

Athens, 5 November 2016

## Press Release

### “Back to the basics: Uncanny”

Curator: **Artemis Potamianou**

Artists: **Lanfranco Aceti, Elisabeth Penker, Simon Macewan, Micha Cattai, Angelos Antonopoulos, Kalos & Klio, Avgoustos Veinoglou, Yannis Savvidis, Vassilis Zografos**

The **ENIA Gallery** presents on **Friday, 9 December 2016** the first part of the **group exhibition “Back to the basics: Uncanny”, curated by Artemis Potamianou**. The exhibition will be presented in two parts.

The uncanny is a complex concept that Sigmund Freud analyses in *Art and literature*, first published in the autumn of 1919, and it has been a source of inspiration and debate for art and philosophy ever since. The exhibition **Back to the basics: Uncanny** is called upon to explore the various approaches to the concept as it is defined in Freud’s essay through the work of nine Greek and foreign artists.

The Uncanny conveys the notion of the alien, the strange and the uncertain, but its uniqueness lies in its direct connection to the feeling of an experience at once familiar and well-hidden. According to Freud, something completely unknown cannot be uncanny; it must have references to something older which has been alienated.

In the chapter “Das unheimliche” (The Uncanny), Freud examines the relation of the German word heimlich (familiar, not paradoxical) and its logical opposite, unheimlich. Looking up the etymology of two words in the dictionaries of various languages and collecting stories, experiences and situations that trigger a sense of unfamiliarity, he concludes that the uncanny belongs in the category of the scary-weird which has been repressed to the point of becoming unfamiliar.

The *semiological interpretation* of ‘heimlich’ goes in the direction of ambivalence, until it coincides with its opposite — Unheimlich: “the unheimlich is what was once heimisch, home-like, familiar; the prefix ‘un’ is the token of repression” (Freud, *The Uncanny*,’ 245). This transition from familiarity to alienation and a sense of danger is fundamental in the constitution of an uncanny situation.

Artists have often tried to convey this special feeling of the Uncanny in various ways by joining parts-elements of a text or image in unexpected ways. In the exhibition the viewers will be able to discover some ways of presenting and interpreting the Uncanny through the work of nine artists.

Admission to the exhibition is free

**Official opening:** Friday, 9 December 2016 at 20:00

**Duration:** 9 December 2016 to 4 March 2017

**Opening hours:** Wednesday – Thursday 11:00 – 19:00  
Friday 11:00 – 20:00  
Saturday 11:00 – 16:00

Communication sponsor :

