

AN ATLAS OF ATHENIAN INSCRIPTIONS: ARCHITECTURE AND GRAFFITI AS MEANS OF VISUAL KNOWLEDGE

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This talk proposes a critical exchange between architecture and graffiti. It focuses on a designed book object, an Atlas of Athenian Inscriptions, which serves a double role: it is heuristic as it allows us create connections that have never been made before, and works cartographically as it resituates the writings in their geographical and temporal contexts enabling our navigation through the Athenian graffiti landscape. The Atlas, in both drawn and written form, offers a close study of three plus one situations in which graffiti has been recorded.

As a starting point, as its situation zero, this research regards the significant 'No Respect' graffiti exhibition held in the Onassis Cultural Centre in 2014. The other three situations reflect important moments of historical ruptures in local political history, during which the surfaces of key edifices in the Greek capital have been extensively graffitied: the former Nazi Detention Centre, which operated during the Axis occupation (1941-1944); the Athens Polytechnic, that played a pivotal role in the student uprising against the Greek Military Junta (1967-1974); and the Bank of Greece HQ building, which is a site of recurring political expression in contemporary crisis (2010-2015).

Building upon Georges Didi-Huberman's understanding of Warburg's *Mnemosyne Atlas* as a "visual form of knowledge", the talk aims to introduce an atlasing method by design means. The careful resituation of graffiti imagetexts in my atlas questions their spatial and temporal order whilst allowing them forge new visual as well as political affinities. The presentation discusses how the atlas book document describes the architecture and/of graffiti and opens up questions of architecture and graffiti related to each situation.

Konstantinos Avramidis holds a DipArch from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, an MSc in Architecture and Spatial Design from the National Technical University of Athens with distinction, and a PhD in Architecture by Design from the University of Edinburgh, where he was awarded the Edinburgh College of Art scholarship. He has taught architectural design, history and theory for the past decade, and is currently an adjunct Lecturer in Architecture at Drury University – Center in Greece. His designs have been awarded in competitions, published and exhibited internationally, while his research has been presented at conferences and published in journals and books. Konstantinos is a co-founder of the architectural design research journal *Drawing On* and the principal editor of *Graffiti and Street Art: Reading, Writing and Representing the City* (Routledge, 2017).