



## PRESS RELEASE

**Marianna Lourba**

### **“ELEMENTS OF SELF KNOWLEDGE”**

10 May – 11 June 2022

Ikastikos Kiklos DL presents on Thursday 10 May 2022 the solo exhibition of Marianna Lourba

The artist notes on the works she presents at Ikastikos Kiklos DL gallery: “From my trips to the Cyclades, I use my lens to collect forms and colours that signify those places. I compose the static architectural forms to create primordial sculptures, asymmetrical colour masses of the Aegean Sea, forms that radiate sensuality. Unforced, playing with the details captured by my lens, I created my own aspects, the ones I refer to in my exhibition as ASPECTS OF THE CYCLADES

**Art Historian and curator Christoforos Marinos, writes about Marianna Lourba’s new body of work:**

Comprised of frugal lines, Marianna Lourba’s works contain the minimalism of Cycladic idols and the abstractive – and profoundly sensual – painting compositions of Yiannis Moralis, as well as Michalis Katzourakis’ inventive use of photography. If you take a careful look at her compositions, you will see before you, suddenly, the physical attributes of a Cycladic idol, its legs, shoulders and distinctive curves, through which you also discover the forms, rhythms and shading that we come across in anonymous Cycladic architecture. With titles that refer to the sea, the Greek summer, the Odyssey and mythology, such as “Nisaea” (one of the Nereid nymphs that ruled over the islands), “Lethe”, “Circe”, and “Glykeron faos” (“My sweet light”, as an emotional Penelope addresses her son, Telemachus), Lourba’s works bear within them the “divine meaning” that was ascribed to the stones, the pebbles, by the fishermen and farmers of the Cyclades 2,000 years ago.<sup>1</sup>

Keeping always in mind the words of Odysseas Elytis, who understands the landscape as the “projection of the soul of a people upon matter” and not “merely a sum of land, plants and waters”, we conclude that, deep down and in a strange way, Marianna Lourba’s minimalist compositions are, in fact, figurative. Which is why they refer, ultimately, to “a strictly grammatical language”, to “an *orthography* where every omega, every upsilon, every accent, every cedilla, is nothing but a cove, a slope, a



vertical rock face over the curve of a boat's stern, rippling vineyards, church lintels, smudges of white or red, here and there, from dovecotes and potted geraniums"<sup>2</sup>.

*\*The exhibition will be accompanied by a text by Art Historian and Curator Christoforos Marinos.*

### **Marianna Lourba**

Born in 1980, in Athens (GR), Marianna Lourba is an MA graduate (Visual Design) of IED (Istituto Europeo di Design) in Milano, Italy . She has also studied Art and Design at Middlesex University of London and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons). She works mainly with photography, silkscreen and collage. Her work has been exhibited in group and solo shows internationally in Athens (GR), New York (US), Tokyo (JP), Arezzo (IT), Orvieto (IT), among others. She has received many awards and honors for her work such as DESTE Foundation, Mont Blanc, Cosmote etc . Since 2012 Lourba's art object series have been part of the permanent collection of Benaki Museum Art Shop, Athens. For the past seven years she has been a lecturer on Art & Design in undergraduate programs while parallel to her visual arts practice, she holds the position of the Creative Director of Apolyto Creative Spot, a contemporary art workshop. She lives and works in Athens.

**Exhibition opening:** Thursday 10 May 2022 at 19:30

**Duration:** 10 May – 11 June 2022

**Opening hours:** Monday closed

Wednesday - Saturday 11:00 - 16:00

Tuesday - Thursday - Friday 11:00 - 20:00

Admission to the exhibition is free.

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<sup>2</sup> Julian Bell, *Mirror of the World. A New History of Art*, Greek edition, trans. Giorgos Lambrakos, Eleanna Panagou, Academic editor: Κωνσταντίνος Ιωαννίδης Konstantinos Ioannidis, Metaichmio, Athens 2008, p. 27-28.

<sup>2</sup> Odysseas Elytis, *Things Public and Private*, Ikaros, Athens 1990, p. 8-9.

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