

## **United States of Europe**

***A travelling exhibition about European identity and today's Europe***

Opening: Nicosia, Cyprus: 17 September 2012 | 7.30pm – 11.30pm

Duration: 17 September – 14 October 2012



UNITED STATES  
OF *Europe*

*Do you feel European? Does Mr O'Keeffe in Ireland feel more or less European than Mrs Stylianou in Cyprus? And if so, why? What is the idea behind Europe and do Europeans feel included? Do Europeans trust their leaders? Maybe there are as many different answers on these questions as there are citizens in Europe.*

The artistic project United States of Europe (U.S.E) deals with these questions in the context of a travelling exhibition through ten European countries. The exhibition opened in Lodz, Poland in November 2011, the second destination was in Helsinki, the third in Vilnius and the fourth in Guimarães. Now the exhibition opens in Nicosia, as a part of the cultural programme of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

United States of Europe (U.S.E), a large-scale collaboration project about European identity, will further be presented in public spaces, galleries and museums in Germany, Bulgaria, France, Ireland and Belgium, until Spring 2013.

## THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE U.S.E.:

U.S.E is not propaganda for a federal Europe but it aims to create commitment in the Europe we live in, and to function as a communication platform for people living in Europe. The exhibition offers a lot of different interpretations on European identity through diverse disciplines and angles.

U.S.E consists of four elements:

In the exhibition, **art works** (videos, photos, installations) are confronted with interviews from a **sociological study**. A **multimedia laboratory** - being an artwork in itself – combines sociology (interviews) with an artistic dimension and constitutes the heart of the exhibition. A complementary series of **debates** discusses and reflects upon political, social and cultural aspects of Europe.

**Johanna Suo** (Sweden/France/UK) has initiated the project and created the exhibition concept.

## THE ARTISTS:

**Diversity**, which is the core of the U.S.E. is embodied by the artistic team:

Three curators, **Ryszard W. Kluszczyński** (Poland), **Anna Bitkina** (Russia), **Sinziana Ravini**, (Sweden/France), have each selected a group of artists. The chosen artists have international and multicultural backgrounds and they all deal with identity questions.

U.S.E presents works of **Luchezar Boyadjiev** (Bulgaria), **Anna Konik** (Poland), **Gerda Lampalzer** (Austria), **Maria Lusitano Santos** (Portugal), **Deimantas Narkevicius** (Lithuania), **Artur Zmijewski** (Poland), **Jean-Charles Hue** (France), **Kaarina Kaikkonen** (Finland), **REINIGUNGSGESELLSCHAFT** (artist duo, Germany), **Tanja Muravskaja** (Estonia), **Kennedy Browne** (artist duo, Ireland), **Apostolis Polymeris** (Belgium), **Kyriaki Costa** (Cyprus) and **Anu Pennanen** (Finland). The multimedia artist **Jānis Garančs** (Latvia) created the interactive laboratory. It is a hybrid communication platform for Europeans that encourages visitors to exchange and interact in real time.

The sociological core team consists of Prof. **Andrzej Piotrowski**, Dr **Tomasz Ferenc** (University of Lodz) and Dr **Lyudmila Nurse** (Oxford XXI, UK). Ten local sociologist teams have conducted five interviews in each participating country.

## THE U.S.E IN NICOSIA:

In Nicosia a walk is organised through the city: "Discover your city and discover Europe".

Several different venues are included in order to offer the exhibition to a wide audience. Among the presentations of the interactive laboratory is an (visual-audio) interview by the former Mayor of Nicosia Eleni Mavrou. The artist Kyriaki Costa presents brand new work created for the U.S.E exhibition at the new Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum.

The exhibition in Nicosia is organized by the **Pharos Arts Foundation**, in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Paris, the Goethe-Institut Cyprus, Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum, Institut Français Cyprus, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Cyprus, Nicosia Municipality, Classic Hotel, Temporary Space, Ledra Properties, The European University Cyprus, Cyprus Theatre Organisation, the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

## YOUR PARTICIPATION:

U.S.E is a project for citizens by citizens, and it aims to work as a communication platform. On the website as well as in the laboratory on site visitors are encouraged to express themselves and share their experiences in the form of photos or stories on the theme "My Europe". Look for the headline "Participate" and "Stories from Europe" on the website. Information is also available in the exhibition passport.

