

## Stefanos Rokos

### «*The two temples*»

#### Solo Exhibition

**Exhibition Duration: April 7 – May 7, 2022**

**Opening: Thursday, April 7, 17.00 - 21.00**

Zoumboulakis Galleries invite you to Stefanos Rokos's solo exhibition, titled «The two temples» opening on Thursday, April 7, 2022. He will present mixed media painting works on paper or canvas, two woodcuts, an animation as well as the titular book «The two temples» (Stereoma Editions).

In 2019, just before the outburst of the pandemic, Stefanos Rokos travelled for ten days to Japan. In the occasion of this journey, he created this series of works capturing in a wonderful way “a world of tension and eroticism, allusive gestures and powerful signs, disparate conjunctions, and contrasting representations”\*.

Kostas Christopoulos, visual artist, assistant professor at the Athens School of Fine Arts and one of the book's authors writes: “Rokos creates a personal visual “log”, not to reveal something “foreign” to us, something perhaps we have never seen before, but to multiply the potential renditions and to offer us in an original and imaginative way additional manifestations of the already familiar.

There is nothing “outside” the world depicted in his work. Everything is “within” it. And yet, that world does not seem unitary, indivisible and homogeneous. It retains something paradoxical, a continuum of differences and repetitions. Such sort of a location is Japan, as Rokos portrays it in his painting. “The two temples”, the title of this new series of his works, can be understood in this way as well. One “temple”, that of Buddhism, is counterposed to another one, that of Shintoism.

Colours, shapes, drawings and forms that Rokos uses are often in contrast with each other, creating diverging representations on the same painted surface. Something analogous to that also happens with the multiple narratives on it”.

The artist himself writes “In my painting, the ghosts of Japanese mythology become one with the ghosts in my mind. Personal stories, moments of inner struggle, and a constant excited curiosity prevail. I feel that I become, for a while, part of a riveting culture, and I try to share this chaos with someone who is not there” [...] “In that long walk, strolling through the two



devotional complexes, I thought of the harmonious coexistence around us of Shinto and Buddhism, shaped by their idiosyncrasies, the norms and the forms of the temples with their sharply contrasting characters; just like two people. Even now, I find this similitude between temples and people intriguing. I could be any one of those two temples”.

*\*Extract from the Press Release edited by Stereoma Editions for the purpose of the publication of the bilingual book “The two temples” by Stefanos Rokos, 2022.*

#### **Artist Short Bio:**

*Stefanos Rokos is a Greek contemporary artist, born in Athens in 1977. From 1995 to 2000 he studied painting under T. Patraskidis at the Athens School of Fine Arts. He also took a course in printmaking under G. Milios. In 2002 he completed his post-graduate degree in printmaking at the Wimbledon School of Art, London, where he studied under a scholarship from the Propontis Foundation. In 2005 he was awarded a two-year fellowship by the State Scholarships Foundation for the production of artistic work.*

*He has had solo and group exhibitions in Greece and abroad. In 2010 he presented the music/visual art project “Horror & Romance on Another Planet”. In 2019, he attempted to visually approach the L.P. “No More Shall We Part” by Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds with the publication of the art book and three exhibitions in Athens, Greece (The Benaki Museum) and in Antwerp, Belgium (Bernaerts Gallery).*

*In 2020, he presented the project “10 Years of Horror & Romance” with artworks and music, inspired by the exhibition of 2010.*

*He has designed album covers for artists of Greece and abroad. He has also designed book covers and posters for concerts, films and theatre productions.*

**Exhibition Duration:** April 7 – May 7 2022

Zoumboulakis Galleries, 20 Kolonaki Square

**Opening hours:** Tue., Thu. & Fri. 11.00 - 20.00

Wed. & Sat. 11.00 - 15.00

Sundays & Mondays closed

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