

abstract:

Approaching Urban Scenographics Through *Spirals* Interventions

Space is a product of relations – social, political and cultural – therefore, city-spaces become one of the main arenas where gender divisions, inequalities and relations are re-produced and manifested. However, performance practices and scenographic interventions within the urban environment can reveal gaps for new dramaturgies and possibilities of action. In this performative presentation, I discuss the latest stage of the ongoing performance work entitled *Spirals* created by PartSuspended performance group and the collective methodology of working on *Spirals Open Archive*. *Spirals* (<http://www.partsuspended.com/productions/current/spirals/>) is an ongoing collaborative and interdisciplinary project created by PartSuspended artist collective. It is a poetic journey that crosses geographical borders and seeks to articulate the female experience of time and space, movement and memory, personal narratives and sense of belonging. The *Spirals* project has often employed leftover spaces and interventions have taken place in a variety of countries, such as UK (London, Broadstairs, Coventry, Devon) Spain (Barcelona, Agost), Serbia (Belgrade), Greece (Athens), India (Pune). For *Spirals Open Archive*, the collective has opened up the process of engaging with urban spaces through the symbol of a spiral, and have invited artistic responses by providing prompts that provoke participants' imagination, memory and exploration. I will present the process of initiating the *Spirals Open Archive* and I will share its elements, reflecting on the way that strategies used can be developed further to explore ways of thinking as well as acting within urban spaces and approaching collective scenographics.

bio:

Dr Hari Marini is Associate Professor of Performance and Intermediality within the Department of Audio and Visual Arts at Ionian University, performance maker and founding member of PartSuspended artist collective (www.partsuspended.com) who fosters performances, live art, installations, writing and collaborations with artists from a variety of disciplines. Her research focuses on social and material contexts and conditions of performance and their social and political effects. Hari's research outputs have been published in leading academic journals, including *European Journal of Women's Studies*, *Contemporary Theatre Review*, *Performance Research*, *Journal of Greek Media and Culture*,

and in the edited book *Dramatic Architectures: Theatre and Performing Arts in Motion* (CEAA/ESAP). Hari's artistic practice, writing and practice-based research focus on poetics of spaces, performative architecture and women's writing. Her artistic work has been presented to a variety of venues and festivals in the UK, Spain, Greece, Serbia, Czech Republic. Her creative writing and video-work have been published to journals and poetry collections including *Tears in the Fence*, *Interim: A Journal of Poetry & Poetics*, *performing borders*, and her bilingual book (Greek-English) entitled *28 Διαδρομές της/28 Paths of Her* was published by AKAKIA Publications (<https://akakia.net/en/shop/28-diadromes-ths-28-paths-of-her/>). Hari has previously worked as Associate Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London and has been a guest lecturer and reviewer in a variety of institutions, such as University of Essex, Drexel University, Pratt School, Theatre of Changes.

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