## THE OPENING:

### Opening – Monday, 17 September 2012 / 7.30pm – 11.30pm

An organized walk starting:

7.30pm Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum

8.15pm Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation, 'Old Market Pallouriotissa'

9.00pm The Shoe Factory

9.30pm The Temporary Space

10.00pm The Classic Hotel

And finishing with a cocktail reception at: 10.30pm Goethe-Institut Zypern

## VENUES IN NICOSIA AND OPENING HOURS:

### Exhibition duration Nicosia, Cyprus: 17 September – 14 October 2012

#### Loukia and Michael Zampelas Art Museum

27 Arch. Makarios III Avenue, Kaimakli, 1020, Nicosia

Mondays closed (except the opening night on 17 September) / Tue – Fri: 10am – 6pm, Sat – Sun: 11am – 4pm

#### Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation 'Old Market Pallouriotissa'

7 Agiou Andreou Street, 1040, Pallouriotissa / Mon – Fri: 10am - 1pm & 5pm – 8pm

#### Pharos Arts Foundation: The Shoe factory

304 Ermou Street, 1017, Nicosia / Projection: 1, 2 & 10 October at 8.30pm

#### Temporary Space

33 Aischylou Street, 1011, Nicosia / Mon – Fri: 10am – 1pm & 6pm - 9pm

#### Classic Hotel – the gallery

94 Rigenis St, 1513, Nicosia / Mon – Sun: 9am – 11pm

#### Goethe-Institut

21 Markos Drakos Avenue, 1102, Nicosia / Mon – Fri: 9am – 7pm

*U.S.E is a European collaboration, coordinated by the Goethe-Institut Paris; the University of Lodz, Poland; the Lasipalatsi Film and Media Centre, Finland; The Red House, Bulgaria; the Centre of Culture and Art Initiatives, Lithuania; Pharos Arts Foundation, Cyprus; Transforma, Portugal, AIDA, Belgium; L'art au Quotidien, France, Cork Vision Centre and the National Sculpture Factory Ireland.*



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## THE LABORATORY:

Please enter the United States of Europe laboratory...

Find out – what, for instance, Maria from Cyprus thinks about European unification or how John from Ireland perceives European citizenship. In these videos you can see interviews with citizens from ten different European countries, which form part of the U.S.E project’s sociological study. It is here, in “the Lab”, where sociology meets art.

A work in progress, the ‘Lab’ is being developed by the Latvian multimedia artist Jānis Garančs, who together with other international collaborators will advance the laboratory further over the whole series of the travelling exhibitions to come. The ‘Lab’ is a feedback/communication platform for you, the visitors, where you can tell us about your ideas. You can submit ‘your European story’ or photos, check out a quiz, answer a questionnaire or just get in touch with us by visiting the online guestbook. All these can be found on our website [www.go-use.eu](http://www.go-use.eu) and from there, people will be able to read your thoughts and follow your feedback.



As Europe can mean so many different things from the perspective of political powers, business “markets”, large and small countries, nationalities, as well as families and individuals, the approach is to explore the complexity of European identities as an interplay of historical, demographic, geopolitical, economic and cultural concepts.

I encourage the project’s title to be interpreted not only through its politically-coloured meaning (a state as a country), but also through its more abstract meaning – at least in

English -, i.e. a state as a condition/status. The workshop participants, on-site as well as online, can submit their reflections as text messages, images, and even video sequences. The laboratory will feature several interactive screens and projections, webcams and computer terminals for short text input. It will act as a temporary virtual embassy of the United States of Europe, connecting U.S.E exhibition venues with satellite events and locations. Thus, the laboratory works as a “processing device” – that travels from place to place and adapts accordingly – that will collate the co-creators’ and visitors’ input, and manifest itself as a self-organizing map or overview, offering multiple layers for exploration, and becoming – through immersive 3D visualisations and sonifications (featuring also computer generated stereoscopic projection and multi channel audio) – an evolving multimedia artwork itself.

