

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
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Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Still Life

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Dimitris Papaioannou, Greece



Photo: Julian Mommert

"Brilliant. An intelligent, engaging, and superbly-performed Greek work. ...a silently howling, existential drama."

Dagens Nyheter

"...a singular, visually stunning universe where beauty, inventiveness and the absurd reign supreme. A remarkable success."

Danses Avec La Plume

Fusing elements of theatre, movement, art installation and philosophy, *Still Life* is a visual symphony; a hybrid of visual physical theatre and performance art. It is **Dimitris Papaioannou's** elemental vision of the birth of a strange new world, devastated by crisis and threatened by a heavy, poisoned sky.

Still Life explores the intensely absurd, the beauty of strangeness and the importance of finding happiness in every day. The performance unravels as a series of spectacular feats: a man wrestling with a block of concrete, a woman bursting out of a wall, human beings toiling and tussling with the earth itself.

Inspired by Surrealism, *Still Life* is a hallucinatory vision based on the myth of Sisyphus: a man who cheated death. To punish him, the gods gave him immortality in endless labour: rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, only for it to fall back down again. French philosopher Albert Camus wrote about the absurdity of Sisyphus' story, and of the human condition, that "*the struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.*"

Award-winning artist, Dimitris Papaioannou, creator of the Athens 2004 Olympics opening and closing ceremonies and the first European Games 2015 opening ceremony, first attracted attention as a visual artist, illustrator and comic book creator.

Still Life premiered in 2014 at The Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens and has since toured to Bordeaux, Paris, Milano, Stockholm, Cagliari, Santiago, São Paulo, Antwerp, Belgrade, Montpellier and Singapore.

Where	Carriageworks Bay 17
When	27-29 January at 8pm 28 January also at 2pm
Duration	80mins (no interval)

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Tickets Premium \$70
A Reserve \$60 / \$54
+ booking fee

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/still-life

Still Life is supported by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW. Sydney Festival and Destination NSW have a strategic partnership that will see three world premieres and four Australian exclusive events presented at Sydney Festival 2017.

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