



## South as a State of Mind

### Arts and Culture Publication

#### fall / winter 2013 issue

**South as a State of Mind** is a bi-annual publication for contemporary arts and culture. A project by Kunsthalle Athena, it is published by Epomenos Stathmos (Greece) and distributed internationally. Founded by curator and writer **Marina Fokidis**, it is designed by creative director **Yannis Karlopoulos**.

Following the spirit of the last two issues of **South as a State of Mind** magazine, in which South was discussed in terms of immaterial concept and location, desire and repulsion, politics and sensuality, as well as an Arcadian fantasy, this time we focus on the idea of the North. In this perspective that prompts us to see 'home' from far away we induce an unusual movement; North following South - and not vice versa. The title of this issue is **North is Going South**, a gesture that produces an encounter, engagement, and friction between two apparently different forms of motion. On the one hand, we introduce the playful notion of a hegemonic North following a weakened South, as if this is the prevailing culture. On the other, we signal global turbulence and instability. As it is known, "to go south" in English has a distinct meaning related to something going wrong or worsening, deteriorating, and even disappearing. In this issue we play around with this notion. Going wrong might also mean discovering, experiencing and just being here or in another cosmos that might exist. "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better." (Samuel Beckett).

We are honoured to host in our **main focus**, among others, the contribution of **Charles Esche**, director of Van Abbemuseum and the future curator of the São Paulo Art Biennial, who wrote a particularly sharp text on the collapse of the social democratic state founded by the North and the new challenges for the economy of the South, the contribution of **Hans Ulrich Obrist** with the Sudanese writer **Tayeb Salih**, addressing a broad range of topics, from colonisation to globalisation in the realm of Arab culture, the cutting edge philosopher **Ingo Niermann** with the imaginary 10th volume of his renowned *Solution Series*: "Northern Europe doesn't care about the Greek mainland? Let's break it into a myriad of autonomous, unique specialised sunny islands!", the scientist **Alexander Tarakhovsky** with a narration of a visionary trip between North and South through diseases, bugs, experimental bionics, and strange ants' mating habits.

The last six months have been particularly hot, especially due to the turmoil sparked on the four corners of the planet. Following the 'news' that our collaborators sent us from **Cyprus, Sweden, Turkey, Brazil** and **Egypt**, we decided that the **Breaking News** column had to be richer than usual in order to cover this global wave of unrest. **Maria Stathi** curated an artistic report on the financial misfortunes of Cypriots banks, accompanied by the prophetic images of the *Euro* billboard

by the famous art collective **Superflex**. **Annika Larsson** and **John Peter Nilsson** write on the unusual phenomenon of riots in Sweden. **Vasif Kortun** writes about the events in Taksim Gezi Park and people's indignation against the Turkish government. Indie pop star **Cibelle** explains the protests that spread in over 100 Brazilian cities through a new specially created song. **Sarah Rifky** contributes an intense yet creative account of the painful events that brought the Morsi government to an end.

The **Trickster** of this issue are **Slavs and Tatars!** They also created the free **poster** of this issue. **Tradition** column is dedicated to **Jimmie Durham**, one of the most respected contemporary artists, who never betrayed the legacy of his origins; no matter how many Biennials he participated to. Find here a unique insight of the intellectual exchange between the artist and **Nikos Papastergiadis**. **Save the Robots / Internet** is a new column. Taking its name from an underground East Village after-hours club the column is dedicated to the internet as a medium for art, visual research and experimentation. This time **Save the Robots** will feature 2013 **Eternal Internet Brotherhood's** Trip to Las Pozas, Mexico, by **Zak Stone**.

Thanks to the invaluable support of all the friends and contributors, the new issue of South as a State of Mind is now out and ready to be discovered in bookstores and selected selling points around the world.

South as a State of Mind

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