**Jānis Garančs**

Multimedia artist and researcher, Riga, Latvia

## ARTISTS' PRESENTATIONS:

### REINIGUNGSGESELLSCHAFT

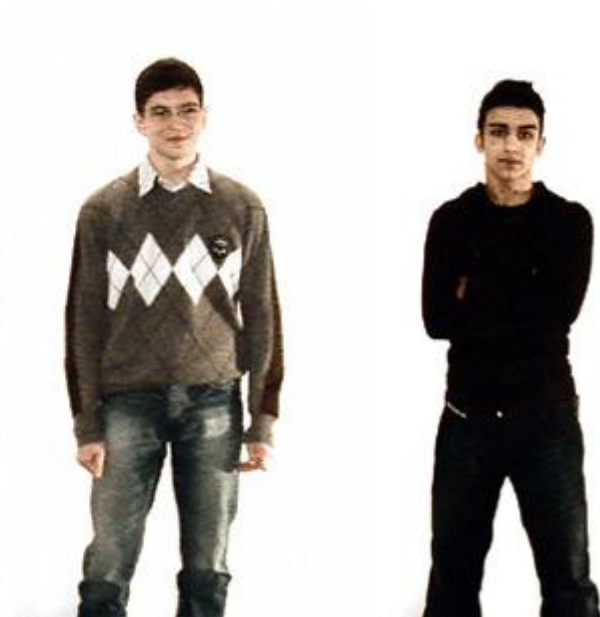
(artist duo, Henrik Mayer b. 1971 & Martin Keil b. 1968, Germany)

#### *Risk Society*

Projection and flat screen 26: 15 min, HDV 16:9 2011, loop

This project examines the prospects and life perspectives of young people in today's Germany. They inherit the legacy of a society that is aware of the fact that economic growth and consumption won't offer the determinant odds for development. The sociologist Ulrich Beck has described the sociological change from a wealth production towards a risk production with the term *Risk society* in his book written in 1986, (also called *Risk society*). This transition takes place on the micro level of people as well as on the macro level of corporate and global changes. It contains social, economic and political dimensions. In the exhibition, these young students have their say about their plans and expectations of the future in Europe.

REINIGUNGSGESELLSCHAFT (which could be translated with "Cleaning Service" or "Purification Society") is an artist's project group that works at the point of intersection between art and social reality.



## **Kaarina Kaikkonen**

(born 1952, Finland)

### **"A Connection" (2011)**

Site-specific public space installations

For the United States of Europe exhibition the artist presents new site-specific installations related to the space and to present day Europe. In each city her work is adapted to a venue and the site. One of the new pieces that Kaarina creates for the exhibition is called "A Connection", shirts of many sizes and colours represent connections between people and countries. The work has been presented once in Lodz, Poland where the shirts were attached to a long pipe running from a walking zone in the city of Lodz, leading the visitor to the main exhibition space in an old textile factory.

Kaarina has so far created one more work for U.S.E; "Where is my home?" a house made of bags and luggage of different kind. It can be seen as a small house that is collapsing or that is not completely constructed. The piece tells a story about the EU but also different kind of people and states trying to live together, but it's difficult...The work was installed at Helsinki Main Railway station and at Vilnius International Airport.

Kaarina Kaikkonen is known for her large installation made from men's jackets, ladies' shoes, shirts and found objects exhibited in different spaces both in - and outdoors. She has participated in numerous international exhibitions, for example in the Cairo Biennale 2009, the Liverpool Biennale 2010, the Vancouver biennale 2010 and in the Venice Biennale collateral event, 2011. At the moment Kaarina works on several projects, for example in Italy, in Chile and she recently did an installation at Art Miami.





## **Luchezar Boyadijev**

(born 1957, Bulgaria)

### ***On Vacation*** (2004-2011)

On-going cycle of 15 digital prints, each one 53 x 73 or 73 x 53 cm

On vacation is funny but in the same time it undertakes in a serious way the problem of histories of particular countries, and their role in the process of political and cultural integrations of European countries and societies. Boyadijev began discussion on European identities already in 1997 at the Documenta X, when he proposed the concept of overlapping identities. Images from “On vacation” represent equestrian monuments from various European countries with figures of the leaders removed and sent “On Vacation”. This is a symbolic unification by liberating the public space from it’s past and open up for the future.

Luchezar’s work has been presented widely and internationally both in solo and group exhibitions. Luchezar is also active as curator and he has held numerous lectures and presentations. His work can for example be found at the CAMK (Contemporary Art Museum of Kumamoto, Kumamoto, Japan), The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, USA; National Art Gallery, Tirana, Albania.



## **Gerda Lampalzer**

(born 1959, Austria)

### ***Thoughts Are Free* (2011)**

Video projection, 3 minutes, loop

This single channel video installation reflects on the relations between different countries – EU members – on the level of languages. These relations however, represent also some other problems; they talk about how people from different European countries observe the others; what sort of relations are created on the governmental level; to which extent relation of power create the way people observe their belonging to any community; how it affects the way they build their collective identities.

