

Press release

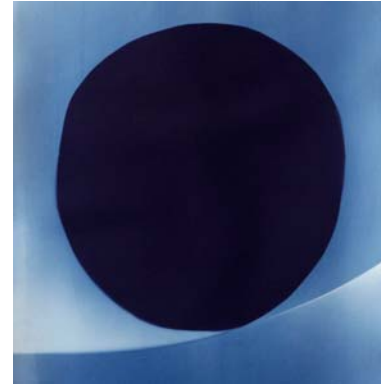
ELENA KARAKITSOU CYANOTYPES AND SCULPTURES

September 14 - October 28, 2023

Preview: September 13, 2023, 7 - 9 pm

The artist is present

Goethestrasse 2,
10623 Berlin, Charlottenburg
Entrance B via the courtyard
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Elena Karakitsou – Sisyphus Toys 01 (Detail)
Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram

We are pleased to draw your attention to the first solo exhibition of **Elena Karakitsou** at Galerie Bernet Bertram. It is also the gallery's 30th exhibition since it was founded in 2016. On show are cyanotypes, abstractions made using the photo-based blue printing process, figures of thought and emotion in various formats, as well as sculptures and polaroid photos in black and white.

From the blueprint lab

In her artistic work, Elena Karakitsou attempts to translate intelligible processes into images and into something that can be perceived by the senses. The blue in all its facets dominates the room. Blue provides a calm, meditative backdrop, a level from which to focus and pursue ideas. With the blue, Elena Karakitsou dives behind and below the surface of things. Against the blue she designs allegorical and symbolic spaces and constellations.

For the production of the sheets, she uses the photographic process of blue printing, which originated in the 19th century. Paper (or textile material) is coated with a chemical mixture iron-containing salts diluted with a little water. This mixture is light-sensitive and, when applied to paper, produces the water-insoluble blue dye under UV or daylight. The exposure takes place using objects, templates, foils and glass. The longer the exposure, the deeper the blue. The deepest blue is a kind of Prussian blue. Finally, the paper is washed with water, which develops and fixes the cyanotype. Similar to working in the darkroom, but without chemicals. The result is a positive without a negative and a camera. This process is reflected in the subjects of Karakitsou's monochrome blue and white prints: the appearance and disappearance of forms, bodies, fields, pictorial elements under and through the light.

The artist arranges the resulting abstract constellations into cycles, small groups or series. In the case of the works named **Transitional States**, Karakitsou is concerned with the changing moment of states of apparent certainty. To the slight movement, vibration that transforms energy into a new state of matter. At the turning point from what was to what will be.

The six prints **Sisyphus Toys** are a serenely melancholic meditation on futility and the failure of the well-known mythical hero in his attempt to roll a stone up the mountain.

The series **The Cut**, consisting of a total of 20 cyanotypes, varies in different shades of blue the act of making an incision, slitting the paper. This process creates a limit and at the same time opens up a view of a new negative space. The dual process of negative and positive, subject and object known from analogue photography is reversed by means of the blueprint process, as in the single piece **Monad**.

Karakitsou's approach in the **Entropy/Anti-Entropy** series is similar: energies are transformed but not dissolved, are completed without disappearing; an order is set against the disorder.

With two small erotic sculptures, Elena Karakitsou continues her discourse in the three-dimensional area. **Eroticon** made of clay and copper is dedicated to the calm and the sizzling tension between two parts of the sex before touching. **Departure** made of plaster resembles a delicate shock, embodies the beginning and illustrates the power of the female in a delicate way.

Elena Karakitsou, born in Athens in 1976, first studied geology and the environment, then photography and audiovisual media. For years she worked as a geologist in geotechnical research for structures and worked in a laboratory for rock and earth analysis. From 2010 she turned to the field of documentary and art photography, from 2018 she devoted herself to photography, cyanotype and sculpture. Since 2011 until today exhibitions and participation in exhibitions in Greece, Italy, England and Germany as well as publications. In September 2015 she was artist in residence at the Lumen Studios residency in Atina, Italy. Elena Karakitsou lives and works in Berlin.

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Opening hours: Tue - Fri 2 - 6 pm, Sat 11 am - 4 pm
and by appointment

Special opening times for Berlin Art Week:
Fri 12 - 18 pm, Sat 11 am - 6 pm

www.bernet-bertram.com

