is vast. Also, because the city's 20th century has been quite turbulent. Thessaloniki was marked by both World Wars, was burned down by fires, it received waves of refugees, was sung as "mother of the poor", experienced several demographic changes. Even more, from a cosmopolitan city of many ethnic communities it became a mostly Orthodox one. But Thessaloniki through its history of 23 centuries always remained a city, as empires were marching in this crossroads between East and West. Topographically Thessaloniki embraces the coasts of Thermaikos Gulf.

Across the gulf Mount Olympus imposes itself, allowing a fleeting view through the contemporary, the historical, nature and mythology. The photographs have different backgrounds: historical documents, professional assignments, others more artistic in nature. As a group they attempt to underline how photography interweaves the formal and the informal, the personal and the collective. Contemplating the photographs, one ponders on the city as point of departure and destination for refugees; the demographic mutations and "ethnic cleansings", the liberations, the everyday life.

Fortunately, we remember. Fortunately again, we forget. Oddly enough, photography is a willing accomplice in both cases: it reminds, just like an arrow pointing towards a certain direction, leaving at the very moment numerous things in the deep shadows. And this is where photography meets Thessaloniki, a city lingering between the seen and the unseen, between the flesh of time and the individuality of moments.

Hercules Papaioannou, Curator

GENERALDIREKTION
PRESSE – KOMMUNIKATION – SPONSORING

Stauffenbergstraße 41
10785 Berlin

MECHTILD KRONENBERG
HEAD OF PRESS, COMMUNICATION,
SPONSORSHIP

JOHANNA KÖHLER
PRESS AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
BERLIN-DAHLEM

Tel: +49 30 266 42 6848

presse@smb.spk-berlin.de
www.smb.museum/presse

PROJECT-RELATED COMMUNICATION

Smith – Agentur für Markenkommunikation
JÖRG POLZER / ANDREAS SEYFFERT

Tel: +49 30 609 809 710
presse@smithberlin.com