The video addresses the lack of linguistic exchange between Austria and its so-called “former eastern European” neighbours. The borders have been open for years, but even now hardly any Austrians speak these languages. In the video the texts of four people speaking Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, and Slovenian are cut apart and reconstructed into the German phrase “Die Gedanken sind frei” (The Thoughts are Free). This technical trick is an ironic comment on the situation, especially because “Thoughts Are Free” is often associated to liberation movements – which are re/uniting Europe as it should have been.

Gerda Lampalzer works since 1980 as the executive of the Medienwerkstatt Wien. Since 1987, she has a teaching assignment for applied arts in Wien, and she is active professionally as media artist, lecturer and curator.





## **Apostolos Polymeris**

(born 1984, Belgium)

### ***Uprooting: The story of our grandfathers*** (2011)

Video installation, 2:32 minutes, loop

This installation tells the very personal and moving history of the artist's grandfather and his migration to Belgium in 1972. The video is shown in a very impersonal archive environment that gives Kafkaesque associations with the big archives that house stories of uncountable numbers of people; one of the stories gets life in the artist's video.

*"In the building of the archives in Brussels, in a small room with hundreds of lists with names of foreigners who had moved there until the middle of the 1970's, I found my grandfathers name. He and his family immigrated to Belgium in 1972. The video illustrates the difficulties that they faced in Istanbul and how they decided to move to a new country, hoping for a better life"*

Apostolos Polymeris

Apostolos is an artist and graphic designer born in Brussels but with roots from Greece. In Brussels he studied at the Royal Academy of fine arts. His main fields are poster and book design, illustration, animation and film.



## **Jean-Charles Hue**

(born 1968, France)

*“The Lord’s BMW”* (2010)

Feature film: 1h 24 min

The film speaks of the life of a Roma family, thus presenting a living symbol of a constant metamorphosis of identity. Jean-Charles Hue searches for his origins. He spent some time with the Dorkels, a Gypsy/Yeniche family on the outskirts of society in the north of France and filmed their daily life. This film recounts the search for origins in these marginalized worlds that prefer to remain apart rather than integrate. The film interrelates the events that punctuate this nomadic life spent in caravans: poaching, a strange conversation or a quest for redemption. This unconventional reality seems fictional to the viewer, as the events are so foreign to normal life. The camera records everything, even the explosion of a bullet a few inches from the artist one drunken night.

Jean-Charles Hue is an artist and video filmmaker specialised in documentary films. He is a trained fashion designer and winner of many awards. Jean-Charles’s grandfather was Yenniche giving him a blood tie to this people. In 2009 Hue also explored the life in marginal areas together with the inhabitants of Tijuana, a border city between Mexico and the United States; Tijuana Carne Viva.



## **Anna Konik**

(born 1974, Poland)

***In the Middle of the Way*** (work in progress, 2001-2007)

7-channel video installation, loop

Thaddeus: Warsaw 2001, 09:57 minutes

Hermann: Berlin 2002, 09:27 minutes

Svetlana: Moscow 2005, 14:42 minutes

Gerald: Youghal 2006, 10:28 minutes

Hans-Dieter/ Augustin Story: Vienna 2006, 13:11minutes

Jenny and Pele, Zurich 2007, 10:13 minutes

Anna: Dobrodzien – Warsaw – Berlin 2005, 06:51 minutes

In the 7-channel video installation Anna Konik presents a very personal reflection on life of several people living in different cities (among others Berlin, Cork, Vienna, Warsaw), people homeless, marginalized, but in the same time full of dignity. The artist follows them in their everyday life activities, giving them a chance to present themselves in very different ways. At the same time, Anna Konik reflects on her own way of living, in a nomadic way, which was developed between three cities and two countries (Dobrodzien and Warsaw in Poland and Berlin in Germany). The issue of home and its role in the process of forming the identity is in the very focus.

*“The mobility of Tadeusz, Herman, Svetlana, Gerard, Hans-Dieter, Jana & Pele and Anna opens up a dialogue in which geographical boundaries and nationalities are not important. Instead, their individual stories, experiences and dreams build their unique identity and confirm their differentness in a world where nationalities are fluid. Every person I met dreams of a better life, of respect and freedom, they are all trying to find their way in the new reality of the EU”.*

Anna Konik

Konik makes video installations, and her practice combines video semi-documentary, installation, performance, and sculpture. She has been exhibiting widely and internationally since 2000.



