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Weaving I Restoring I Healing

**Exhibition and artistic intervention on the exterior of the museum by the artist
Catheline van den Branden**

City of Athens Museum of Folk Art and Tradition "Angeliki Chatzimichali"

May 28 to July 7, 2023

The City of Athens presents the exhibition Weaving I Restoring I Healing by Catheline van den Branden at the Museum of Folk Art and Tradition "Aggeliki Chatzimichali", from May 28 to July 7, 2023. The exhibition, organized by the Organization for Culture, Sports and Youth of the City of Athens (OPANDA) and the Culture Office of the City of Athens, will be presenting works related to the practice of weaving, nurturing and healing.

The official opening of the exhibition will be held by the Mayor of Athens Kostas Bakoyannis, on Wednesday, May 31, at 18:00

The exhibition, which is part of the **Athens City Festival*** and the **Culture is Athens** programme, is curated by **Katerina Koskina**, Art Historian and Advisor to the Mayor on Culture.

The exhibition will be featuring around 20 works by the artist, created using a variety of media (painting, engraving, printing, audiovisual media) and on a variety of surfaces (mylar, Japanese and cotton paper, video). The works relate to cottage industry practices and the relationship they maintain to this day with art, in different cultures. At the same time, they evoke particularly widespread stories, myths and fairy tales, related to ancient Greek epics and mythology and folk tradition.

The choice of the House-Museum of Aggeliki Chatzimichali, a woman who acknowledged the value and the multiple applications and symbolic interpretations of weaving, and elevated it to a profession that can be "studied", is no coincidence.

Catheline van den Branden, a French-American artist of Greek origin, presents only a small part of her work that refers to the topicality of weaving, both structurally and artistically, as well as psychoanalytically and symbolically, with all possible readings and interpretations that reach beyond the domain of visual arts and tradition.

"In my work, I explore our attempts at making order around us, setting systems for ourselves, only to see them unravel or sometimes knowingly provoking their very destruction..."

In my art practice, this path we walk, the line we trace comes to me as an image of a pliable thread, like the threads I read about in the Greek mythology tales I grew up with. Ariadne's thread leading to the Labyrinth and out. Penelope dutifully knitting during the day and then unravelling her work at night to keep her suitors at bay as she patiently waits for Odysseus to come home. Talented Arachne, whose meticulous work inflamed the jealousy of Athena. Those stories are so intrinsic to my - partly - Greek culture and I find myself thinking on them regularly. And then there is the daily threads, the ones I saw pass so many times through my beloved grandmother's fingers."

In the context of the exhibition, Catheline van den Branden will be carrying out an artistic intervention on the walkway along the façade of the Museum. The restoration of damages and cracks on the cobbled paving of the pedestrian walkway with resins coated with gold paint, evokes a spider's web. It is inspired by the practice, widely used in Japanese, mainly, cultural tradition, whereby cracks in broken or cracked objects are repaired with gold, giving the object the possibility of a second life. The cracking or welding of the parts becomes 'valuable' and thus takes on a different meaning, becoming a homage to 'trauma', healing and continuity.

Exhibition duration: May 28 to July 7, 2023

Exhibition hours: Tuesday–Friday 11:00-16:00, Saturday-Sunday 10:00-15:00, Monday closed

Free admission

Museum of Folk Art and Tradition "Aggeliki Chatzimichali"

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