

**Avgitidou Angeliki**

**The ethics of performing the refugee crisis**

**standard lecture**

During the last years artists produced performances that consider the refugee crisis and the notions of the stranger, displacement, belonging and xenophobia. The performances' styles and attitudes have ranged from the banality of mimesis to more creative artistic articulations. The critical response to these actions reveals in my opinion our expectations from artists and of the role we expect art to play in our society. In this paper, I will be addressing some of the issues that emanate from this critique, namely, the ethical issue of «speaking in the name of», the «authority of experience» and the expressed demand for authenticity. In doing so I will be making reference to the tactics of the artists, namely their employment of personal or collective history/ies, their appropriation of the objects of the refugees' flight and rescue, and the symbolization and aestheticization of those objects and the body.

**Bio:**

Angeliki Avgitidou studied architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Fine Art at Central Saint Martins College (MA, PhD) and is a practicing artist and an educator. She was part of the Greek national representation of Greece at Prague Quadrennial 2015 and at the Venice Biennale 2016 (architecture). She works as Assistant Professor at the University of Western Macedonia in Greece and is also visiting professor and advisor at the MFA, Transart Institute. She has co-authored the book "Memory Transference" (CND, 2009) and co-edited the book "Performance now: Performative practices in art and actions in situ" (2013, ION).