## **Kyriaki Costa**

(born 1971, Cyprus)

### **21<sup>st</sup> century iconoclasm**

Video stills, 6 photos, 24x30cm.

The project constitutes a 'visual sequence' involving five photos and a video of significant monuments (i.e. sites and personalities) of both European and non-European origin, all placed around the Athenian Acropolis, a symbol (par excellence) of democracy. Initially, the viewer's 'eye' is puzzled as to whether those images speak of symbiosis or disorder. Ultimately, the answer to this dilemma brings us to the concepts of fluidity and mobility. In this photo series, the artist has allowed herself to mix monuments as a 'virtual place' (in her mind? in her heart?) where everything fits; a (peaceful or restless?) dream is born.

Just like everyday life, the triptych of history, experience and memory is always an issue of boundaries (their acceptance or negation): What do we perceive as 'reality' or 'dream'? How do we understand 'fact' or 'fiction'? Where does 'sense' end and 'nonsense' start? How do we draw the line between 'emotion' and 'logic'? Finally, how does Europe fit in all this? Are we or are we not 'Europeans'? Should we speak of belonging or fragmentation? Are we 'at home' or 'homeless'? At the onset of the 21st century all the above are absolutely crucial questions that puzzle artistic creativity, especially in countries at the outskirts of Europe like Cyprus.



## **Tanja Muravskaja**

(born 1978, Estonia),

### ***Estonian Race* (2010)**

Digital C-type photograph, 92x68cm, 68x50cm, 12 photos in series.

The aim of the portrait series of the strong Nordic faces was a portrayal of modern post-soviet state, developing in the mono-national way. There is no such race as an Estonian race. This project appeals for reflection on historical mistakes, dominance of the main nation, tolerance – all of the issues still relevant in the new European countries. The photo series addresses one of the “elementary particles” of nationalism as an ideology - race. Muravskaja is using encyclopaedic thoroughness to find the most typical, the “purest Estonians” among Estonian people, turning to academic authorities for help and portraying the young men who have no names or social security numbers, let alone life stories or identities in the exhibition hall, but who obviously have a nationality, at least within the framework of this visual story. This artistic search could also lead us to a question about a “pure European identity”. Can we possibly define it? What does it mean to be a European nowadays?

Tanja has previously worked on the subject of identity; for example ‘Positions’, photographs, 86x61 cm (7 photos in series), 2007) which are part of the collection of the Tartu Art Museum. These photos were the artist’s first work on the subject of the contemporary Estonian identity, and opened a period of four years dedicated to it. Works reflecting on the modern Estonia, the elite of the Russian-speaking minority in Estonia, and the recent Soviet past, followed this series.





## **Deimantas Narkevičius**

(born 1964, Lithuania)

### **“Ausgeträumt” (2010)**

Music video installation, 5:30 minutes, loop

The title could be explained in English by a state between dream and reality on the cusp of waking up, or it could simply mean that the dream is over. Sometimes one has to approach a theme through a beautiful and meditative film rather than a strong message. "Ausgeträumt" shows a bunch of young men playing in an empty cafeteria, they have just started a band. They look beautiful but sad. The video is about their vision of their future, their reflections on their political, or more importantly, unsatisfying cultural environment.

