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Remapping Athens?

Downtown rundown areas become playground of contemporary art

Facts

When

16/6/2009 – 4/10/2009

Exhibitions & Projects:

We-Su: 17:30–21:30

Mo-Tu: closed

Open Air Screening Room:

We-Su: 21:00–23:00

Mo-Tu: closed

all projects stop in August and resume by September

How Much

admission free

Contacts

e-mail: info@remapkm.org

Info

Access

by subway: Kerameikos station (line 3) & Metaxourgeio station (line2)

by bus: A16, 025, B16, 812, 813, 025, 026, 027, 100, 051, 057, B18, Γ18, 049, 035, 400

by trolley bus: 1, 12, 21



[click to enlarge](#)

Organisers

[Athens Biennial](#)

[Website](#)

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F: +30-210-5232202

a@athensbiennial.org, contact@athensbiennial.org, press@athensbiennial.org

[National Museum of Contemporary Art \(EMST\)](#)

[Website](#)

14 Amvrossiou Frantzi St., 11473 Athens, Greece

T: +30-210-9242111-2

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protocol@emst.gr, pressoffice@emst.gr

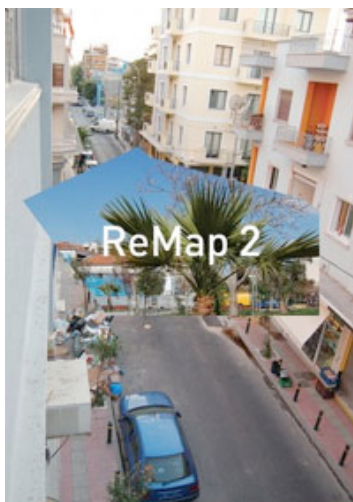
[ReMap KM](#)

[Website](#)

Athens, Greece

info@remapkm.org





The project has been criticized as one more effort to “clean up” central rundown areas of Athens from annoying and disturbing images of wandering immigrant poor, in order to upgrade them and turn them into a hip place. This “remapping” of the city, critics say, must be condemned. The truth [ReMap 2](#) deserves our attention, since it presents some really interesting exhibitions and art happenings right in the heart of the Greek capital. A walk around the areas of Kerameikos and Metaxourgeio (KM) anytime before October 4, would be highly recommendable.

Getting back to criticism, we have to admit that the arguments make sense. The strategy is well known and follows the same pattern in many cities: first come the developers and buy shabby buildings; then the police attack illegal immigrants; then a court order evicts many from their old buildings; finally, architects and investors arrive; curators, artists, the media, art loving people, the bourgeois crowds, the party animals, all enjoy the newborn posh space of consumerism for high-class white citizens that will accommodate high-class artists, businessmen and the new cultural and financial elite.



ReMap 2 organizers find these accusations unacceptable and say they have nothing to do with the aforementioned scenario. The truth is that the project is quite interesting as an experiment. It runs in parallel to the second [Athens Biennale](#) and features more than 40 cultural events and art happenings, including exhibitions, open-air and site-specific installations by Greek and international galleries, independent curators, art groups,



 architects and local residents.

All activities are taking place in vacant buildings, parking lots and derelict plots of land in the KM district of downtown Athens. This international platform for contemporary art breaths thanks to the unique urban energy, cultural particularities and dynamic artistry of the neighbourhood, which is introduced as an international hub for contemporary art.



One of ReMap 2's special projects is the *Open Air Screening Room* which is about screening video art works selected by the Athens Biennale, the [National Museum of Contemporary Art](#) and curator Marina Fokidis. The films screening program is referred to as a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a title borrowed by William Shakespeare of course... Screenings take place on a deserted ~~plakos~~ ~~plakos~~ Street (number 8) and are free to watch.

[Guerilla Playground](#) is another project that we should mention, as it explores the boundaries between cultural production and the residents' every day life. Through this section, a group of young designers and architects, calling themselves the *Ø16 Workshop*, invites visitors to discover an ephemeral urban playground created in an empty plot of land.

Everything that is happening in the area throughout ReMap 2 is recorded in an online real-time visual diary, called the [Documentation Project](#), whose findings are going to be examined in a symposium in September, titled [SiteSpecificStrategies](#). The symposium will bring together KM residents, architects, urbanists and scientists who will explore the role of architecture in shaping future urban identity, using the KM area as a reference. It will also attempt to identify innovative ways of participation and involvement in urban life and propose models of urban transformation. A series of workshops will focus specifically on the KM area through the development of architectural propositions and the realization of architectural events in the neighbourhood.



Eleven Athenian art galleries and eight from overseas are presenting their shows in the KM area. These are:



from Greece, [a.antonopoulou art](#), [AD Gallery](#), [AMP](#), [Bernier/Eliades](#), [The Breeder](#), [Revecca Camhi Gallery](#), [Loraini Alimantiri Gazonrouge](#), [Kalfayan Galleries](#), [Potnia Thiron-Bank of Attention](#), [Qbox Gallery](#), [Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Center](#)
 from Denmark, [Andersen's Contemporary](#)
 from the UK, [IBID Projects](#),
 from Switzerland, [Galerie Eva Presenhuber](#),
 from Germany, [Johann König Berlin](#), [Nice & Fit](#), [Peres Projects](#), [Galerie Giti Nourbakhsch](#)/[Galerie Isabella Bortolozzi](#)/[Md72](#)/[Anberg](#).

With all these galleries and seventeen more independent projects presenting their work in the neighbourhood, KM becomes a playground for those who would like to explore urban contemporary art.



To get to know what is happening, where and when, go to the [ReMapKM website](#).

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