

giorgiopersano

Press release

COSTAS VAROTSOS EUROPA 2

22 September 2020 – 16 January 2021

open to the public 22-23-24 September | 2 - 9 p.m.

From 22 to 24 September 2020 Galleria Giorgio Persano will inaugurate its new space in Via Stampatori 4 - Turin, with the solo show “Europa 2” by Costas Varotsos. The exhibition itinerary develops around a central work, from which the exhibition draws its title, depicting the 27 flags of the Member States of the European Union, printed in a large format on glass and shattered on the floor.

With this image of an EU gone to pieces, the Greek artist gives a lucid representation of the risk of its dissolution and its precarious relationship with the rest of the world. For Varotsos, “Although a wonderful idea, the European Union is now threatened by centrifugal forces that will lead who knows where. For years we have swept things under the carpet, but now the situation seems to be out of control: it is a critical moment; it is as if we were carrying the flag of the European Community and it were falling out of our hands”.

As usual, Varotsos favours the use of glass, which fills the new gallery space, creating a disturbing and immediately recognisable image in the colours of the flags. While the artist’s works always imply a potential for creation, decomposition and recomposition, here “Europa 2” becomes a political act, a declaration of a societal position. The reading of the installation is therefore clear and unequivocal, but in its objectivity it also seems to allude to a message of hope: the destruction of national individualisms, if it occurs on a common horizon, may open the possibility of a greater recomposition of its individual fragments.

Costas Varotsos (Athens, 1955).

In 1976 he graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome and in 1978 in Architecture from the University of Pescara. In 1990-1991 he obtained a Fulbright Scholarship. In 1999 he was appointed Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he currently holds the chair of Architecture. In 1987 he represented Greece at the São Paulo Biennale and in 1999 at the Venice Biennale. He subsequently participated in the Italian Pavilion of the Venice Biennale in 1993, at Arte Laguna in 1995 and at the International Biennale of Los Angeles in 1999. In 2004 he received the Honorary Distinction of Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana from the President of the Republic. He has shown his works in numerous national and international exhibitions and signed important public works for Greece, Cyprus, Italy, the United States and Switzerland. In 2012 he created *L'Approdo. Opera all'Umanità Migrante* in Otranto and in 2015, as part of the *L'Albero della cuccagna. Nutrimenti dell'arte* exhibition curated by Achille Bonito Oliva, he produced *Orizzonte Due* at the University of Salerno. In 2014 he took part in *Icastica* at Arezzo in 2016 and in *Arte alle Corti* in Turin in 2017. He also participated in *Documenta 14* at Kassel (Fridericianum) and in the same year in *Meteorite in Giardino 10* at the Fondazione Merz, Turin. In 2019 his work *La Totalità* was placed in the Giardino Grosa, a green area next to the Intesa Sanpaolo skyscraper in Turin.