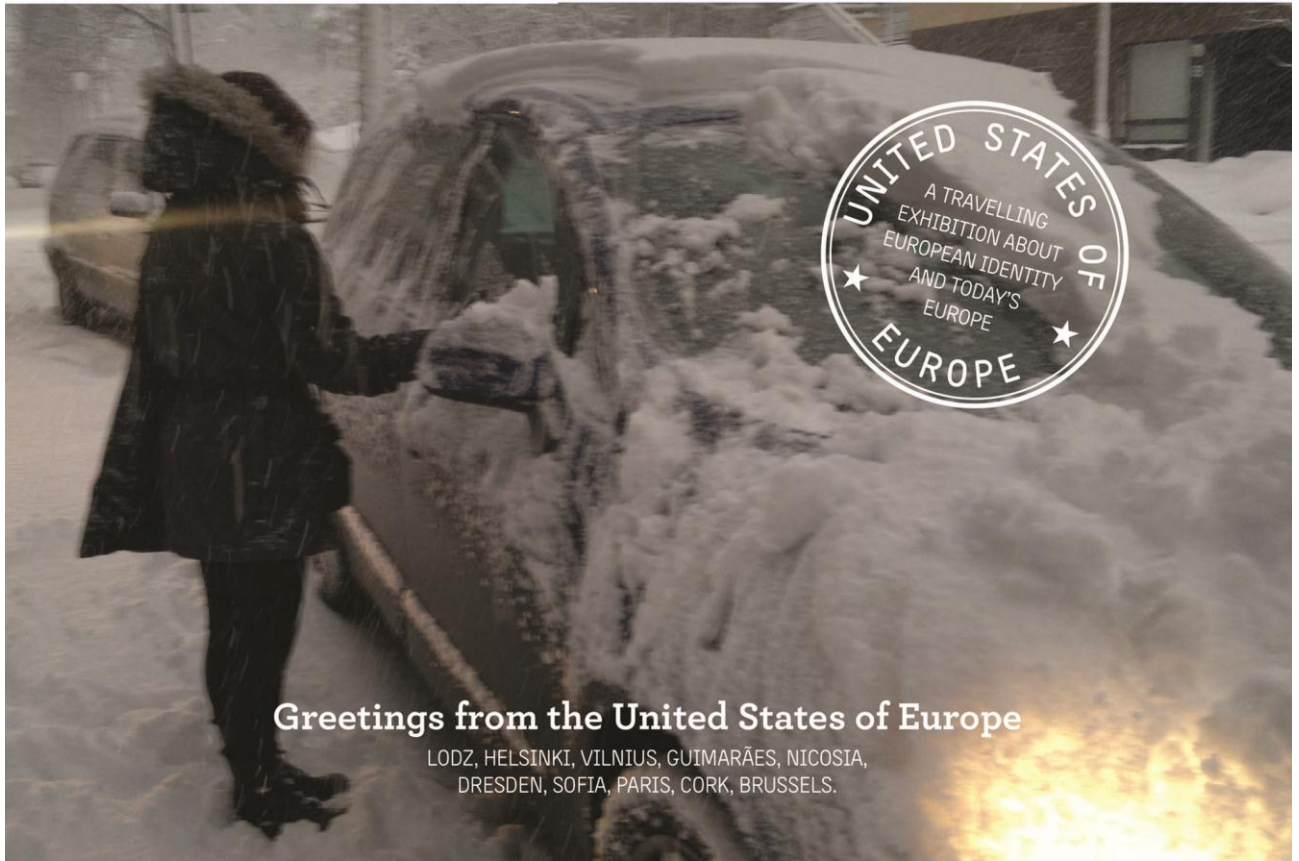
Outside they are surrounded by a snowy landscape. Now and then a car drives through a city and out on a road leading nowhere. The scene is filmed in Lithuania. What is his future in this country, of this generation? Of the young boy who happens to be the son of the artist? Where will these snowy roads lead them? "Ausgeträumt" approaches the notion of cultural identity through the most simple and fascinating way.

Narkevičius is one of the most consistent and widely recognised Lithuanian artists on the international art scene. He represented his country at the 49th Venice Biennale in 2001 and exhibited at the 50th Venice Biennale in 2003 in “Utopia Station”.



# UNITED STATES OF *Europe*

A TRAVELLING EXHIBITION  
ABOUT EUROPEAN IDENTITY  
AND TODAY'S EUROPE



## Greetings from the United States of Europe

LODZ, HELSINKI, VILNIUS, GUIMARÃES, NICOSIA,  
DRESDEN, SOFIA, PARIS, CORK, BRUSSELS.

**OPENING: 17 SEPTEMBER 2012 | 7.30PM – 11.30PM | NICOSIA**

**DURATION: 17 SEPTEMBER – 14 OCTOBER 2012**

Information: Pharos Arts Foundation [www.pharosartsfoundation.org](http://www.pharosartsfoundation.org)

United States of Europe [www.go-use.eu](http://www.go-use.eu)



 **Pharos Arts Foundation**



**Μουσείο Τεχνών**  
Λουκίας & Μιχαήλ Ζαμπέλα  
Loukia & Michael Zampelas  
**Art Museum**

**INSTITUT FRANÇAIS**  
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PROPERTIES



temporary space



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